STC Major Group statement on Resilience
Joint ECOSOC and Second Committee Meeting

Thank you, Excellency.

I am Morgan Seag, speaking on on behalf of the Scientific and Technological Community Major Group, which is co-led by the International Science Council (ISC) and the World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO). We bring together hundreds of scientific and engineering organizations across disciplines and world regions, representing diverse, leading global expertise, including on sustainability and resilience.

The impacts of climate change, the consequences of natural and human-made hazards, and socio-economic and geopolitical crises all highlight the urgent need to center science and engineering in resilience-building. Building resilience requires a holistic approach, engaging all sectors and stakeholders in strategies that are evidence-based, efficient, locally relevant, and culturally acceptable. These strategies also need to balance solutions that address immediate needs, provide buffers to shocks, and contribute to long-term sustainability, including through strategic foresight.

This complex situation requires multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary scientific and engineering knowledge, which combine natural sciences, social sciences, humanities, and other knowledge-making systems.

This is vital in order to:

- better understand the threats and drivers of vulnerability, as well as their interactions;
- to analyze the social, cultural and economic conditions that may affect resilience-building;
- to develop and assess tools to support implementation, including updating and enforcing codes and standards, and to monitor impacts on different sectors and stakeholder groups, including women;
- to redesign resilience governance into a multisectoral and multi-level model that more effectively serves global goals;
- and to assess tools to increase the access of local governments, NGOs and CSOs to resilience funding instruments and mechanisms.

Recent publications from the ISC, WFEO, UNDRR, the IPCC, and others highlight the critical value of science and engineering in this regard. WFEO's Committee on Disaster Risk Management addresses institutional frameworks, infrastructure systems, humanitarian logistics, and land use planning, including through its publication "Engineering Resilience in Disaster Risk Management for Sustainable Development."

And through the ISC's 2023 report for the Mid-term Review of the Sendai Framework, the global scientific community stresses that "Resilience is a first and necessary step for transforming the parameters of the notions of development and well-being. [But achieving resilience is not enough]. The long-term aspiration must *not just* be to reduce our negative impacts, *but also* to enhance the natural protective factors which build resilience so people can prosper and transform."

Our Major Group stands ready to support and inform the work of ECOSOC and the Second Committee to foster sustainable and resilient societies, and we encourage you to call on our members to support your crucial work.

Thank you.