



**2024 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) and High-Level Ministerial Segment
Science, Technology, and Innovation: Triggering Transformation and Sustaining
Science-Driven Solutions**

08 July 2024

Madam President,

Climate change and Artificial Intelligence (AI) featured prominently in the STI Forum as solutions to support the achievement of the SDGs. There was intense discussion about data and the deeply connected issue of Artificial Intelligence and their impact on development. It was argued that data has become a crucial economic development asset, which, if managed properly, can drive progress towards sustainable and inclusive development. Within the context of the global AI race, the Forum recognised that although competition is good, collaboration can take us further than competition. It was further suggested that there must be incentives for those who allocate funds for AI to achieve the SDGs.

STI roadmaps and action plans have featured prominently in the previous STI Forums. In the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, Member States committed to adopt STI strategies as integral elements of national sustainable development strategies. STI roadmaps and action plans are needed at the subnational, national and global levels, and should include measures for tracking progress. These roadmaps incorporate processes that require feedback loops, evaluate what is working and not working, and produce continual revisions that create a real learning environment.

This must be looked at within the context of a National System of Innovation and science diplomacy. The NSI has the potential to make a country's capacity to absorb, distribute, diffuse, and deploy technologies to their local needs and contexts.

Science diplomacy as espoused in my country's White Paper on Science, Technology and Innovation is also critical. International collaboration is crucial as no single country's national system of innovation can meet and overcome its challenges on its own. Therefore, a deeper international integration of systems of innovation is the key to greater success.

There is a new trend that is increasingly focused on moving toward international systems of innovation, which are no longer just “national” in scope. Great universities draw students and faculty from around the world. Similarly, leading multinational companies (MNCs) increasingly do research and development (R&D) outside their home country. Proof of this is the rising international co-invention of patents and international co-authorship of scientific papers. International research collaboration is a tool that can be used to shore-up the basic research foundation.

Thank you.