Thank you very much Mr Chair. Distinguished Delegates:

The Scientific and Technological Community (STC¹) – co-organized by the International Council for Science (ICSU), the International Social Science Council (ISSC) and the World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO) – greatly welcomes the theme for the 2017 HLPF and underlines the important role of sciences, in poverty eradication and in ensuring wellbeing for both women and men.

Welcoming this session, we recall the role of the scientific and technological community in promoting gender equality, via

1. Reducing the gender gap in natural, social and engineering sciences, through promoting equal opportunities for girls and women in science education and in scientific careers.

2. Fostering the collection and analysis of gender-disaggregated data.

   and via

3. Applying a gender lens to science, technology and innovation.

In this context, allow me to highlight some of our key activities and tools which directly apply towards the implementation of SDG 5.


- The ICSU Project on “A Global Approach to the Gender Gap in Mathematical and Natural Sciences: How to Measure It, How to Reduce It?”³ – including a global survey and regional workshops in Asia, Africa and Latin America, such as the upcoming ones in South Africa and Colombia in November 2017.

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¹ https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/majorgroups/scitechcommunity
² http://www.wfeo.org/stc_women_in_engineering/
³ https://icsugendergapinscience.org/
- **The ICSU Advisory Note on “Mobility and Field Research in the Sciences: Gender Equality and Prevention of Harassment”**⁴ – developed by its Committee on Freedom and Responsibility in the Conduct of Science (CFRS).

- **The INASP Gender Toolkit**⁵ developed for facilitators who are interested in introducing gender mainstreaming in higher education in order to challenge gender inequality.

- **The Gender Summits**⁶ where scientists, policymakers, and other stakeholders examine new research evidence showing when, why, and how biological differences and socio-cultural differences between females and males impact on outcomes. A successful summit was just held in Japan, and the next ones will be in Canada and in Chile.

In addition, all our international research programmes - such as “Future Earth” and “Urban Health and Wellbeing” programmes – foster gender balance within their governance-structures and activities.

*Concluding.*

- The Scientific and Technological Community stands ready to provide data, conduct studies, and to facilitate empowering opportunities for girls and women.

- We stands ready to work with Member States, International Organizations such as UNESCO, and Fellow Stakeholders – such as Women Major Group⁷ and Children and Youth Major Group⁸ – towards the implementation of SDG 5.

Thank you.

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