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**The role of science, technology, and innovation in advancing sustainable,
inclusive, science-and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda for
Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for leaving
no one behind**

Statement by

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"The role of science, technology, and innovation in advancing sustainable, inclusive, science-and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for leaving no one behind"

Monday, 7 April 2025, 11:00-13:00

I am inspired by the alignment between the title of this session and the Popol Vuh, the sacred book of the Maya civilization, which states: "Que todos se levanten, que nadie se quede atrás" ("Let everyone rise, let no one be left behind"). This vision highlights the fundamental importance of inclusiveness and collective progress, which are essential to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). By embracing this principle, we ensure that development efforts leave no one behind, fostering a more just, equitable, and sustainable future for all.

The fact that today, as a scientist, I hold the role of Minister of Science is a testimony to how, when structures create opportunities for women, we can reach decision-making positions. While progress has been made, inequity remains the dominant reality in Guatemala, particularly in STEM fields where female participation is still with low indicators. To address this, we are actively promoting initiatives that foster equal participation, including scholarships, mentorship programs, and funding opportunities that prioritize young women researchers.

One of our key focuses is digital inclusion, supporting women entrepreneurs through digital literacy programs and AI-driven tools. In collaboration with the Ministry of Economy, we are working on policies that create better economic opportunities for women. Additionally, we recognize the urgent need to upskill women and youth, and we are addressing this through e-learning projects and technology-based training.

Inclusive policies must also prioritize indigenous women, especially in rural areas where access to opportunities is limited. Agriculture plays a critical role in rural development, and we are committed to improving market access and financial inclusion for women farmers. Through our National Research Fund, we are working with various institutions to increase participation among women, particularly from rural and indigenous communities.

Currently, we are collaborating with different government institutions to develop a model for productive development. This model fosters partnerships between governments, tech companies, and NGOs to address gender and employment gaps. A key component of this effort is the establishment of innovation hubs, where young women can co-create and actively participate in technological and entrepreneurial advancements.

Another essential commitment is the promotion of advisory bodies that link research, policy, and civil society to ensure evidence-based decision-making. We are also pushing for Open Science, working on regional collaborations such as a joint initiative with Central American countries to improve access to research and knowledge-sharing.

International and regional collaboration is fundamental to our efforts. We are strengthening partnerships with global organizations such as UNESCO, UNDP, and the CSTD to facilitate technology transfer and capacity building in Guatemala. The CSTD plays a crucial role in supporting us by promoting North-South and South-South cooperation, helping us develop STI capacity-building programs, and assisting in data-driven policymaking through STI observatories that track progress on SDGs 5 and 8. Additionally, CSTD can support inclusive innovation ecosystems that drive R&D investments focused on gender equity, employment, and entrepreneurship. By advocating for Guatemala in global forums, CSTD can help ensure greater international support for our sustainable development initiatives.

Our vision is clear: Science, technology, and innovation must be tools for inclusion, empowerment, and economic transformation. By working together —government, private sector, academia, and international partners— we can break down barriers and create a more equitable future for women and youth in Guatemala.