Statement by H.E. Archbishop Gabriele Caccia
Permanent Observer of the Holy See
at the multi-stakeholder Forum
on STI for sustainable development

New York, 7 May 2025
Session 1

Co-Chairs,

My Delegation welcomes the organization of this Forum, and would like to take the opportunity to share a few reflections on the ethical dimension of the standardized use of AI.

As every major technological advancement, AI has the potential of being an extraordinary tool for humanity. Part of its appeal lies in the fact that it could enable much wider access to knowledge. However, without appropriate checks and balances, exclusive reliance on AI can have also have a negative impact on social relations and exacerbate inequalities.

First, it is worth recalling that "the 'technocratic paradigm' [...] perceives all the world's problems as solvable through technological means alone. In this paradigm, human dignity and fraternity are often set aside in the name of efficiency."[1] In this sense, the prospect of systematically using AI as a standard for solving problems may result in discouraging solidarity, mutual help and debate, thus isolating people and weakening the social fabric.

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[1] Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith and Dicastery for Culture and Education, *Antiqua et Nova*, 54.

Second, creating a new society in which basic services are necessarily or even exclusively AI-driven may inadvertently favor those with financial means who already benefit from advanced and personalized AI tools, while others still struggle to access technologal services. This is the case in health, where AI risks reinforcing a "medicine for the rich" model.[2]

For these reasons, it is crucial to ensure that the way AI is used respects fundamental ethical principles such as those that were outlined in the Rome Call for AI Ethics as early as 2020, and which include transparency, impartiality, inclusion and accountability.

Co-chairs,

The benefits of AI should be available to all, not just the privileged few. However, it is essential that the international community, in its efforts to develop AI governance mechanisms such as the Global Dialogue and the Scientific Panel, establish common ethical guardrails to ensure that the use of AI is truly inclusive and does not undermine the social dimension of human nature, while always bearing in mind that "technological advances should be directed toward serving the human person and the common good."[3]

Thank you.

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[2] *Cfr. Ibid.*, 76.

[3] *Ibid., Antiqua et Nova*, 5.