

Business and Industry Major Group (BIMG)

Briefing on the 9th UN Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Innovation and Technology

March 5, ECOSOC Chamber

Thank you to the Co-Chairs, distinguished delegates and fellow stakeholders. I am Norine Kennedy, United States Council for International Business (USCIB) and co-chair of the BIMG.

The BIMG welcomes the focus of the 9th STI Forum on **Science, technology and innovation to reinforce the 2030 Agenda and eradicate poverty in times of multiple crises via the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions**. Indeed, the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions could be regarded as an appropriate mission statement for the BIMG.

The Business and Industry Group (BIMG) is a diverse global constituency, from micro- and small enterprises to employers federations all over the world to the largest companies in developed and developing countries. Innovation is relevant to every one of them. In light of the SOTF later this year, and the focus being placed on digital transformation and the promise of other new technologies, we see the 9th STIF as a critical opportunity to mobilize innovation and technology across the entire BIMG constituency, an essential step to get the international community back on track to 2030 and beyond.

In many critical ways, BIMG are the “means of implementation” working with governments and stakeholders to deliver needed investments in innovations to action the 2030 Agenda. Innovative technologies are already being mobilized to create new jobs and opportunities, whether through business to business efforts, or in partnerships with employers, business groups, governments, across the UN system and with UN Resident Coordinators. Business is leaning in on innovation to deliver all of the 2030 Agenda, whether with respect to this year’s priority SDGs, including zero hunger and climate change, or as catalysts for a wealth of others.

Private sector R&D plays a central role in areas such as economic growth and job creation, industrial competitiveness, national security, energy, agriculture, transportation, public health and well-being, and environmental protection. Since 2000, total global R&D expenditures have more than tripled in current dollars, from \$675 billion to \$2.4 trillion in 2020. A key question for the 9th STI Forum will be: How can we mobilize and leverage private sector R&D spending and innovation deployment to leave no-one behind?

Enabling environment policies for technology innovation are key to realizing benefits from new technologies such as digital access. These enabling policies should address interlinked economic, social/cultural, technical, & governance issues. Looking ahead to the SOTF, we

place particular importance on a holistic approach to develop an open, safe, highly secure, stable, interoperable, seamless, rights-respecting, & sustainable digital ecosystem.

In addition to digital technologies and innovations, and the positive progress they make possible, at this year's STI Forum, the BIMG will highlight nature-based, climate friendly technologies and systems, as well as business innovations for food security and circularity. Every sector of business can be and must be part of the needed transformational change necessary to tackle and be resilient as we confront multiple crises.

Finally, we look to the 9th STI Forum to strengthen the science-policy-society-business interface. We ask the STI Forum to advance safe spaces where business, governments, stakeholders and knowledge communities can build trust and transparency.

We look forward to again joining all of you in May to discuss the most promising innovations and opportunities to join forces and deploy those solutions en route to the HLPF, SOTF and next year's Social Summit.
