



CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Statement by

H.E Amb. Noa Furman

Deputy Permanent Representative

The Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations

In the official meeting on Science, technology and innovation

**During the
2020 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development**

10 July 2020

Thank you,

COVID-19 does not distinguish between people or recognize borders, and as we face this pandemic together, we must fight it together as well.

The response to the pandemic must be a global one; one that is based on shared dialogue, solidarity and increased international cooperation.

Science, technology and innovation are the key to overcoming the current crisis and for preparing ourselves against, and perhaps even preventing, future pandemics. We must also understand that in the midst of the current pandemic it is more urgent than ever to find ways to use STI for achieving the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda.

As the co-chairs of the Fifth Multi-stakeholder Forum on STI, the Missions of Israel and Ghana partnered with the Missions of Mexico, Singapore, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Barbados, Japan, Rwanda and Kenya as well as with USG Fabrizio Hochschild and the US National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine to host a 2-day STI Digital Conference, which took place in May 2020.

The conference hosted a diverse lineup of world - class experts who discussed a variety of issues and made important recommendations. One of the main recommendations is that we must facilitate cooperation between institutions and countries when it comes to research. Sharing results and cooperating will make for a better, more efficient, scientific community.

There must also be cooperation between different disciplines and areas of study. No problem today affects only one discipline. For example, in the case of COVID-19, any modeling of the effects of the virus cannot be limited to epi-demi-ology. It must also

include economics. A multidisciplinary approach, reached by cooperation, will enable better decision-making.

In terms of accessibility, we need to create trust in the world of science, both at the governmental and societal levels. There needs to be a focus on finding ways to build that trust and ways to communicate the data to the decision-makers.

And finally, innovation and entrepreneurship do not necessarily mean the use of the most cutting-edge technologies. It is more important that technological solutions be accessible to all, because in today's world, if a problem is not solved for everyone, it is not solved for anyone.

Thank you.