



JRC DIRECTOR GENERAL Stephen QUEST

PRE-RECORDED STATEMENT AT STI FORUM MINISTERIAL SESSION: STI POLICIES AND INITIATIVES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT - BEST PRACTICES AND LESSONS LEARNED

4 May 2021

STATEMENT

- Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,
- I am honoured to join the United Nations Sixth annual Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals.
- As the Director-General of the European Commission's Joint Research Centre supporting policymaking through robust knowledge and evidence, I am particularly aware of the value of international scientific cooperation.
- The Covid-19 pandemic has demonstrated the crucial role of Science, Technology and Innovation in finding life-saving solutions, protecting citizens' well-being, as well as designing realistic recovery strategies.
- This global shock challenged our resilience. Yet, it also offered the opportunity to rethink our vision of sustainability.
- The European Union is strongly committed to Agenda 2030 and remains at the forefront of the response to the climate and biodiversity crises. With the European Green Deal, the EU aspires to become the first carbon-neutral world continent by 2050.
- As stressed by the UN Secretary General, the Decade of Action is our last call to deliver on Agenda 2030. This means:
 - (i) strengthening global leadership,
 - (ii) stepping up the pace of the transitions,
 - (iii) mobilising all actors including local communities and indigenous people,
 - (iv) and fully harnessing the potential of research and innovation.
- The European Union stays committed to multilateralism and supports partnering for the achievement of the SDGs and the deployment of concrete solutions.

- We believe that Science, Technology and Innovation play a key role in achieving more resilient systems, more inclusive growth and more sustainable jobs.
- I would like to welcome the fruitful collaboration under the aegis of the United Nations that has led to the establishment of the Inter-Agency Task Team and the progress on the Roadmaps and Capacity building workstreams.
- Tangible achievements have been obtained in a short time, such as the recent adoption by the Serbian Government of the national STI for SDGs Roadmap - based on the Smart Specialisation methodology – as well as the commitment of the Ukrainian Government to follow this path.
- In this perspective, we invite national authorities to live up to the ambition to localise their efforts in places where people live and work.
- We welcome the progress of the Partnership in Action initiative that was discussed on Monday at a High-Level Side event. It is a true opportunity to scale up the Global Pilot Programme and bring more countries to this joint endeavour.
- The European Commission stays committed to continue working towards this goal.
- I wish you a successful Forum.