

Statement of the Scientific and Technological Community Major Group Second World Summit for Social Development (WSSD)

Delivered by Megha Sud, International Science Council Senior Science Officer

Dear co-Chairs, distinguished delegates and colleagues,

This statement is delivered on behalf of the Scientific and Technological Community Major Group, co-coordinated by the International Science Council (ISC) and the World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO). We bring together more than 350 scientific and engineering organizations worldwide.

The Doha Political Declaration recognizes the importance of building capacity in the STEM disciplines to support sustainable development. Strengthening STEM education at all levels must be a priority. However, science, technology and innovation more broadly, are increasingly recognized across the multilateral system as key means to achieving progress towards all of the SDGs.

We therefore urge Member States to take urgent action to better leverage and integrate scientific knowledge and engineering solutions to inform social development policies, including to identify lessons learnt and options for effective action. To this end, we highlight three key messages:

1. For science to produce actionable knowledge to enable SDG implementation, sustained collaboration is needed across disciplines, sectors and stakeholders, via participatory and multistakeholder approaches. This is essential to developing context-specific solutions for a safer, more just and sustainable future. The STC Major Group represents extensive experience and strong and diverse global networks of experts ready to share insights and collaborate towards identifying transformative solutions. This includes critical perspectives and contributions from social and natural sciences and engineering, as well as transdisciplinary approaches, which integrate diverse knowledge-making systems.
2. Achieving the SDGs requires continued international scientific collaboration and sustained efforts to build science and engineering capacities globally.
3. There is also a need to create or strengthen science-policy interfaces at sub-national, national, and multilateral levels to enhance evidence-informed decision-making around social development.

The scientific and engineering communities continue to mobilize globally to work with policy-makers, local communities, Indigenous peoples and other relevant stakeholders to help understand and address gaps and challenges and to co-design and co-implement actions to achieve progress towards the Copenhagen commitments and the Doha Political Declaration.

Professor Kaushik Basu referred, in his comments as discussant, to the need for new research and ideas for development in our complex present context. STC Major Group remains committed to working with you and looks forward to supporting this important work.