

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

**Vienna, Austria
15-17 January 2019**

Contribution of Iran

to the CSTD 2018-19 priority theme on ‘The role of science, technology and innovation in building resilient communities, including through the contribution of citizen science’

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1. Can you give examples of projects/policies in your country aimed at using science, technology and innovation (STI) to build resilient communities? What are the main challenges confronted while trying to implement these projects/policies in your country or region?

Both Iran Vice-Presidency for Science and Technology (VPST) and Ministry of ICT have several initiatives and incentives to support establishment and expansion of ICT based start-ups and SMEs. In particular society and crisis are among key priorities to get support.

VPST provides a variety of supports through “the law for supporting knowledge-based firms” and “creative and cultural industries council”. ICT Startups Empowerment and Facilitation Center (ISEFC), an affiliated body to ministry of ICT, has also several initiatives to support building resilient communities through digital technologies in particular and STI in general.

2. Can you provide examples of policies/projects/initiatives aimed at using/promoting citizen science to build resilient communities? Do these projects incorporate a gender approach? What are the main challenges confronted in implementing these projects?

Ministry of ICT, Iranian Red Crescent & Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation are formulating a range of incentives to support in building resilient societies through digital technologies. However, at the moment there is no specific policies/projects/initiatives in Iran in this regard.

3. What are the actions that the international community, including the CSTD, can take to leverage the potential of STI in building resilient societies, including through the contribution of citizen science? Can you give any success stories in this regard from your country or region?

What we do recommend is, building a robust international initiative to encourage low- and middle-income countries in order to create resilient societies. It also should be highlighted strongly under 2030 SDGs where applicable.

Furthermore, it's recommended that CSTD member countries establish an international online and accessible digital platform to direct effort internationally and nationally during crises. This platform could be utilized both at national and international level respectively by CSTD member countries and international community as a whole in national and transnational crises.

4. Could you suggest some contact persons of the nodal agency responsible for projects/policies, related to resilient communities, STI and the citizen science as well as any experts (from academia, private sector, civil society or government) dealing with projects in this area? We might contact them directly for further inputs or invite some of them as speakers for the CSTD inter-sessional panel and annual session.

The main bodies in Iran which are involved in “using science, technology and innovation (STI) to build resilient communities” can be categorized into two of policy bodies and implementing bodies.

Policy-related bodies

- Vice-Presidency for Science and Technology
- Ministry of ICT

Implementing bodies

- National Disaster Management Organization (NDMO)
- Iranian Red Crescent
- Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation

However, as of today, Iran Vice-Presidency for Science and Technology has been the most active body in using science, technology and innovation (STI) to build resilient communities. Hence, Mahdi Elyasi, Deputy of STI Policy; elyasi@isti.ir, from Iran Vice-Presidency for Science and Technology is considered Iran’s national contact point regarding this issue.

Furthermore, from Ministry of ICT, Amir Nazemy, amirnazemy@gmail.com, who is a board member at Information Technology Organization of Iran could be a proper contact point.

5. Do you have any documentation, references, or reports on the specific examples on the priority theme in your country or region?

Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation as one of the main relevant bodies in Iran, has a specific priority on building resilient communities. They have started to improve their support with the help of VPST since 2018 and it's ongoing as of today. Beside, some policies and initiatives are under formulation by VPST and Ministry of ICT at the moment.