

Esteemed colleagues,

The true sign of intelligence is not knowledge but imagination.” – Albert Einstein.

These words remind us that science and technology, when fueled by imagination, hold the power to shape a better world. In today’s rapidly changing landscape, our ability to harness these forces is essential not only for progress but for promoting peace, protecting human dignity, and ensuring that no one is left behind.

As we approach 2030, the deadline for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, the urgency of our mission has never been clearer. The SDGs are a global blueprint for ending poverty, reducing inequality, combating climate change, and ensuring fundamental human rights for all. But the scale of these challenges demands a transformative global effort—one that places science, technology, and innovation at the heart of our strategies.

We have seen tremendous advances in these areas, from medical breakthroughs to technologies that have improved lives and economies. Yet, despite the progress, deep inequalities persist. For many developing countries, achieving sustainable development has become more difficult in a world marked by economic, social, and environmental divisions. The gap between political promises and real action in international forums only complicates these challenges further.

Commitments are often made, but the resources and political will to see them through are lacking. If we are serious about achieving the SDGs by 2030, this must change.

STI, when applied inclusively and ethically, can be powerful tools for promoting equality. They can provide access to quality education, healthcare, and economic opportunities for all. They can protect human rights by amplifying the voices of marginalized communities and by creating the tools needed to defend those rights. And

they can eradicate poverty by opening new paths for sustainable development, especially in the most underserved regions. But to unlock this potential, we must ensure that innovation reaches every nation—not just the wealthiest ones.

Here, the role of parliamentarians is critical. Both in the Global North and Global South, lawmakers have the responsibility to create the frameworks that enable STI to build inclusive and just societies. In the Global North, this means supporting policies that foster fair global partnerships—those that transfer technology and boost research capacities in low-income countries. It means holding governments accountable to their SDG commitments and ensuring that international cooperation and investments go where they are needed most.

In the Global South, this means advocating for increased domestic investment in research and development (R&D), despite limited resources. Creating

regulatory environments that encourage innovation and attract global partnerships. And, importantly, ensuring that the benefits of science and technology are felt not just in urban centers but also in rural and marginalized communities that have historically been left behind.

Parliamentarians from the Global North and Global South must work together to close the global innovation gap. Collaboration across borders is essential to driving policies that encourage the free flow of knowledge and technology. By doing so, we can ensure that global R&D efforts benefit all humanity, not just a privileged few.

But as we champion STI as forces for good, we must also recognize that these advancements must operate within the bounds of ethical and human rights frameworks.

In facing these complex challenges, we must not be naïve. The risks are real, but so are the opportunities.

New technologies, if applied wisely, can help us meet global challenges like climate change and pandemics.

However, we must always remain vigilant to ensure that technological advances respect human rights and prioritize the wellbeing of our planet.

As we look toward 2030, it is clear that achieving the SDGs will require a new approach to innovation and development. The systems that have perpetuated global inequality and exclusion must evolve. We must build a world where science and technology are democratized, where knowledge flows freely across borders, and where every person, no matter their background, has access to the opportunities they need to thrive.

The road ahead is difficult, and the challenges are vast, but the possibilities are even greater. Together, through the power of science, technology, and innovation, we can create a world that is not only more advanced but also more just, more equal, and more compassionate.

Let us commit to this journey, as global citizens and leaders, and ensure that no one is left behind.