

General Debate: “Harnessing science, technology and innovation (STI) for a more peaceful and sustainable future”

Distinguished Chairperson, dear colleagues,

At a time when we are coping with climate change, economic challenges, and global uncertainty, it is clear that the solutions to these complex issues rely on our ability to collaborate and effectively harness science, technology, and innovation. Although often overlooked, this segment of society is crucial in shaping the society of the future. I am therefore very pleased that this topic has been placed at the focus of this IPU Assembly.

Scientific research is essential as it enhances our understanding of natural processes and the impact of human activities on the environment, leading to the development of sustainable solutions. Technological advancements enable us to manage natural resources more efficiently and improve agricultural practices, contributing to food security and the preservation of ecosystems.

Innovation also plays a critical role in promoting peace and security, a contribution that becomes even more valuable in an increasingly unstable world. Advancements in communication technologies, for instance, facilitate the effective exchange of information and cooperation among scientists, policymakers, and civil society, accelerating the search for solutions to global challenges. By integrating science, technology, and innovation, we can build a more just, sustainable, and peaceful world for future generations.

Slovenia places significant emphasis on technological progress. In 2022, we adopted the Slovenian Research and Innovation Strategy 2030, which outlines key priorities for development. Our focus in research and innovation is thus on promoting sustainable development in line with the 2030 Agenda, with particular attention to green and digital transformations.

In this regard, we prioritise research in areas such as the environment, agriculture and food, digital transformation of the economy and society, and the improvement of quality of life and health. We are also committed to the sustainable management of energy, food, and water resources and to transitioning to a circular economy. To this end, we will invest 3.2 billion EUR by 2027.

To support the above objectives, Slovenia has already implemented targeted measures, such as supporting innovation clusters to enhance collaboration among research organisations, educational institutions, and businesses, and funding two centres of excellence.

In terms of international projects, I would like to highlight programmes like Eurostars, Eureka, and the EIC Accelerator. These initiatives provide financial support for research and innovation projects and encourage businesses to invest in these areas.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The path to a peaceful and sustainable future depends on our ability to turn knowledge into action. We must harness the power of science, place technology at the service of humanity, and foster innovation that benefits all.

Parliamentarians play a crucial role in this endeavour, and I fully support today's debate which I believe represents a significant step forward in our collective effort.

Thank you.