

April 18, 2019

Excellency,

The Fourth Forum of the United Nations on Science, Technology and Innovation will take place this year on 14th and 15th May at the UN Headquarters in New York.

As the Co-Chairs of the STI Forum, we believe it is critical to widen the participation in this year's Forum and to particularly include young people, girls and women, especially those from developing countries. It is important that we ensure that marginalized groups are sufficiently energized to pursue STI, not as recipients but as initiators. We must therefore promote and support a new generation and cohort of scientists, innovators and technologically astute citizens all over the globe, starting now.

The goal of the multilateral system is to achieve the SDGs and "leave no one behind." One of the areas and levers to catalyse this purpose is STI. In that regard, Session 5 of the STI Forum, "**A Brighter Future – Youth, Innovation Ecosystems and Development**" will be dedicated to youth. A number of young innovators and scientists will make presentations during this Session, which will also discuss ways and means of building sustainable innovation ecosystems of the future that are commensurate with the SDG aspirations, including national research and engineering institutions and infrastructures. The Session will be run by young people and will encompass their perspectives.

In order to ensure the success of Session 5, we want to urge youth participation from your country. As you know, however, there is no financing in the TFM to bring participants to New York. Therefore, we count on your support in asking Governments and other stakeholders to assist youth attendees to participate in the meeting in New York. Other types of assistance, for instance to help with accommodation of youth participants in New York, support from your diaspora, or to guide them toward affordable options, would be highly appreciated.

We would also like to draw your attention to the fact that this Fourth STI Forum will, **for the first time, include a special ministerial segment** entitled, "**Strengthening capacity and policy for the development of STI roadmaps**". We hope that a great number of high level government representatives will take part in this segment. We appreciate if you could inform us about your minister's participation before **1st May 2019**.

You can find more information with regard to the 2019 STI Forum at its website at: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/TFM/STIForum2019>.

Please contact the co-focal points of the STI Forum Mr. Wei Liu at the Division for Sustainable Development Goals in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs at liuw@un.org and Mr. Olivier Combe at the UNCTAD New York Office at olivier.combe@un.org in case you need any further details.

We are looking forward to your assistance and to a large attendance at this year's Forum.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Thompson', on a light green background.

H. Elizabeth Thompson
Permanent Representative
of Barbados

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Marie Chatardová', on a white background.

Marie Chatardová
Permanent Representative
of the Czech Republic