



Intervention for STI Forum – Shaping the future of STI for sustainable development in times of uncertainty and change

Malta Statement delivered by Deborah Borg, Deputy Permanent Representative of Malta to the UN
7 May 2026 15:00-17:15 UNHQ CR 4

Excellencies,

Distinguished Colleagues,

Science, technology and innovation are central to strengthening resilience, enhancing foresight, and navigating uncertainty.

Malta recognises that STI is essential for anticipating risks, strengthening governance, and supporting long-term planning. Malta's National Research and Innovation Strategic Plan 2023-2027 mainstreams research and innovation in public policy to build anticipation and rapid response, embedding horizon scanning and intelligence briefings as core governance functions. Science, technology and innovation roadmaps and anticipatory governance frameworks is indispensable as systemic shocks and accelerating technological change, including in artificial intelligence, continue to outpace traditional policy responses.

Malta's approach demonstrates how science, technology and innovation can drive national transformation when embedded in governance. Investments, including a Digital Innovation Hub, and a broader strategic focus on emerging technologies, have enabled economic and societal progress. Malta's AI Strategy, launched in 2019, positioned AI as a tool for anticipatory governance. Following implementation and consultation, the strategy now prioritises well-being-centred approaches with strengthened governance structures. This



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NEW YORK**

foresight-driven approach underpins AI deployment across public services through an ethical framework and pilot projects in health, education and traffic management. These investments exemplify SDG 9 in practice, demonstrating its role as an enabler for progress across the Sustainable Development Goals.

Malta recognises that no country can navigate these challenges alone. Our 2024 Digital Diplomacy Strategy and cooperation with European partners – exemplified by our recent Memorandum of Understanding with the European Institute of Innovation and Technology – reflect our commitment to meaningful multilateral engagement. Strengthening trust in emerging technologies, advancing responsible innovation frameworks, and building interoperability requires not just a strong interface between technologists and policymakers but also collective action on the global scale.

Excellencies, Malta reaffirms its commitment to multilateral cooperation in STI. Shared foresight and best practices are essential to harnessing Science, technology and innovation for resilience, equity, and sustainable development.

I thank you.