



UN Major Group for
Children and Youth
the space for children and youth in the United Nations

Thank you Mr. Moderator,

My name is Jonathan Kemp, speaking on behalf of the Major Group for Children and Youth. I also draw on current experience of STI for the SDGs working for the ASME's Engineering Global Development group, for Engineering for Change and for Malawian NGO Eagles Relief and Development Programme.

Thank you for this important discussion and for the opportunity to add some reflections on this topic. We draw on input from the MGCY members from around the world as well as other organisations in the Civil Society Financing for Development group.

First, the scaling up of both proven and emerging technologies to address the SDGs must be *locally-driven and context specific*. Identifying effective STI to achieve the SDGs is important, but it should also be examined in the context of its interdependent socio-economic and environmental conditions.

Second, effective STI solutions will require broader intergenerational dialogue and engagement of a variety of stakeholders. Participatory approaches to planning, design and education generate ownership that increases effectiveness and sustainability of solutions, and all stakeholders should be involved throughout the conceptualisation, design, development, and deployment of STI. Additionally, digital cooperation can facilitate increased stakeholder participation. We recommend that future high-level forums that occur as part of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism include a digital component, even beyond the COVID-19 pandemic. Having virtual capabilities allows for greater accessibility of stakeholders who otherwise would be unable to travel to attend future STI Forums in person.

Third, while technology-based solutions are important, a greater emphasis should be placed on systems-based thinking and innovative uses of existing STI. Additionally, a broad range of knowledge types must be considered, including local and indigenous knowledge.

Fourth, strong, effective, and accountable institutions will require broader intergenerational dialogue and governance. All stakeholders and in particular underrepresented groups must be brought into the decision-making process at the regional, national, and international levels. Citizen science initiatives that contribute to open and accessible data sets can ensure that institutions are accountable to all stakeholders, and we encourage an increase in decentralised consultation of VNRs through digital means to ensure intergenerational input.

Lastly, greater emphasis should be placed on defining metrics of well-being that go beyond economic growth and include justice and sustainability as core components, such as the 'Beyond GDP' initiative. Further discussions should focus around building consensus on the metrics used to define wellbeing. Once defined, these holistic measures of wellbeing can be incorporated into VNRs.

We would like to finish with a question:

How can we better involve all stakeholders in the development of global and national science and technology roadmaps, while keeping justice and social protection as core components?

Thank you.