



## **REPUBLIC OF SERBIA**

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**77<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

**General Debate of the Ministerial Segment of the High-Level Political Forum  
on Sustainable Development under the auspices of the Economic and Social  
Council**

*Check against delivery*

### **S T A T E M E N T**

**by**

**H.E. Ms. JELENA BEGOVIĆ  
MINISTER OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT AND  
INNOVATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA**

**New York, 18 July 2023**

Madam Chair,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Excellences,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

I stand before you today as the Minister of Science, Technological Development, and Innovation of the Republic of Serbia, honored to address the esteemed High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. The topic at hand is of utmost importance as we strive to propel our collective efforts towards sustainable development.

Knowledge created by science plays a pivotal role in accelerating the implementation of the SDGs. The development of innovations and new technologies, promotion of research and development, and leveraging digital advancements will revolutionize our approaches and unlock new pathways towards sustainable development. Today, I am proud to highlight Serbia's progress in leveraging science, innovation, and technology to advance the SDGs.

Our country has recognized the critical role of science and innovations in sustainable development, which has led us to devise comprehensive strategies to drive our progress. Our Smart Specialization Strategy identifies and nurtures areas of research excellence, such as information and communication technologies, advanced materials, and sustainable food production. Furthermore, our Strategy for Artificial Intelligence sets a clear roadmap for utilizing AI to address societal challenges, enhance efficiency, and foster economic growth.

We strive to find sustainable development solutions that address pressing challenges. Through strategic investments we are creating a new ecosystem based on science and innovations encompassing national Science Fund and Innovation Fund, Science Technology Parks for startup communities and new institutes like BIOSENSE EU Center of excellence and AI institute which are at the forefront of harnessing biosensor technologies, nanotechnologies, precision agriculture, environmental monitoring systems and medical solutions based on artificial intelligence.

It is with great excitement that I share with you our most ambitious investment in science in Serbia and region to date - the BIO4 campus. It represents a remarkable collaborative infrastructure for academia, industry, and government entities. The Campus will be at the forefront of cutting-edge areas of biomedicine, biotechnology, bioinformatics, and biodiversity. By integrating these fields, we aim to face global and local challenges, enhance sustainability, drive economic growth and societal progress and contribute to the SDGs.

Serbia firmly believes that global challenges demand global cooperation. Building upon the momentum of the Year of Science, we have taken a significant step towards fostering global collaboration by initiating the proclamation of the International Decade of Science for Sustainability at the United Nations. This initiative aims to

elevate the role of science in addressing global challenges and advancing sustainable development. By advocating for this initiative we seek to create a platform for collective action, knowledge exchange, and international collaboration on a global scale. By fostering collaborations and harnessing collective intelligence, we can effectively tackle shared challenges and drive innovation for a sustainable future.

In conclusion, Serbia's active engagement in international organizations, programs, and partnerships underscores our commitment to global cooperation in science, innovation, and sustainable development. Together, let us seize this opportunity to create a transformative impact that transcends borders, accelerates progress towards the SDGs, and shapes a better future for generations to come.

By embracing the principles of collaboration, coordination, and collective action, we can ensure a robust and successful Decade that leaves no one behind.

Thank you!