



**SPEECH OF THE MINISTER, MR. TITO JOSÉ CRISSIEN  
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL–ECOSOC  
Seventh, Annual Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and  
Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals (STI Forum)**

**Place:** Event: *Seventh, Annual Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development-virtually.*

**Date:** 5th May

**Hour:** 3:00pm-4:00pm-

**Thematic session 1:** Science, technology, and innovation at the COVID-19 conjuncture.

On behalf of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation of the Republic of Colombia, I want to extend a very cordial and warm greeting to co-chairs of this important event:

Mr. Kennedy Godfrey Gastorn, Permanent Representative of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations.

I am delighted to share with you the initiative that we carried out during the COVID-19 conjuncture, as a practice of the equalization of the access to good quality healthcare. I am referring to the *MinCienciathon Initiative*:

A program that evidenced the potential that science must contribute to the transformation and improvement of the world, the capacities in human talent that, we as a country must develop to innovate in a disruptive way, making the State, the academy, the private sector and society, unite to respond to the needs and opportunities left by Covid -19.

Our Ministry allocated \$26 billion for those who, in a tactical and forceful way, presented solutions in the MinCienciathon. These solutions were presented through projects that were held through a virtual platform of the Ministry. This Call was open during seven days where actors from the Science, Technology, and Innovation ecosystem, proposed disruptive responses that facilitated the protection of health professionals and care for patients in mitigation of symptoms. The above mentioned through to the interpretation of data for decision making and technology.

Twenty-five projects were selected and financed by our Ministry, with representatives of 6 local departments within Colombia. With this initiative, we strengthened capacities:

- 73 infrastructure of laboratories
- 32 benefited laboratories
- 518 Researchers
- 19 young researchers

In addition, with this MinCienciathon it was possible to:

- Donate 44 isolation stretchers to different public entities, benefiting more than 10 departments.
- Distribute 20 portable epidemiological isolation units in the regions.
- Contribute to the controlled economic participation through the development of rapid diagnostic devices in unstructured environments, such as restaurants, industry, commerce, transportation.
- Commit to the territorial rural development as some monitoring systems emphasize the urban-rural interface.



- More than 15 Departments in Colombia were benefited.

These are just a few examples of how our Ministry was able to contribute from our mission on science, technology, and innovation at the COVID-19 conjuncture in our country: Colombia.

I thank you all once again for your attention in this important event that encourages us all to continue on working jointly to foster Science, Technology and Innovation to generate solutions to problems that occur in our country but also worldwide, such as it has been: COVID-19.

My best regards to you all.