

## EOSG Remarks at the Member State Briefing on the STI Forum

4 March 2025 | 15.00-16.00, CR2

### A. STI Days

- As we mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the STI Forum, we stand at a pivotal moment in science, technology, and innovation.
- Scientific and technological advancements - particularly in quantum and AI - are accelerating at an unprecedented pace, presenting both transformative opportunities and complex risks.
- At the same time, we are seeing disruption to our traditional collaboration models and partnerships, which requires new multistakeholder solutions and for us to re-assemble new coalitions and forms of impact.
- Against this backdrop and in close coordination with the co-chairs of the STI Forum, Finland and Morocco, and DESA, the Secretary-General's Office is supporting this year's STI Days starting with an STI Action Day on Tuesday 6 May.
- On 6 May, the main stage sessions will take place in the ECOSOC Chamber, featuring a dynamic and interactive format divided into two primary sessions:
  - In the morning, programming will be led by UN partners and will focus on the Global Digital Compact and the follow-up from the Pact for the Future.
  - In the afternoon, a Special Meeting on AI, focusing on the governance, risk and opportunities, will be convened by the ECOSOC President.
- These discussions will help lay the groundwork for a deeper exploration during the mandated STI Forum on how STI influences key SDGs that are under review at the HLPF this year, as well as cross-cutting issues on AI and finance elaborated by the Co-Chairs.
- The SG's office is contributing to three key areas:
- First, innovative programming around the STI Days, bringing in new partners, with a strong focus on the Global South, into the side event programming. We are doing this hand in hand with DESA and the UN system.
- Second, expanding opportunities for attendance of the Forum, with several travel grants secured to ensure geographic representation among the keynote speakers.
- Third, communications, with a comprehensive communications strategy ensuring high visibility of the event, including exhibits, video walls, and outreach to universities to engage students.
- We sincerely appreciate the dedication of the co-chairs and our partners who have actively supported this initiative. There remains ample opportunity for further engagement.
- The STI Action Days are made possible through in-kind contributions from UN entities and key partners, along with voluntary commitments from Member States, foundations, and the private sector.
- We welcome contributions in various forms, including direct financial support, sponsorship of specific activities, and in-kind contributions.
- Member States and organizations interested in supporting the STI Action Day event are encouraged to contact our office to explore collaboration opportunities and discuss potential contributions.

## B. Background:

- Dates: STI Actions Days (6 May: side events; 7-8 May: main programming)
- The ECOSOC Chamber will be transformed into a modern, high-impact event venue featuring:
  - A 20ft round stage to facilitate interactive discussions, Davos-style panels, keynote addresses, and fireside chats
  - A 15x45ft digital screen spanning the back of the ECOSOC Chamber enabling live streaming, speaker introductions, video showcases of STI solutions, and real-time audience polling.
  - Professional audiovisual setup with enhanced lighting, seamlessly integrated with STI Forum branding to create an immersive event experience.
- On seating capacity, the overall capacity of the ECOSOC Chamber is 581 seats and to accommodate the stage build a limited number of seats will be lost (47 seats in total) bringing the total capacity to 534 seats with the stage build. This includes:
  - 7 seats on the podium
  - 16 seats in the Secretariat seating area
  - 24 seats in the gallery
- Member States and speakers will be given reserved seating closest to the stage, whilst the gallery will be free seating.