

**7th Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals | Department of Economic and Social Affairs**

Statement by Ms Akustina Morni, Senior Adviser, International Organisation of Employers (IOE)

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## **Roundtable 1: National science-policy advice**

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Thank you. I am speaking on behalf of IOE, we represent more than 50 million companies in more than 145 countries globally.

More and more businesses look to evidence and science policy advice to make better informed decisions. More and more individuals are also looking at businesses for leadership on various political, labour and social issues. Our member in the US, USCIB, discussed at a previous IOE event that according to the Edelman Trust Barometer, employees felt that employers in general are one of the most trusted messengers of information on Covid response, more than their own government. This is an interesting finding.

Science policy advice can add value to policy recommendations in efforts to build trust, partnerships and solidarity. Now referring in particular to Science, Technology and Innovation as a theme – we are particularly interested to bring more women into the STEM field. Conversations on gender equality and diversity are evolving in a positive manner. We understand that we need to address stereotypes and unconscious bias at the societal level. Businesses cannot do it alone. This means: fixing the 'leaky pipeline' in the TVET system by introducing female role models in STEM. Women should be able to see themselves in future, working in ANY field, including STEM. 'They will not be, what they cannot see'. We need policymakers to create an enabling environment for quality education, making the STEM curricula available to all, including in rural areas. Public-private partnerships are crucial.

IOE is committed to the development of robust, effective and impactful labour and social policies backed by evidence, data and science. Our members, the national employer/business organisations are crucial interlocutors as they fully understand the labour market needs, they are the voice of business at the national levels.

We need to build strong partnerships: "Alone we go fast, together we go far". Thank you.