

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

**Lisbon, Portugal  
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**Contribution by Belize**

to the CSTD 2023-2024 priority theme on “Global cooperation in science,  
technology and innovation for development”

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## **PRIORITY THEME 2: Global cooperation in science, technology and innovation for development**

### **United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD)**

Dear CSTD Member,

The [26<sup>th</sup> CSTD annual session](#) selected “Global cooperation in science, technology and innovation for development” as one of the priority themes for its 27<sup>th</sup> session (2023-24 period). This theme addresses SDG 17 “Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development” at the 2030 Agenda.

Although the contribution of science, technology and innovation (STI) to the achievement of other sustainable development goals (SDGs) is discussed in every session of the CSTD, SDG 17 itself has not been specifically addressed for several years in the Commission. Interaction among CSTD members has resulted in several pilot programmes for international collaboration in STI. However, there is a need to consider from a broad strategic perspective the question of international collaboration in STI, including its digital dimensions. Under this priority theme the Commission could discuss the status of global STI cooperation (including coordination and funding) in knowledge creation and dissemination, the diffusion and sharing of technology and alternative modes of technology creation and distribution such as open-source approaches.

Under this theme, the Commission will examine how STI organizations at the global and regional levels collaborate better to scale up their impact on key development challenges; how to ensure that the international STI agenda is aligned with the development priorities of the Global South and includes adequate mechanisms for cooperation and sharing; and finally what could be the role of the CSTD in coordinating and imparting directionality to international STI collaboration and technology sharing.

The CSTD secretariat is in the process of drafting an issues paper on the theme to be presented at the CSTD inter-sessional panel meeting to be held in the second half of October 2023 in Portugal. In this context, we would like to solicit inputs from the CSTD member States on this theme. We would be grateful if you could kindly answer the following questions based on your experience in your country or region.

1. What STI cooperative mechanism(s) at global or regional levels has your country joined in?
  - [Central American Integration System \(SICA\): Belize is part of SICA, an organization that aims to promote integration and cooperation among Central American countries. SICA has initiatives related to science, technology, and innovation, aimed at fostering collaboration in these areas among member states.](#)
  - [Bilateral cooperation initiatives with Korea, Japan, and others](#)
2. To what extent the existing cooperation programmes are aligned with the development priorities of participating developing countries?
3. What are the main outcomes of such mechanism(s)? And what are the impacts of the resultant cooperation on your country? Pls. include the gender dimension.
4. What are the main difficulties member countries have encountered or are facing when implementing the cooperation mechanisms?
5. In respect of achieving the objectives and goals, what are the factors contributing to the success or failure of the cooperation mechanism(s) that your country has joined in?
6. In your country’s view, what role could CSTD play in coordinating and imparting directionality to international STI collaboration and technology sharing?

- Belize is currently in the process of developing its National Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation. This would complement other sector plans such as in education, agriculture, tourism, and the blue economy. STI is cross cutting and requires a holistic approach from GOB in partnership with the private sector, the NGO community, international partners, and academia, to progress Belize's sustainable human development.

The CSTD could work to align international STI collaboration and technology sharing efforts with the national development agendas of countries, including Belize. This alignment ensures that collaborative efforts are relevant and beneficial to each country's unique needs and priorities. Additionally, the CSTD could support initiatives to facilitate the transfer of technologies from developed to developing countries, focusing on building local capacity for effective adoption and adaptation of technologies.

Please indicate contact person(s) responsible for projects/policies and international collaboration in this context in case we need clarification on the inputs.

Please send your responses and any further inputs on the theme to the CSTD secretariat ([stdev@unctad.org](mailto:stdev@unctad.org)) by **15 August 2023**. We look forward to receiving your valuable inputs.

Sincere regards,

CSTD secretariat