

*7th Annual Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology, and
Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals
Ministerial Session
May 5, New York*

Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are now halfway through the 15-year timeline to achieve the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

COVID-19 has undeniably set us back; but Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) can play a key role in accelerating progress.

Modernising industries.

Developing low carbon economies, with clean energies.

And promoting education, health and food security, while leaving no one behind.

The STI Forum can contribute to these joint endeavours by providing a platform for the sharing of experiences and knowledge.

While stressing our common responsibility to support Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States in leapfrogging the most polluting stages of development in their pursuit for sustainable economic growth and job creation.

Portugal remains a staunch promoter of scientific and technological collaboration. Let me give you a couple of examples.

The Atlantic International Research Centre, in the Azores, promotes international collaboration in innovation, including through the development of ideas, policies, research programmes and projects.

The Eureka network, which Portugal currently leads, is a major public framework for international cooperation on research, development and innovation in 45 countries, funding cutting-edge projects and new technologies.

Through time, we have been vocal on a number of issues in STI.

Today, I wish to further highlight two:

The use of scientific and technological innovation to address maritime related issues and policies (in line with SDG 14), which will take centre stage at the second United Nations Ocean Conference, taking place in Lisbon from the 27th June to the 1st of July;

The empowerment of women and girls in science (in line with SDG 5), where we have been active at two levels:

As co-organizers of the of women and girls in science international day celebrations at the UN every year - in 2022, more than 50 Member States subscribed the event's Outcome Document; and,

at home, where already 47% of graduates in Science Mathematics and Computing are women.

Dear colleagues,

With eight years to go until 2030, we must do everything in our power to rescue the SDGs, by investing in STI.

The Agenda 2030 remains our guiding light.

Other instruments can provide additional guidance, such as the Road map for digital cooperation.

In this context, we look forward to further discussions on the Global Digital Compact proposed by the Secretary-General in Our Common Agenda.

Thank you!