

**United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD)  
Twenty-fifth annual session**

**High-level Roundtable on**

**“The role of science, technology, and innovation in building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”**

**Monday, 28 March 2022, 14:30-16:30 (Geneva time)**

**Concept note**

**1. Background**

The theme for the 2022 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) to be held from 5 to 15 July 2022, will be “Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. It will review SDG 4, SDG 5, SDG 14, SDG 15, and SDG 17. It will also take into account the different and particular impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic across all SDGs and the integrated, indivisible and interlinked nature of the Goals.

The crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated our world’s vulnerabilities and inequalities within and among countries, accentuated systemic weaknesses, challenges and risks, and threatens to halt or reverse progress made in realizing the SDGs. The Commission on Science and Technology Development (CSTD) provides a unique platform for countries to work together on an international agenda to harness science, technology and innovation (STI) to achieve the 2030 Development Agenda, including by addressing the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This high-level roundtable is organized to contribute to the implementation of the recommendations provided in the Ministerial Declaration of the high-level segment of the 2021 session of the Economic and Social Council (E/HLS/2021/1). The outcome of the roundtable discussions should support the consideration of the important science, technology and innovation dimensions of the programme of work of the 2022 session of the Economic and Social Council and the 2022 high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF).

**2. Objectives**

During the roundtable Ministers and other high-level policymakers will exchange experiences, discuss challenges faced at national, regional, and international levels and put forward possible

international policies and cooperative actions in the area of STI to build back better and move forward with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In view of the SDGs that have been selected for review in 2022, the high-level roundtable should pay particular attention to STI policies, solutions and research priorities most relevant to SDG 4 (Quality Education), 5 (Gender Equality), and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

### **3. Questions for discussion**

The following questions are proposed to guide the discussion of the roundtable:

- How can STI contribute to ‘building back better from the crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic’, while addressing the vulnerabilities, inequalities and systemic weaknesses that the pandemic has laid bare?
- What actions can the CSTD and the international community take to strengthen global STI cooperation aimed at mitigating the impact of COVID-19 and securing faster progress in SDG 4 (Quality Education), 5 (Gender Equality), and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals)?
- How can the international community promote public engagement and foster innovative partnerships with the private sector to harnessing the potential of STI to accelerate progress towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to build back better?
- How can the international community secure firm commitments to mobilize substantial resources to increase the technological capabilities of developing countries, to ‘build back better’ and to increase their resilience against future crises?

### **4. Format of the roundtable**

The Roundtable will begin with a briefing from one of the Co-Chairs of the 2022 STI Forum. Then the Moderator will invite the high-level discussants to make their interventions (5-7 mins), following which the Moderator will initiate an interactive discussion between the participants, including those from the floor.

### **5. Supporting documents**

- Ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the 2021 session of the Economic and Social Council and the 2021 high-level political forum on sustainable development, 16 August 2021, [E/HLS/2021/1](#).
- Sixth multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals (STI Forum), 6–15 July 2021, Note by the Secretariat, [E/HLPF/2021/6](#).

- Information on the 2022 High-level political forum (HLPF) on sustainable development under the auspices of ECOSOC can be found [here](#).
- Information on the seventh multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals (STI Forum) can be found [here](#).
- Further documents are available on the website of the [CSTD](#).