

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

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Contribution by UNESCO

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)

To whom it may concern

The [26th CSTD annual session](#) selected “Global cooperation in science, technology and innovation for development” as one of the priority themes for its 27th 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 international organizations, UN entities and agencies, and regional commissions on this theme. We would be grateful if you could kindly answer the following questions based on your organization’s work at the global, regional, and/or national levels:

1. What STI cooperative mechanism(s) at global or regional levels has your organization initiated or joined in?
 - UNESCO leads a cooperation mechanism on Open Science aimed to implement the UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science that was adopted by 193 Member States at its General-Conference in 2021. The cooperation mechanism includes the UNESCO Global Open Science Partnership that brings together relevant Open Science stakeholders across the world. The Partnership is open ended and includes the scientific community, public and private science, technology and innovation institutions, relevant private sector and industry, United Nations agencies and all other relevant open science actors. (contact : a.persic@unesco.org)
 - UNESCO supports the Technology Facilitation Mechanism (TFM) for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and notably the strengthening of national and regional capacities in building inclusive and resilient STI ecosystems. UNESCO, as member of the UN interagency task team comprised of numerous UN entities, co-coordinates with UNCTAD the UN-IATT work on capacity-building, which led to organising training sessions on issues related to STI for the SDGs that benefitted hundreds of policy makers from more than 50 developing countries; the Organisation also co-leads with DESA and EU/JRC the STI road mapping processes to achieve the SDGs implemented in several countries. (contact: k.tzinova@unesco.org)
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 participating countries? Pls. include the gender dimension.
4. What are the main difficulties your organization has encountered or is facing when implementing the cooperation mechanisms?
 - Global cooperation mechanisms aim to support Member States for the development of and effective utilisation of their STI potential. UNESCO supports countries to develop new policies that reconcile the social, economic and environmental pillars of sustainable development, while advocating for open science, gender equality and human-rights based approaches to STI. Although fostering STI development has become a key policy objective for most governments around the world, more awareness and advocacy are still required to build robust, inclusive and human-centred STI ecosystems that engage the beneficiaries of STI from the outset in the design of policies and empower marginalised and vulnerable groups through knowledge.
5. In respect of achieving the objectives and goals, what are the factors contributing to the success or failure of the cooperation mechanism(s) in which your organization has joined?
 - Important factors for ensuring success of the cooperation mechanisms include the availability of adequate resources and engagement from the various national, regional and international stakeholders and partners, as well as sufficient capacities in science, technology and innovation in the participating countries, as well as data and evidence for policy making.
6. What cooperation could your organization propose to CSTD in coordinating and imparting directionality to international STI collaboration and technology sharing?
 - Indigenous and local knowledge (ILK) systems are the collective and intergenerational set of know-how, practices, frameworks and skills that Indigenous peoples and local communities have developed over time. ILK have been applied to address complex challenges faced by these communities such as climate change, biodiversity loss, ecosystems functionality, food security, and health. The UNESCO Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems (LINKS) programme promotes biodiversity conservation and restoration, climate change adaptation and equity in resource governance through capacity-building, multiple knowledge research and co-production of knowledge for better informed national, regional and global assessments, policies, strategies and plans.

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

Overall Contact **Ezra Clark, Chief of Section, Science, Technology and Innovation Policy**
Natural Sciences Sector, UNESCO
Email : ed.clark@unesco.org