



**Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD)**

**Twenty-fourth session (17-21 May 2021)**

**Virtual meeting (Interprefy)  
Daily meetings, 14:00–16:00 [CEST](#)**

**Programme**

For queries or clarifications, please contact:  
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Monday, 17 May

14:00-16:00	<p><b>Opening session</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Mr. Peter Major, Chair of the CSTD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Opening statement:</b> Ms. Isabelle Durant, Acting Secretary-General, UNCTAD</li><li>• <b>Address by:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• H.E. Mr. Munir Akram, President of the Economic and Social Council &amp; Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations in New York</li><li>• Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations &amp; Chair of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group</li><li>• Mr. Houlin Zhao, Secretary-General, International Telecommunications Union</li></ul></li></ul> <p><b>Agenda item 1</b> <b>Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (via silence procedure)</b></p> <p><i>Followed by</i></p> <p><b>High-level round table on the role of science, technology, and innovation in a sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic: <i>Contribution of the Commission to the 2021 theme of the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development</i></b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> H.E. Mr. Alfredo Suescum, Vice Chair of the CSTD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Presentation on innovation with equity by the Secretariat:</b> Ms. Shamika N. Sirimanne, Director, Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD</li><li>• <b>Remarks by:</b> H.E. Mr. Andrejs Pildegovičs, Co-Chair of the 2021 STI Forum &amp; Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Latvia to the United Nations</li><li>• <b>Ministerial discussion:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• H.E. Mr. Sorena Sattari, Vice President for Science and Technology, Islamic Republic of Iran</li><li>• H.E. Ms. Karima Hamed Faryabi, Minister of Economy, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan</li><li>• H.E. Mr. Douglas Letsholathebe, Minister of Tertiary Education, Research, Science and Technology, Botswana</li><li>• H.E. Mr. Fortunato T. de la Peña, Minister of Science and Technology, the Philippines</li><li>• H.E. Mr. Anek Laothamatas, Minister of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation, Thailand</li></ul></li><li>• <b>General discussion</b></li></ul>
16:20 - 17:45	<p><b>Side event: “Challenges for International Scientific Partnerships” to be organized on a separate online platform by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Registration link: <a href="https://amacad.force.com/events/eventapi_router?event=a5B4T0000000lab">https://amacad.force.com/events/eventapi_router?event=a5B4T0000000lab</a></b></p>
18:00 - 18:30	<p><b>CSTD Special event: A Conversation with Great Minds (on a separate online platform)</b></p> <p><b>Opening by: Mr. Peter Major, Chair of the CSTD</b></p>

	<p><b>Moderator:</b> Ms. Didi Akinyelure</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Jennifer Doudna, Nobel Laureate Professor of Chemistry, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Berkeley, University of California, United States</li> <li>• Dr. Katalin Karikó, Senior Vice President, RNA Protein Replacement Therapies, BioNTech RNA Pharmaceuticals</li> </ul>
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Tuesday, 18 May

<p><b>14:00-16:00</b></p>	<p><b>Agenda item 3</b> <b>Science and Technology for Development</b></p> <p>High-level roundtable on using science, technology and innovation to close the gap on Sustainable Development Goal 3 on good health and well-being</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Mr. Ruijun Wang, Vice-Chair of CSTD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Introduction of the Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.16/2021/2) by the CSTD Secretariat:</b> Ms. Shamika N. Sirimanne, Director, Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD</li> <li>• <b>Panel:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. John Reeder, Director, Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases, World Health Organization</li> <li>• Ms. Quarraisha Abdool Karim, Professor in Clinical Epidemiology and Associate Scientific Director, Center for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa, 10-Member Group to support the Technology Facilitation Mechanism</li> <li>• Mr. José E. Cassiolato, Professor, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil</li> <li>• Dr. Joannie Marlene Bewa, Physician, Board Chair of Women in Global Health, United Nations Young Leader for the Sustainable Development Goals</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Ministerial discussion:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H.E. Mr. Ebrima Sillah, Minister of Information and Communications Infrastructure, Gambia Minister of Information and Communications Infrastructure, Gambia</li> <li>• H.E. Mr. Fortunato T. de la Peña, Minister of Science and Technology, the Philippines</li> <li>• H.E. Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Minister for Health &amp; Family Welfare and Minister for Science &amp; Technology and Minister for Earth Sciences, India</li> <li>• H.E. Mr. Shibli Faraz, Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Pakistan</li> <li>• H.E. Mr. Ram Prasad Thapaliya, Secretary (Education), Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Nepal</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Interactive discussion</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>16:30-18:00</b></p>	<p><b>Side event: “Lessons learned from the health sector using STI to implement the 2030 Agenda and its health-related SDGs” to be organized on a separate online platform by G-STIC and the Fundação Oswaldo Cruz, Brazil. Registration link:</b> <a href="https://forms.office.com/r/yU0Hpdcneg">https://forms.office.com/r/yU0Hpdcneg</a></p>

Wednesday, 19 May

<p>14:00-16:00</p>	<p><b>Agenda item 3</b> <b>Science and Technology for Development</b></p> <p><b>High-level roundtable on harnessing blockchain for sustainable development: prospects and challenges</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Mr. A Min Tjoa, Vice-Chair of the CSTD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Introduction of the Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.16/2021/3) by the Secretariat:</b> Mr. Angel Gonzalez Sanz, Head, Science, Technology and ICT Branch, Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD</li><li>• <b>Panel:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mr. Don Tapscott, Executive Chairman, Blockchain Research Institute, Canada</li><li>• Mr. Gerard de Graaf, Director for the Digital Transformation, Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology, European Commission</li><li>• Mr. Kai Wei, Deputy Director of the Cloud and Big Data Institute, China Academy of Information and Communications Technology, China</li><li>• Ms. Sandra Ro, CEO, Global Blockchain Business Council, Switzerland</li><li>• Mr. Bernardo Calzadilla-Sarmiento, Managing Director of the Directorate of Digitalization, Technology and Agribusiness, UNIDO</li><li>• Mr. Chuta Chimezie, Founder of Blockchain Nigeria User Group and Advisor at Kinesis Money (West Africa region)</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Ministerial discussion:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• H.E. Mr. Douglas Letsholathebe, Minister of Tertiary Education, Research, Science and Technology, Botswana</li><li>• H.E. Mr. Joseph Mucheru, Cabinet Secretary of Ministry of ICT, Innovation and Youth Affairs, Kenya</li><li>• H.E. Mr. Mehmet Fatih Kacir, Deputy Minister for Industry and Technology, Turkey</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Interactive discussion</b></li></ul>
<p>16:30-18:00</p>	<p><b>Side event: “Blockchains, towards a new paradigm?” to be organized on a separate online platform by the Wallonia-Brussels General Delegation in Geneva (with English and French interpretation).</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Registration link:</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="https://zoom.us/webinar/register/7416189901182/WN_7IWmFLpfSqe9yOhyAt3z4g">https://zoom.us/webinar/register/7416189901182/WN_7IWmFLpfSqe9yOhyAt3z4g</a></p>

Thursday, 20 May

<p>14:00-16:00</p>	<p><b>Agenda item 2</b> <b>Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international level</b></p> <p>High-level roundtable on progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international level</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Mr. Peter Major, Chair of the CSTD</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Introduction of the Report of the Secretary-General (A/76/64-E/2021/11) by the Secretariat:</b> Ms. Shamika N. Sirimanne, Director, Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD</li> <li>• <b>Keynote remarks by:</b> H.E. Mr. Volkan Bozkır, President of the General Assembly</li> <li>• <b>Panel:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Malcolm Johnson, Deputy Secretary-General, ITU</li> <li>• Mr. Vinton G. Cerf, Vice President and Chief Internet Evangelist for Google</li> <li>• Ms. Anriette Esterhuysen, Chair of the Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group Internet Governance Forum</li> <li>• Mr. Joseph Hall, Senior Vice President for Strong Internet, Internet Society</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Ministerial discussion:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H.E. Mr. Franklin García Fermín, Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology, Dominican Republic</li> <li>• H.E. Mr. Amr Talaat, Minister of Communications and Information Technology, Egypt</li> <li>• H.E. Mr. László Palkovics, Minister of Innovation and Technology, Hungary</li> <li>• H.E. Mr. Fernando José Saguier Caballero, Acting Minister of Information and Communication Technologies, Paraguay</li> <li>• H.E. Mr. John Whittingdale, Minister of State for Media and Data, United Kingdom</li> <li>• H.E. Dr. Munir M. Eldesouki, Assistant Minister of Communications and Information Technology, Acting President of King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology, Saudi Arabia</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Interactive discussion</b></li> </ul>
16.30-17.30	<p><b>Side event: “Technology assessment in Africa” to be organized on a separate online platform by UNCTAD. Registration link:</b></p> <p><a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_d_gR2zldQcCyPhz-XeuytQ">https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_d_gR2zldQcCyPhz-XeuytQ</a></p>

**Friday, 21 May**

14:00-14:45	<p><b>Agenda item 4</b></p> <p><b>Applying gender lens to STI policies to deliver SDG 5</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Mr. Kekgonne Baipoledi, Vice-Chair of the CSTD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Presentation of the Secretariat work on applying the gender lens to STI policies by:</b> Mr. Angel Gonzalez Sanz, Head, Science, Technology and ICT Branch, Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD</li> <li>• <b>Keynote address by:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H.E. Ms. Mabel Torres Torres, Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation of the Republic of Colombia</li> <li>• H.E. Ms. Mayra Jiménez, Minister for Women Affairs, Dominican Republic</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Panel:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H.E. Ms. Shamsa Saleh, Secretary-General of the UAE Gender Balance Council, United Arab Emirates</li> <li>• H.E. Mr. Jarmo Sareva, Ambassador for Innovation, Finland</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ms. Nanjira Sambuli, Member of the United Nations Secretary General's High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation</li> <li><b>Interactive discussion</b></li> </ul>
14:45-15:30	<p><b>Agenda item 4</b>  <b>Presentation of reports on science, technology, and innovation policy reviews</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Mr. Kekgonne Baipoledi, Vice-Chair of the CSTD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Presentation of the STI Policy Reviews of the Dominican Republic, Uganda and Zambia by the Secretariat:</b> Mr. Angel Gonzalez Sanz, Head, Science, Technology and ICT Branch, Division on Technology and Innovation, UNCTAD</li> <li><b>Remarks by:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>H.E. Mr. Genaro Rodriguez Martinez, Vice Minister of Science and Technology, Dominican Republic</li> <li>Mr. David Obong, Permanent Secretary of Science, Technology and Innovation, Uganda</li> <li>Ms. Kayula Siame, Permanent Secretary of Higher Education, Zambia</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Interactive discussion</b></li> </ul>
15:30-16:00	<p><b>Moderator:</b> Mr. Peter Major, Chair of the CSTD</p> <p><b>Agenda item 1</b>  <b>Action on draft proposals concerning the CSTD Gender Advisory Board and participation of non-governmental organizations, civil society entities, academic and technical entities and business sector entities, including the private sector, in the work of the Commission (via silence procedure)</b></p> <p><b>Agenda item 5</b>  <b>Election of the Chair and other officers for the twenty-fifth session of the Commission (via silence procedure)</b></p> <p><b>Agenda item 6</b>  <b>Provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-fifth session of the Commission, including its priority themes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adoption of the draft provisional agenda of the twenty-fifth session (via silence procedure)</li> </ul> <p><b>Agenda item 2 and 3</b>  <b>Adoption of the draft proposals for resolutions and decisions (via silence procedure)</b></p> <p><b>Agenda item 7</b>  <b>Adoption of the report of the Commission on its twenty-fourth session</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adoption of the draft report</li> </ul> <p><b>Closing of the session</b></p>

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