



## **10th Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals**

**Thematic session 4:** Scaling up STI financing, capacity building, and strengthening research infrastructures for sustainable development

Speaker: Prof. Wolfgang Grisold

Statement on behalf of the World Federation of Neurology

Dear Mr. Chairman/Madam Chair, Distinguished Member State Representatives,

The World Federation of Neurology (WFN) represents 125 member societies worldwide, and we are grateful for the opportunity to address this vital Forum. The medical community, including neurologists, are a major group, whose success in fighting the burden of disease is propelled by scientific and technological advancement. Our major concern is the disparity in access to neurological diagnostic equipment, novel treatments and gaps in evidence-based data on neurological conditions between high-income and low income countries. Financing strategies for sustainable development need to be aimed at decreasing these disparities.

Brain diseases, including epilepsy, stroke, Alzheimer's disease, affect a staggering proportion of the world population. Investment in the management and research for these conditions is in the common interest of patients, families, communities and countries. All financing sectors are vital, however, we believe that governments and policymakers are best equipped to achieve universal access to health technologies, making government funding indispensable.

Increasing opportunities for research cooperation in developing countries is the key to obtaining more sustainable benefits from the investments made into scientific and technological innovation. We emphasize the importance of supporting collaboration on projects for neurological science and technologies as a vital step towards preserving brain health for the future.

Professional and civil society organizations can play a pivotal role by supporting governments and international bodies in building up human resources and advocating for prioritized causes. The WFN invests in education and capacity building for neurologists, with a focus on countries where neurological services are insufficient. We urge the esteemed delegates to recognize the importance of providing professionals and institutions worldwide with the necessary tools and expertise to reduce neurological disorders and other debilitating diseases. Delivering access to neurological care, health technologies and scientific research will ultimately improve health outcomes and accelerate our collective pursuit of sustainable development.

Thank you

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