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OPENING REMARKS

BY

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AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (ECOSOC)**

AT THE

**7TH MULTI-STAKEHOLDER FORUM ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY
AND INNOVATION FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

**5 MAY 2022
10:00 HOURS**

**CONFERENCE ROOM 2
UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS
NEW YORK**

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- **Excellencies,**
- **Distinguished Participants,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

1. I would like to extend a warm welcome to each and every one of you who honoured the invitation to the **Seventh Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals**, in-person here at the United Nations Headquarters or participating online.
2. I also thank sincerely my colleagues, the distinguished Permanent Representatives of the United Republic of Tanzania and Ukraine for accepting the task of Co-Chairing the Forum and for taking the time to guide the preparations for this year's event.
3. Science, technology and innovation can be a source of awe but also of fear. This year's Forum aims at stoking the fires of inspiration and discussing the solutions that can alleviate the fears of our citizens when we

harness the power of STI for sustainable development.

4. In the past few years, there has not been a lack of images in the media of the horrors unleashed on our world. Watching the imagery of natural disasters, famine, war, economic instability, and divides within our societies, it is easy to get despaired.
5. It is particularly easy for our youngest to feel powerless.
6. We need to inspire especially our children and youth with examples of how research and innovation and search for new solutions can serve as tools to the wicked problems our world faces today.

Excellencies,

7. STI should be a source of hope, and be used to showcase human ingenuity.
8. Due to their immense contribution to sustainable development; Science, Technology, Engineering and

Mathematics (STEM) and other STEM-related careers are also often referred to as the '**jobs of the future.**' In tomorrow's world, skills in these fields and other skills of the future will become even more critical.

9. On these issues, this Forum's discussions will inform the upcoming SDG reviews at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in July as well as the Transforming Education Summit scheduled for September.
10. Historically, women make only about a third of the workforce in STEM fields, and the gender gaps are particularly high in some of the fastest-growing and highest-paid jobs like Computer Science and Engineering.
11. To address this gender imbalance, it is of utmost importance that we increase the interest and participation of women and girls in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

12. Every girl around the world should be able to find a suitable role model in these fields, whether she is a local schoolteacher or a Nobel laureate. This is why this year's STI Forum includes a dedicated event for eminent women scientists and engineers, beacons and role models who can inspire our future generations to believe in the power of science.
13. But we must also remember that Science and Technology can evoke fear in our fellow citizens – often the fear of the unknown but also relevant worries about injustice and lack of governance.
14. The COVID-19 pandemic has shown us the power of the fear of the unknown. For more than two years now, the world has had to grapple with a virus that has kept us on our toes.
15. The fear of the unknown has sometimes turned into fear of vaccines and frustration with the perceived unreliability of science when new understanding is built on the basis of previous research, through trial and error and exploration. Questions around the use

of health records and private data have also arisen around the world.

16. There is a need to build trust in science and research – and one way to build that trust is to show that Governments are listening to their citizens and addressing challenging issues such as misinformation, potential and limits of artificial intelligence, and questions regarding privacy and access to data. We need to ensure checks and balances and consider suitable governance mechanisms around these issues.
17. In conclusion, I would also like to thank the 10-Member Group of High-Level Representatives of Civil Society, Private Sector and Scientific Community for their support to the UN Technology Facilitation Mechanism as well as the United Nations Interagency Task Team for their tireless efforts in ensuring that the STI Forum brings together the brightest minds and showcases the cutting-edge technological solutions to our global problems.

18. I thank you sincerely for putting your time and faith in the power of international collaboration.
19. I also thank our scientists, technology practitioners, entrepreneurs, young leaders, and civil society representatives for bringing to the fore the wonders of science, technology and innovation.
20. Lastly, I thank you all for joining us for these two days of inspiration and deliberations.

Thank you.