

**UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
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**The role of science, technology and innovation in accelerating the recovery
from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the
2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels**

Statement by

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DISCLAIMER: The views presented here are the contributors' and do not necessarily reflect the views and position of the United Nations or the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

United States of America – Acting Science and Technology Adviser to the Secretary of State – Dr. Allison Schwier’s intervention during Ministerial Round Table on the role of STI in Post-COVID implementation of 2030

Agenda

- Thank you chair.
- Ministers, distinguished delegates, and colleagues -- I would first like to commend the chair, vice-chairs, and organizers for the outstanding agenda and thank ITU Secretary General Doreen Bogdan-Martin for her continued leadership on these issues and insightful remarks this morning.
- Our collective acknowledgement, that science, technology, and innovation are essential for development, provides us a tremendous opportunity to use this forum for strategic planning, sharing lessons learned and best practices, and providing foresight about critical trends.
- As always, the United States looks forward to the in-depth and expert-led discussions throughout the week.
- The United States asked for the floor today to emphasize our belief that UN members must act with renewed focus, to uphold the purposes and principles enshrined in the UN Charter as fundamental in creating the conditions for science, technology, and innovation to flourish and, in turn, benefit all people.
- This is about the future for people, the planet, prosperity, peace and partnership, leaving no one behind, and overcoming the many distinct and overlapping crises that we face together.
- We must be ambitious and transformative and lay out a vision for the future.

- **In the 2022 United States National Security Strategy, President Biden recommitted to work together with international partners to confront today's shared challenges and advance achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, SDGs, by 2030.**
- **The United States voices our full support for the 2030 Agenda because the SDGs are, at their heart, about expanding economic opportunity, caring for our planet, good governance, protecting human rights, and ensuring no one is left behind – particularly individuals from marginalized communities and emerging economies.**
- **As a universal framework for global development and to improve the lives of citizens around the world, the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs are a vital part of the U.S. commitment to seek a free, open, prosperous, and secure international system.**
- **Furthermore, the SDGs are integrated, indivisible, and interlinked. Thus, the promise of the Agenda cannot be met by focusing on only a few of the Goals and selectively ignoring the SDGs related to human rights and environmental sustainability.**
- **The United States is committed to inclusion, transparency, the rule of law, human rights, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, gender equality, climate and environmental sustainability, and harnessing the power of science, technology and innovation at home and abroad.**
- **The lynchpin for accelerating the achievement of the SDGs by 2030 will be innovation, and our discussions this week offer a crucial opportunity for Member States to commit to the practices and policies that enable it.**
- **We welcome Secretary-General Bogdan-Martin's proposed Digital Day during the upcoming SDG Summit and believe it will be a timely and important venue to highlight the activities happening throughout the**

UN system in leveraging digital technologies to advance the SDGs and stimulate opportunities for greater partnership among stakeholders.

- **The need for innovative approaches has been heightened by the complex and compounding challenges we face, from the COVID-19 pandemic to the climate crisis, rising global poverty and inequality, threats to democracy and human rights, an increasing number of humanitarian crises, rising food and energy prices, global supply chain disruptions, and Russia's ongoing war against Ukraine, which have led to the reversal or stalling of development gains over the past two decades.**
- **This speaks to the urgency to reverse the negative trends and enable renewed global partnership to accelerate SDG implementation, utilizing STI breakthroughs that steer towards transformative and systemic change, while also addressing the gaps and challenges.**
- **Together, we can shape the global evolution of science and technology in a manner consistent with our shared values to accelerate progress on the SDGs. Like the SDGs themselves, they must integrate and mutually reinforce the social, economic, environmental, and governance goals across the agenda.**
- **Thank you, I look forward to this week, and I yield the floor.**