



**The President
of the
Economic and Social Council**

27 October 2025

Excellency,

Following our recent conversations, I would like to thank you for your willingness to co-Chair the 11th Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) for the Sustainable Development Goals together with the Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations, His Excellency Mr. Gregor W. Koessler. Please accept my sincere appreciation for your leadership and support by Austria in ensuring the success of the STI Forum in 2026.

Next year marks the Forum's eleventh anniversary and its first iteration since the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4). The Conference underlined the importance of seizing the opportunities presented by science, technology and innovation to advance sustainable development. Building on this momentum, the Forum presents a unique opportunity to explore priority areas such as youth empowerment and gender equality in STI, digital inclusivity and closing accessibility gaps, to ensure that the benefits of science and technology are accessible to all.

I am looking forward to your continuing support towards the STI Forum, and I am confident that with your and Austria's further engagement, we will continue to enhance the impact of STI on the SDGs. I also look forward to a successful Forum, as an important input to the high-level political forum (HLPF) and the 81th UN General Assembly (UNGA), under your able leadership and to working with you on these and other important ECOSOC initiatives.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lok Bahadur Thapa'.

Lok Bahadur Thapa
President of ECOSOC

H.E. Mr. Chola Milambo
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Zambia
to the United Nations
New York