

## **Highlights of Technical Cooperation Activities Under the CSTD Overview by the Secretariat**

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*Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and gentlemen,*

The need for practical actions that help developing countries close the gaps that separate them from the technological frontier is a constant theme of our discussions at the CSTD. In much of the world, capacities to utilize, adopt, and adapt those technological changes to progress the achievement of the 2030 Sustainable Agenda for Development remain inadequate.

That is why over the years we have been working to develop the Commission as an open platform where proposals, experiences and creativity can be mobilized to achieve real life impact. We are increasingly facilitating concrete collaborations between member States, NGOs and actors in the science, technology and development space.

I cannot emphasize enough the critical role of international collaboration in promoting knowledge transfer and technology sharing and building the capacity of our member States.

Against this background, allow me to provide you with an overview of the capacity-building activities being conducted or planned to strengthen South-South and North-South cooperation under the auspices of the Commission, with a strong focus on the priority issues identified by the Commission.

At the 23rd annual session of the CSTD, one of the priority themes was "Exploring space technologies for sustainable development and the benefits of international research collaboration." Following the session, the CSTD, through the UNCTAD Secretariat, has joined into a partnership with the Aerospace Information Research Institute of the Chinese Academy of Science. With generous support from the

Alliance of International Science Organizations, this has resulted in the establishment of the CropWatch Innovative Cooperation Programme.

This initiative, that features a real transfer of knowledge and sharing of technology with participating countries, aims to enhance developing countries' capacities for food security early warning using China's CropWatch Earth Observation Satellite System for crop monitoring.

During the same 23<sup>rd</sup> session, the CSTD also reached an agreement with Okayama University in Japan to foster and nurture young scientific talent in developing countries through two programmes: one for young female scientists and the other for young scientists' Ph.D. programme. Both programmes, specially designed for CSTD member States in Africa and Southeast Asia, are intended to implement the SDG Target 9.5 which calls for enhancing scientific research in developing countries.

Turning to last year's 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the CSTD in 2022, we invited the Atlantic International Research Centre (AIR Centre) to speak at the session for the priority theme of "Science, technology, and innovation for sustainable urban development in a post-pandemic world." During that session, the vital role of frontier technologies, such as satellite data, was highlighted as key to achieving sustainable urban development.

After constructive consultations and with the generous support from the Government of Portugal, I am pleased to announce that we will soon be offering technical assistance to enable participating countries to use geospatial data to build disaster resilience and improve water quality management capabilities in urban areas.

Furthermore, during the 25th annual session, the Secretariat and the Government of Thailand discussed the experience gained in Thailand with development model that is bio, circular and green, to accelerate the achievement of SDGs. As a direct result of this, I am also pleased to report that UNCTAD and Thailand Science Research and Innovation (TSRI) are now collaborating to organize a workshop and training events for female entrepreneurs and researchers on the Bio-Circular-Green Economic Model (BCG Model) in Bangkok, Thailand.

Given the importance of these activities, I am grateful to welcome the principals from the aforementioned partners. They will present you today in greater detail these technical cooperation activities:

- Professor Bingfang Wu, from the Aerospace Information Research Institute, Chinese Academy of Science.
- Professor Atsufumi Yokoi, Senior Vice President of the Okayama University.
- Dr. Patamawadee Pochanukul, President of the Thailand Science Research and Innovation, and last but not least,
- Mr. Emir Sirage, Chief Executive Officer of the Atlantic International Research Center.

Thanks to all of them for joining us in person in this session.

Distinguished delegates

I would like to emphasize that these capacity-building programmes respond to the call in the ECOSOC Resolution on Science, Technology and Innovation for Development to increase south-south, north-south, and triangular cooperation through technical assistance, capacity-building, and technology transfer.

They also follow up to the ECOSOC recommendation, after reviewing its subsidiary bodies in 2021 and 2022, including the CSTD, that we should continue aligning the work of CSTD with the 2030 Agenda.

Let me end here by reiterating that the CSTD secretariat is ready to work with you, our member States, to launch new forms of partnership and collaboration in STI for development.

Thank you for your attention, and I wish you a fruitful discussion.

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