

STATEMENT BY THE
Scientific and Technological Community (STC) Major Group
Co-organized by ICSU, ISSC and WFEO

Check against delivery

HLPF - Science-policy interface and emerging issues

14 July 2017

Thank you very much Mr Moderator. Distinguished Delegates:

The Scientific and Technological Community (STC¹) – co-organized by the International Council for Science (ICSU), the International Social Science Council (ISSC) and the World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO) – greatly welcomes the theme for the 2017 HLPF and underlines the important role of sciences in poverty eradication and of the science/policy interface in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2030.

Welcoming this important session on the science/policy interface, we would like to highlight the following four issues related to furthering the science/policy interface at the HLPF:

1. **We call for an inclusive definition of “science” in the science/policy interface** – a definition of “science” as systematic organization of knowledge that can be rationally explained and reliably applied. A definition which includes the natural, mathematical, social, health, and engineering sciences, and also interfaces with traditional knowledge systems. This enables an integrated approach to the implementation of the SDGs, and ensures timely detection of emerging issues in socio-economic-environmental systems.
2. **We recommend to include “practice” in the science/policy interface.** We recommend that the science/policy/practice interface be considered as an inclusive and multi-stakeholder framework – as promoted by the research programme for global sustainability, *Future Earth*², by the *International Network for Government Science Advice*³ which operates under auspices of ICSU, and by WFEO's Codes of Practice for Sustainable Development⁴ and Climate Adaptation⁵.
3. **We underline the importance of engaging young scientists – also via the UN Major Group for Children and Youth⁶ and the Global Young Academy⁷ – in the science/policy/practice interface and the importance of capacity-development for integrated science for sustainable development.** The *Leading Integrated Research for Agenda 2030 in Africa*⁸ (LIRA2030) capacity-building initiative, supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), and other activities by the World Federation of Engineering Organization, are outstanding examples of such activities.

¹ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/majorgroups/scitechcommunity>

² <http://www.futureearth.org/>

³ <http://www.ingsa.org/>

⁴ <http://www.wfeo.org/sustainabledevelopment/>

⁵ <http://www.wfeo.org/climatechangeadaptation/>

⁶ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/majorgroups/childrenandyouth>

⁷ <https://globalyoungacademy.net/>

⁸ <https://www.icsu.org/what-we-do/funding-programmes/leading-integrated-research-for-agenda-2030-in-africa>

4. **We welcome the Independent Group of Scientists and UN Task Team for the Global Sustainable Development Report:** we stand ready to mobilize the scientific and technological community to contribute to the 2019 Report, as was done in 2015 and 2016.

Concluding,

- The Scientific and Technological Community continues to stand ready to further the science/policy/practice interface within HLPF.
- We would like to take the opportunity to thank UN DESA and other UN organizations – such as UNESCO, UNEP, UNISDR, and WHO – to facilitate the engagement of the scientific and technological community in international frameworks.

Thank you.

For further information, please contact
Dr. Lucilla Spini, Head of Science Programmes, ICSU, by emailing lucilla@icsu.org
www.icsu.org www.worldsocialscience.org www.wfeo.net