



**The President
of the
Economic and Social Council**

12 October 2022

Excellency,

Following our recent conversations, I would like to thank you for your willingness to co-Chair the eighth STI Forum together with the United Kingdom Ambassador to the Economic and Social Council, H.E. Mr. Thomas Woodroffe. Please accept my sincere appreciation for your leadership and support by South Africa in ensuring the success of the STI Forum in 2023.

Next year marks the mid-point of the 2030 Agenda. There is widespread acceptance of the vital role of science, technology and innovation in finding solutions for many global challenges to achieve the SDGs. At this critical time, I firmly believe that STI, when properly harnessed, can bring about the transformative change needed for the success of the 2030 Agenda.

I am looking forward to your continuing support towards the STI Forum, and I am confident that with your and the UK's further engagement, we will continue to enhance the impact of STI on the SDGs. I also look forward to a successful Forum, as an important input to the high-level political forum (HLPF) and the SDGs Summit 2023, under your able leadership and to working with you on these and other important ECOSOC initiatives.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Lachezara Stoeva
President of ECOSOC

Her Excellency
Ms. Mathu Joyini
Permanent Representative of the Republic of South Africa
to the United Nations
New York