

**INTERSESSIONAL PANEL OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION
ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (CSTD)**

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6-8 November 2017**

Opening Session: CSTD 2017-2018 Inter-Sessional Panel Meeting

Introductory Statement submitted by

H.E. Mr. Plácido Gómez
Chair-designate of the 21st session of the CSTD

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Technology for Development**

Intersessional Panel meeting of the Commission on Science and Technology for
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*Excellences, Distinguished delegates,
Dear colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,*

Good morning. It is my great pleasure to open the 2017-18 Inter-sessional Panel meeting of the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD). I am delighted to acknowledge Ministers and other high-level participants from all the regions represented in this Commission and gathered here today.

Let me begin by remind you that at the twentieth session, the CSTD recommended to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) the adoption of two draft resolutions: one on “Science, technology, and innovation for development,” and one on “Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society” (WSIS). I am pleased to report that both resolutions, symbols E/RES/2017/22 and E/RES/2017/21 respectively, were adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 6 July 2017. These resolutions are important inputs for our deliberations as we prepare for the upcoming twenty-first session of the Commission.

I would like to also bring to your attention that in the same session ECOSOC noted the ongoing work of the Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation, and encouraged participants in the Working Group to take forward their efforts to fulfil its mandate. As you know, the Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation was established by the Chair of the CSTD as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/125 to develop recommendations on how to further implement enhanced cooperation as envisioned in the Tunis Agenda and will report to the Commission at its twenty-first session in May next year.

Over these three days, we will examine some of the issues that are at the core of the current debate on how science, technology and innovation can contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Panel will consider two priority themes: “The role of science, technology and innovation to increase substantially the share of renewable energy by 2030”, and “Building digital competencies to benefit from existing and emerging technologies, with special focus on gender and youth dimensions”. We recognise the importance of addressing these themes in the socioeconomic and sustainability challenges, associated to the implementation of Goal 7 “Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all”, and in the countries' need to take advantage of the massive opportunities offered by existing and emerging technologies. During the Panel the Commission will also examine the progress made in the implementation of WSIS outcomes. To facilitate our discussions, the secretariat has prepared draft issues papers on our two priority themes. Our work here is central to prepare for our annual session in May.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to provide you with an update on a number of key events in which the CSTD has taken part since our last annual session last May.

As some of you may remember, during our twentieth session we convened a high-level roundtable on the theme "Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions through promoting sustainable development, expanding opportunities and addressing related challenges". The objective of the roundtable was to collect inputs for the 2016 High-level Segment of ECOSOC. I am delighted to inform you that after our annual session the Chair's summary (E/2017/74) of the deliberations held during our twentieth session was submitted to the high-level segment of the 2017 session of the Council for its consideration.

Just after our annual session, the Chair of the twentieth session of the CSTD, Mr. Ruijun Wang, represented the Commission at the Second annual Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals (STI Forum), which took place in New York on 15 and 16 May. The Forum was convened by the President of ECOSOC and supported by the 10-Member Advisory Group and the UN Inter-agency Task Team on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) for the SDGs. The Chair of the twentieth session of the CSTD participated as a speaker in the session on "Key priorities for engaging STI for ending hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture (SDG 2)" and in the side-event organised by UNESCO and GenderInSITE entitled "Women in science to achieve Sustainable Development Goals".

In July, Mr. Wang attended the ECOSOC Coordination and Management meeting in New York, and introduced the report on the twentieth session of the Commission as the Chair of that session. Later that month, he also represented the CSTD at the United Nations high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF), which was also held in New York and where he participated as a panellist in the session entitled "Science-policy interface and emerging issues" and in the roundtable discussion on "Gender perspectives in the work of ECOSOC functional Commissions in the context of the 2017 HLPF on sustainable development".

After the summer, in October, the CSTD was also represented at two side events organised in New York in the context of the 72nd session of the Second Committee of the General Assembly. CSTD Vice-Chair Mr. A Min Tjoa represented the Commission at the side event entitled "The future of work: making decent work a reality", and Mr. Ruijun Wang, Chair of the 20th session of the CSTD, participated at the side event entitled "Science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals: harnessing inclusive innovation to leave no one behind" organised by UNCTAD in collaboration with DESA.

Finally, Mr. Wang also represented the CSTD at the Joint Meeting of ECOSOC and the Second Committee on "The Future of Everything–Sustainable Development in the Age of Rapid Technological Change", which was also held last month in New York.

Ladies and gentlemen,

This Panel provides us with an excellent opportunity to discuss and share progress

and challenges in making STI work for achieving sustainable development. I invite all of you to actively engage in discussions and produce concrete proposals for consideration by the Commission in May. I would like to stop here and wish you fruitful and productive meeting.

Thank you.