

Mr. Co-chair,

The Scientific and Technological Community would like to thank you and your Co-chair for the Co-chairs' Summary of this First Meeting of the Preparatory Committee.

We acknowledge the support expressed by Governments, UN system organizations and our partner Major Groups – reflected largely in the Co-Chairs' Summary - for strengthening science and technology in support of the sustainable development challenges ahead of us and as these challenges will be addressed in Rio+20.

Scientific information services, research and engineering, knowledge and technology sharing, training in scientific and engineering fields, building scientific and technological capacities, in particular in developing countries, must be stepped up significantly, -- not only as part of the Rio+20 preparatory process, but this empowering of people, institutions, our economies and societies must become part of the Rio+20 outcome and must be underpinning implementation beyond 2012.

The Scientific and Technological Community is committed to work with governments and all other Stakeholders to this end.

Thank you.