

**United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD)
Twenty-seventh Annual Session**

**High-level panel on
“Global Cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation for Development”**

**Monday, 15 April 2024, 15.00-16.30 (Geneva time)
Geneva**

Concept note

Background

In view of the scale of today’s global challenges and the great potential of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) to deliver responses, global cooperation in STI is indispensable to achieve the international community’s commitment to leave no one behind. Global partnerships around STI are necessary to mobilize financial and knowledge resources from governments, businesses, academia and civil societies and unfold the potential of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 9 and 17 in supporting the achievement of all the other SDGs.

Innovation increasingly takes place within international networks in which many developing countries cannot participate fully because of gaps in the STI capacities of their firms, research institutions and other actors. The strengthening of STI capabilities in developing countries so that they can participate in and benefit from global innovation networks is critical for the co-creation of global solutions to global challenges and would benefit the whole international community. This in turn calls for more intense efforts in terms of national policies, investments, and international STI collaboration.

Objective

The high-level panel aims to discuss collaboration mechanisms, lessons learned, good practices and limiting factors to scale up existing efforts and increase synergies through enhanced international solidarity and cooperation. Designing inclusive and equitable collaboration mechanisms could speed up technological uptake, devise solutions for global challenges and contribute empowering less technologically advanced countries.

Guiding questions for discussion

- What role could the CSTD play in coordinating STI agendas to make them more globally inclusive and impart directionality to guide global STI development?

- How can international collaboration support STI assessment and foresight instruments accessible to developing countries?
- What good practices can be replicated through international collaboration to facilitate the emergence of enabling digital and skills environments?
- How to mobilize domestic and international resources to support investment in STI, including through private-public partnerships?
- How could the international community support and scale up collaborative STI networks that fully engage actors from developing countries?
- What practical models of STI collaboration can be developed to support effective technology and knowledge transfer?

Format of the high-level panel

The panel will begin with the introduction of the Report of the Secretary-General by the CSTD secretariat. Then panelists will make their presentations (maximum 15 minutes each). This will be followed by an interactive discussion among panelists and the participants. Interventions from participants in the meeting room will have a duration of maximum 3 minutes each.

Supporting documents

- Report of the Secretary-General: Global cooperation in science, technology and innovation for development (E/CN.16/2024/3), available at: https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/ecn162024d3_en.pdf
- Issue paper on “Global cooperation in science, technology and innovation for development”, available at: https://unctad.org/system/files/information-document/CSTD2023-2024_Issues02_globalcooperation_en.pdf
- Other documents are available on the website of the CSTD: <https://unctad.org/meeting/commission-science-and-technology-development-twenty-seventh-session>