

UNITED KINGDOM STATEMENT

EVENT 2: MINISTERIAL SESSION STI FORUM: HARNESSING SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR THE EFFECTIVE DELIVERY OF SUSTAINABLE, RESILIENT, AND INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS

WEDNESDAY 7th MAY h11:00-13:00

Location: UN ECOSOC CHAMBER

STATEMENT

- While the SDGs are off track and we are facing interconnected crises, we are also witnessing a revolution in science, technology, and innovation. We need to champion Open Science – accessible, inclusive and equitable science for the benefit of all, through open, secure and equal international cooperation and partnerships. The UK is investing in cutting-edge research to harness the power of science, technology and innovation to tackle global challenges, and we need to work together to match the pace and scale of the challenges we face. This is why the STI Forum has such an important role as an inclusive space to foster partnership.
- Significant advancements in development have been enabled by technological progress, from the Green Revolution in agriculture reducing hunger, to vaccines saving the lives of children. Over the last couple of decades, we have seen the increasing importance of digital transformation for SDG progress, and noted the urgency of closing digital divides so no one is left behind.
- The UK is working with partners and stakeholders in developing countries to support their inclusive, responsible and sustainable digital transformation. This is helping establish digital foundations (connectivity, digital skills and digital public infrastructure); manage risks and threats through cybersecurity and online safety; and stimulate local tech entrepreneurship and digital innovation.
- AI as the next wave of innovation transforming the world, has huge potential to accelerate development, enabling things like better early-warning systems for extreme weather events, more accurate detection of diseases, faster drug development, and easier access to tailored expertise in local languages. But AI also presents risks we need to mitigate, so we don't increase inequality, perpetuate biases, negatively disrupt labour markets, or enable mis and disinformation.
- The UK is proud to be working with partners across the world through our AI for Development Programme which supports locally-led AI policy, talent, data, compute, innovation and scaling in Africa and Asia. We are also working through our multi-country Digital Access Programme, to strengthen the foundations of the digital ecosystem that

are critical to developing countries' adoption and adaptation of AI for their development journeys.

- We look forward to continuing to work with you all.