

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

## Twenty-eighth annual session

### *Ministerial Segment on*

*"The role of science, technology, and innovation in advancing sustainable, inclusive, science-and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for leaving no one behind"*

Monday, 7 April 2025, 11:00-13:00 (Geneva time)

### **Concept Note**

#### **1. Background**

The theme for the 2025 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) to be held from 14 to 23 July 2025 will be "advancing sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for leaving no one behind". The HLPF in 2025, will review in-depth: SDG 3 on ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being; SDG 5 on achieving gender equality; SDG 8 on promoting sustainable economic growth and decent work; SDG 14 on conserving and sustainably using marine resources; and SDG 17 on strengthening global partnerships.

Increasing attention is being given to science, technology and innovation (STI) in advancing the progress towards achieving the 2030 agenda. The Ministerial Declaration of the High-level Segment of the 2024 session of the Economic and Social Council and the 2024 high-level political forum on sustainable development (E/HLS/2024/1) commits to bridging the digital and STI divides and the responsible, safe use of STI as drivers of sustainable development and to build the capacities necessary for sustainable transformations. The Pact for the Future adopted at the Summit of Future in September 2024 includes a dedicated chapter on science, technology and innovation (STI) and digital cooperation. This was built upon the explicit recognition of technology as a means of implementation for the 2030 Agenda, as underlined by SDG 17.

This segment is expected to bring together ministers and other high-level participants. As the focal point in the United Nations for promoting science, technology, and innovation for development, the Commission on Science Technology for Development (CSTD) offers an important space for dialogue and collaboration among countries on how to leverage STI to accelerate our progress in implementing the SDGs, including SDGs 5, 8 and 17<sup>1</sup>. Such dialogue at high level is especially needed in this time when multilateralism is challenged, and the world is facing significant challenges due to various conflicts in geopolitics, trade and technology which affects the implementation of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development goals.

The outcome of the segment discussions should support the consideration of the important science, technology, and innovation (STI) dimensions of the programme of work of the 2025 session of the Economic and Social Council and the 2025 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF).

#### **2. Objectives**

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<sup>1</sup> CSTD discussed the role of STI solutions in achieving SDG 3 at its annual session in 2021.

During the segment, Ministers and other high-level policymakers will share their perspectives of national and global challenges as well as STI solutions their countries have applied or are considering to apply in advancing the progress towards sustainable development goals, particularly SDGs 5, 8, and 17. They will also put forward recommendations for policies and actions needed to harness STI in delivering inclusive and evidence-based solutions for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

### **3. Questions for discussion**

The following questions are proposed to guide the discussions:

- How can STI be leveraged to advance progress in achieving SDGs 5 and 8?
- What mechanisms and partnerships can be established to promote science and evidence-based policymaking and ensure STI benefits reach all segments of society?
- What actions could the CSTD take to strengthen global cooperation in STI as underlined in SDG 17 to advance progress in implementing SDGs 5 and 8?

### **4. Format of the segment**

The Moderator will invite the high-level speakers to share their insights and recommendations (maximum 7 minutes each). The Co-Chairs of the 2025 STI Forum have been invited to speak at the segment to maintain synergies between the CSTD and STI Forum.

### **5. Supporting documents**

- [Ministerial Declaration of the High-level Segment of the 2024 session of the Economic and Social Council and the 2024 high-level political forum on sustainable development](#) (E/HLS/2024/1)
- Outcome document of the [9th Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals, 9 May 2024](#), E/HLPF/2024/7.
- Information on the 2025 High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development under the auspices of ECOSOC can be found [here](#).
- Information on the 10th Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals (STI Forum 2025) can be found [here](#).
- Further documents are available on the website of the twenty-eight session of the CSTD can be accessed [here](#).