

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

Ministerial Roundtable on

**“The role of science, technology, and innovation in accelerating
the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and
the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels:**

**Contribution of the Commission to the 2023 theme of the Economic and Social Council and
the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and the implementation of its
2022 Ministerial Declaration”**

Monday, 27 March 2023, 15:30-18:00 (Geneva time)

Concept note

1. Background

The theme for the 2023 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) to be held from 10 to 19 July 2023 will be "Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels". The Forum will discuss the effective and inclusive recovery measures to address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and explore actionable policy guidance for the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs at all levels. It will consider the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic across all SDGs and the integrated, indivisible, and interlinked nature of the Goals. It will review in-depth SDG 6 on clean water and sanitation, 7 on affordable and clean energy, 9 on industry, innovation, and infrastructure, 11 on sustainable cities and communities, and 17 on partnerships for the Goals.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the world's vulnerabilities and inequalities within and among countries, accentuated systemic weaknesses, challenges, and risks, and has threatened to halt or reverse progress in realizing the SDGs. While countries today are making tireless efforts to recover from the pandemic, 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 2022

session of the Economic and Social Council (E/HLS/2022/1). The outcome of the roundtable discussions should support the consideration of the important science, technology, and innovation (STI) dimensions of the programme of work of the 2023 session of the Economic and Social Council and the 2023 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF).

Objectives

During the roundtable Ministers and other high-level policymakers will exchange national experiences, discuss national and global challenges and put forward recommendations for policies and actions in STI to achieve the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels, with particular attention to STI policies, solutions, and research priorities most relevant to SDG 6, 7, 9 and 17.

2. Questions for discussion

The following questions are proposed to guide the discussions of the roundtable around the theme of accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels:

- How can STI, particularly digital technologies, be leveraged for this purpose, while also addressing the vulnerabilities, inequalities, and systemic weaknesses that the pandemic has revealed?
- What should be done to promote public engagement and foster innovative partnerships with the private sector in this regard?
- What actions could the CSTD and the international community take to strengthen global STI cooperation aimed securing faster progress on SDG 6, 7, 9, and 17?
- Should the CSTD include on its future agenda an item about national experience sharing by countries undertaking a voluntary review at the HLPF on the same year that would address the issue of leveraging STI to accelerate progress and move closer to the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to increase their resilience against future crises?

3. Format of the roundtable

The Roundtable, in a hybrid format, will start with addresses from one of the Co-Chairs of the 2023 STI Forum and the Chair of the Commission for Social Development. The Moderator will subsequently invite the high-level Ministerial speakers to share their insights and recommendations (maximum 10 minutes each). This will be followed by an interactive discussion, including those participating remotely. Priority will be given to intervention from participants in the meeting room (maximum 10 minutes each) and to high-level participants intervening remotely (7 minutes each). Online intervention with interpretation is subject to a 30-minute accumulative limit.

4. Supporting documents

- Ministerial Declaration of the High-level Segment of the 2022 session of the Economic and Social Council and the 2022 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, 15 August 2022, [E/HLS/2022/1](#).
- 7th Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals, 5-6 May 2022, Outcome document (Co-Chair's Summary), [E/HLPF/2022/6](#).
- Information on the 2023 High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development under the auspices of ECOSOC can be found [here](#).
- Information on the 8th 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 twenty-sixth session of the CSTD can be accessed [here](#).