

Mr. President, distinguished Co-Chairs, Delegates and Colleagues,

Let us thank the co-chairs, Austria and Zambia, for their leadership and mention that the Office of the Secretary-General attaches great importance to the STI forum, building on the strong momentum of last year's Forum, co-chaired by Finland and Morocco.

The Forum is one of the most prominent platforms within the UN system, designed as a multi-stakeholder space, bringing together governments, scientists, innovators, civil society and the private sector to explore how emerging technologies can accelerate and help us implement the 2030 Agenda. Science, technology and innovation are central to advancing the SDGs, and the forum takes on added significance this year after the adoption of the UN GA resolution 79/325, which has already been referred to, designating it as the venue for next year's Global Dialogue on AI Governance in 2027.

Of particular interest is the discussion around foresight, governance, trust, STI roadmaps, international cooperation and partnerships to steer innovation -including AI- towards resilience, equity and sustainability. Here STI will be absolutely essential for addressing not just pressing societal challenges, but also spearheading the national science, technology and innovation roadmaps that can serve as strategic tools for developing countries to articulate technological priorities, attract investment, mobilize partnerships and connect innovation policies with strategic foresight and long-term development.

EOSG looks forward to a highly successful forum and has proposed several prominent speakers including Nobel laureates in science and members of the Secretary-General's Scientific Advisory Board, who have already expressed the eagerness and openness to engagement in the forum.

We also encourage Member States to ensure strong and vibrant participation at the highest level, reflecting the importance of the Forum as a key platform for international dialogue, cooperation and action on science, technology and innovation.

STI will be essential in the years to come, and we wish the co-chairs the best in the preparations for the upcoming forum.

Thank you.