

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

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

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

Statement submitted by

Portugal

**DISCLAIMER:** The views presented here are the contributors' and do not necessarily reflect the views and position of the United Nations or the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

Good Morning.

Portugal would like to welcome and thanks the CSTD Secretariat for the report and the extensive work undertaken on the role of science, technology and innovation in building resilient societies, as well as the panellists for their contribution for this meeting.

The examples we have heard show that we are witnessing a growing emphasis on participation, engagement and dialogue in the complex relationships between science and society.

Portugal regards this growing emphasis on **active scientific citizenship** as a key building block of scientific and technological literacy and resilience. That is why we have implemented over the past two decades a nationwide public policy to promote a direct and personal connection between citizens and scientists.

This has been largely put forward by the creation of a national body for scientific and technological culture - **Ciência Viva** - which has been particularly active in the implementation of science dialogue initiatives, as well as in the creation of a network of interactive science centres all across the country.

I would like to share concrete examples on the promotion of citizen science in our country, two of them led by the Portuguese government, through the Ministry of Science, Technology and in collaboration with civil society organizations, such as **Ciência Viva**.

An example of these citizen-driven policies are the “**Public Participation Labs**” [*Laboratórios de Participação Pública*], an initiative designed to promote open spaces for public debate about the production of scientific knowledge. The main purpose has been to stimulate processes of democratic participation in the setting of research agendas that are socially relevant, and closer to the needs and expectations of our communities.

The Portuguese government has also been gathering leading actors and projects of citizen science in Portugal, namely through the organization, last year, of a **National Congress of Citizen Science**.

With this event, we aimed at mobilizing the communities involved in citizen science in Portugal and showcase their experience, projects and examples that help us to collectively address a key question, that we would also like to address to the panellists]:

*What happens when we open science to society?*

Our contribution to the answer, in Portugal, is that

*“Citizen Science is one of the critical pillars of open science, because public trust, transparency and the relevance of science increase when it is pursued in connection with society. But also because it is a driving force in the creation of environments that favour social, scientific, economic and cultural innovation.”*

Thank you.