

2024 United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
Session on “Science, technology, and innovation: Triggering transformation
and sustaining science-driven solutions” (4:30pm, Monday, 8 July 2024)

Speaking points: Mr. Carlos Henrique Brito Cruz , Senior Vice-President, Research Networks, Elsevier (Co-chair of the SG’s 10 Member Group, available and able to fund his travel)

- There is a new geography of research taking shape in the World and it affects in interesting ways research capacity, research collaboration, access to knowledge.
- Low and Middle Income Countries have made an intense effort to build capacity in Science and Technology with support from the U.N., the World Bank, and other multilateral organizations.
- The results of this effort can be measured. An important indicator of scientific capacity is the publication of scientific articles in international journals. Starting in 2022, there are more articles published yearly in good scientific journals with authors in Low-and-Middle Income Countries (LMICs) than in High Income Countries (HICs).
- This is also true for themes related to many SDGs, a good example being SDG2 for which 67% of the articles have an author in a LMIC.
- One particular case is Latina America where the number of publications on SDG 2 grew by 57 times from 1990 to 2021. In this time period Brazil became one of the main exporters of food in the World.
- A similar change appears when one studies the main governmental research funders. NSFC/CHN, CNPQ/BRA, FAPESP/BRA, CONICYT/MEX, NRF/ZAF, and SERB/IND are among the 25 most important in supporting SDG related research.
- In summary:
 - There is a new geography of research taking shape, where LMICs are more relevant than they were.
 - The main national research funders invested USD 32 billion in 2019 in SDG related research
 - Considering the above, we must stress the recommendations included in paragraph 117 of HLPF/2024/7:
 - [117] Governments are encouraged to increase spending on basic or applied research with a focus on the Sustainable Development Goals by an additional 3.7 per cent per year between 2025 and 2029. Funding selections should prioritize international collaborations, encouraging funders to jointly issue open calls for proposals and to select and finance research projects. Public funders should also seek matching funds from the business sector.