

## **UNESCO Statement for the STI Forum 2025 Briefing to Member States and Stakeholders**

**3 March 2024, 3:00pm–4:00pm, CR2, UN Headquarters, New York**

Excellencies, distinguished guests,

Science lies at the core of our collective vision for a sustainable future. It deepens our understanding, drives innovation, and offers solutions to the complex challenges of our time.

As entrusted by the UN General Assembly, UNESCO leads several flagship global initiatives, including the International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development (2024–2033) and the 2025 International Year of Quantum Science and Technology and also serves as the Secretariat of the Group of Friends on Science for Action. We deeply appreciate the trust placed in us by Member States to spearhead these transformative efforts.

UNESCO welcomes the STI Forum’s priority topics for 2025, which align closely with our mandates: Ocean and Ecosystems Science, STI Financing, Capacity Building, and Research Infrastructures. As a founding member of UN Inter–Agency Task Team on Science, we are committed to actively engaging in the Forum’s preparation.

Furthermore, UNESCO will host a side event during the STI Forum to highlight the early achievements of the International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development and to mobilize global stakeholders in advancing its objectives. The Strategic Plan for the Science Decade, has been developed and endorsed by a multi–stakeholder committee, including representatives from six UNESCO Member States, six UN agencies, the International Science Council, the World Federation of Engineering Organization, and the

Earth–Humanity Coalition. Through this Decade UNESCO is building a global platform to support Member States in translating the UN’s vision into action.

Since its launch, the Science Decade has catalyzed unprecedented collaboration. The first Call for Initiatives generated over 200 proposals, reflecting the strong collective commitment to leveraging science for sustainable development.

UNESCO stand ready to support Member States in advancing the STI financing framework through the Science Decade and the FFD4.

The Organization remains unwavering in its mission to harness science, technology, and innovation as key drivers of sustainable development and look forward to deepening our collaboration with Member States, UN agencies, and global partners to achieve our shared goals.

Thank you.