Remarks by Science and Technology Advisor to the Secretary of State
Patricia Gruber
United States Department of State

The 9th Multi-stakeholder forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals: Ministerial session under the theme “Harnessing science and technology for the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient, and innovative solutions”

Time: [3 minutes]
May 9, 2024, 10:40 a.m.

- Thank you, Chair.

- Good morning, distinguished delegates, and colleagues.

- Continued global crises, including the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, and regional conflicts impede progress on our collective efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Our shared blueprint for peace and prosperity, for the people and the planet, can only be met when all countries work together.

- We can leverage science and technology diplomacy to help the world get back on track, though.

- Advanced technologies like smart automation and artificial intelligence if used correctly have the potential to reduce poverty, end hunger, and promote good health and well-being, but the importance of international partnerships cannot be understated nor the shared recognition that science, technology, and innovation in sustainable development presents a valuable opportunity for global progress.
• Today we cannot simply talk about values and goals, we must work to advance solutions. The United States is integrating Science and Technology to meet progress with the SDGs.

• Our initiatives like Feed the Future program and the Partnerships for Enhanced Engagement in Research (PEER) program are making significant strides in areas such as global food security and healthcare. In February 2023, we launched the Vision for Adapted Crops and Soils with the UN Food and Agriculture Agency and the African Union to bring the best of agricultural science to meaningfully fight hunger around the world.

• Another example of substantive progress that the United States proudly pursues with others is our PEPFAR Program. Together with 85 countries, our collective efforts in the fight against HIV-AIDS over the past 20 years have saved over 25 million lives.

• But we cannot do this alone, and we cannot rest on our laurels. Successful implementation of these initiatives requires robust networks that unite countries, economies, and academia, guided by shared values and dedication to the 2030 Agenda. I stress to each member here: only together can we meet the moment and work to achieve the SDGs.

• Together, we have already done so much, like at the United Nations General Assembly where all member states adopted a resolution promoting "safe, secure, and trustworthy" AI systems for sustainable development.

• By leveraging S&T, we can develop solutions to advance the Sustainable Development Goals while upholding the principles of openness, interoperability, and democratic values.
• Together, we can shape the global landscape of science, technology, and innovation, in alignment with these values and goals.

• Thank you, Chair.