

May 3, 2023

Statement/Please check against delivery
UN Science, Technology and Innovation Forum 2023

**Session 5# :Global research cooperation and funding-
Sharing knowledge through new partnerships**

Thursday, May 4, 11:45 – 1 pm

Delivered by Norine Kennedy,
United States Council for International Business (USCIB)

On May 2nd, on the occasion of the STI Forum's Science, Technology and Innovation in Africa Day, USCIB co-organized with IOE an official virtual side event, Catalytic Private Sector Innovation Solutions in Africa. It focussed on technology and innovation partnerships as catalysts to advance the sustainable and resilient graduation of LDCs, most of which are located in Africa.

Science and innovation are indispensable to accelerate the pace and effectiveness of government and business actions to deliver the SDGs and advance proposals in the UN SG's Report, Our Common Agenda. As at the LDC5 Private Sector Forum, in the Tuesday side event we welcomed leading representatives of African business and employers federations, and were inspired by Dr. Cosmas Zavazava, Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) at the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

Looking ahead to SDG Summit and Summit for the Future, today we want to call attention to the importance of strengthening the science-policy-business interface through partnerships.

Where is that strengthening particularly needed? In LDCs and in Africa.

What is the vehicle for this strengthening? Public Private, multi-stakeholder and private private partnerships involving business in all its diversity.

At the side event, we heard that nothing less than a new era of partnership is essential to cultivate innovation eco-systems, and build digital inclusivity and skills development in Africa, and throughout LDCs.

Meaningful sustainability progress in LDCs will depend on sustained engagement by local business communities working with Resident Coordinators and global business partners to deploy technologies and utilize innovation for each of the SDGs.

We urge the STI Forum to prioritize the inclusion of business actors in SDG knowledge communities via partnerships. Inclusive engagement of business, especially local federations and SMEs, as essential to put the science-policy-business interface into practice for impact.