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**The role of science, technology, and innovation in reinforcing the 2030 Agenda  
and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of  
sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions**

Statement by

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Your excellencies,

Dear delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It's an honor to address this esteemed gathering at the Ministerial Roundtable in front of the Republic of Serbia. As the world navigates through these turbulent times, it becomes increasingly evident that our collective commitment to harnessing the power of knowledge, innovation, and amongst all collaboration, is paramount in achieving sustainable development and prosperity for all.

The 2030 Agenda serves as our blueprint for a better world, outlining ambitious goals to address pressing global challenges, including poverty, inequality, climate change, and pandemics. Yet, the path to achieving these goals is filled with obstacles so we are already lagging far behind, particularly now in front of unprecedented crises we face today. It is in these moments of hardship that the true value of science, technology, and innovation gives hope for the better future.

Science provides us with a deep understanding of the complex systems that govern our world, enabling us to anticipate and mitigate the impacts of crises. Our minds empower us to develop innovative solutions that enhance resilience, improve livelihoods, and bridge gaps in access to essential services. Innovation drives progress, fostering creativity and adaptability in the face of uncertainty.

As representatives of our nations, we have a shared responsibility to leverage these mechanisms effectively, ensuring the delivery of sustainable, resilient, and innovative solutions to those most in need. This requires a commitment to collaboration, both across borders and sectors, recognizing that the challenges we face are interconnected and multifaceted.

The Commission's contribution to the 2024 theme of the Economic and Social Council and the High-level Political Forum on sustainable development builds upon the momentum generated by the Ministerial Declaration of 2023. It underscores our unwavering dedication to advancing the 2030 Agenda, reaffirming our commitment to leave no one behind.

Furthermore, I am pleased to highlight the recent adoption of the UN resolution establishing the International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development, 2024–2033. This landmark initiative, proposed by the Republic of Serbia and partnering countries, underscores the vital role of science in driving progress towards our shared sustainable development goals. Serbia has consistently demonstrated its commitment to promoting the importance of science, not only on a national level but also on an international scale, recognizing it as a cornerstone of development and progress.

In our pursuit of sustainable development, let us not forget the fundamental principle of inclusivity. The eradication of poverty demands not only economic prosperity but also social justice and environmental protection. Moreover, let us remember that our decisions have far-reaching implications for future generations. Let us seize this opportunity to catalyze meaningful change, embracing the transformative potential of science, technology, and innovation to build a more just, equitable, and sustainable world.

In closing, I urge each of you to redouble your efforts in advancing the 2030 Agenda, leveraging the power of science, technology, and innovation to overcome the challenges we face. Together, let us forge a path towards a brighter future for all.

Thank you.