



**9th Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the
Sustainable Development Goals**

**Theme 2024: “Science, technology and innovation for reinforcing the 2030 Agenda
and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of
sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions”.**

Ministerial session under the theme:

**“Harnessing science and technology for the effective delivery of sustainable,
resilient, and innovative solutions”**

NATIONAL STATEMENT

By

**H.E. Hon. Dr. Louis Zabaneh. MINISTER OF STATE in EDUCATION,
CULTURE, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY of BELIZE**

May 9, 2024

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Excellencies,

Madame President,

Ladies and Gentleman,

I now have the honour to deliver a statement in my national capacity.

Science, Technology, and Innovation, as we are now experiencing in this Fourth Industrial Revolution, provides an extraordinary opportunity for us in Belize to leapfrog our Sustainable Human Development (SHD). By SHD we mean a synergy of both SD and HD concepts and applications to ensure that both our present and future generations are served by purposeful policies and actions as promoted by SD champion Jeffery Sachs and by the father of the Capability Approach, Amartya Sen. We must use STI to remove constraints that people face as they strive to achieve the lives, they deem valuable.

Belize, being a small developing country, has been a consumer of STI, and vulnerable to the vagaries of international events and players in advanced nations. We have in the past three years made progress in the innovation area, putting in place legislation to promote e-governance and digitalization, and to encourage investments that adapt green technologies to tackle climate change. In Academia, we are mainstreaming STEAM education upon our new competency-based curriculum, from pre-school to High school. And since January of this year, we embarked on developing our very first National Science, Technology, and Innovation Strategy, with the aim to move from consumer to producer of STI over the next

30 years. The strategy is focusing on the first 10 years of foundational work and is being developed with all stakeholders. I am honoured to have today with us in our delegation three of our top scientists who work here in the United States and are on our advisory committee developing the strategy.

Madame President,

Belize strongly believes in international cooperation and collaboration, and we are pleased to be participating in this Ministerial Session of the 9th Multi-stakeholder Forum. We continue to seek STI best practice in the service of SHD, and eager to share further details of our experiences in this regard. I close by expressing our gratitude to all who have made this forum possible, to all participants, and to both our esteemed Co-chairs. Thank you.