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NOTIFICATION

Commission on Science and Technology for Development Twenty-fourth session Geneva, 17–21 May 2021

The twenty-fourth session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development will be held in Geneva, from 17 to 21 May 2021. The extent of physical and/or virtual participation will depend on the conditions prevailing at that time.

The Commission will address two priority themes: (a) Using science, technology and innovation to close the gap on Sustainable Development Goal 3 on good health and well-being; and (b) Harnessing blockchain for sustainable development: prospects and challenges.

The Commission will also review the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels; and hear presentations on ongoing science, technology and innovation policy reviews.

Participants will include representatives of Governments, international organizations civil society, and the private sector.

The first day will begin with an opening ceremony, which will include a dialogue between eminent scientists on the opportunities of and challenges in scientific breakthroughs for sustainable development. To contribute to the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development, the Commission will hold on 17 May, a high-level round table on the role of science, technology and innovation in a sustainable and resilient recovery from the current pandemic. The Commission will also hold the following high-level sessions: 18 May, “Using science, technology and innovation to close the gap on Sustainable Development Goal 3 on good health and well-being”, 19 May, “Harnessing blockchain for sustainable development: prospects and challenges”, and 20 May, a high-level session to review the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels.

Nominations and participation

Member States are encouraged to be represented at the ministerial level during the high-level events. Registration should be completed online at [Commission on Science and Technology for Development](#). To facilitate the approval of registrations, permanent missions are requested to confirm via note verbale or email the lists of their delegates. Please inform the secretariat before **3 May 2021** of the composition of the delegation and the name of the focal point for the session, so that the necessary arrangements for their participation can be made.

International organizations and member States of UNCTAD that are not members of the Commission may attend the session as observers. Non-governmental organizations wishing to attend the session as observers should hold consultative status with the Economic and Social Council or accreditation with the World Summit on the Information Society.

Nominations and related communications concerning representation at the session should be sent to the Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Section, Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD, email: stdev@unctad.org.

Logistics

The session will be conducted through a remote simultaneous interpretation platform with the six official languages of the United Nations. A link to the formal virtual meeting will be sent to registered participants, at the email address used for registration, one day in advance of the start of the session. Details on physical participation, if permissible at that time, will be shared at the earliest possible opportunity.

Further information and contact details

A list of the members of the Commission is available at [CSTD membership](https://unctad.org/en/Pages/CSTD.membership). For more information on the Commission, please visit <http://unctad.org/en/Pages/CSTD.aspx>.

Questions about the preparations for the twenty-fourth session of the Commission should be addressed to Ms. Shamika N. Sirimanne, Director, Division on Technology and Logistics, and Ms. Liping Zhang, Chief, Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Section, Division on Technology and Logistics, tel: 41 22 917 5701; email: stdev@unctad.org.



Isabelle Durant
Acting Secretary-General of UNCTAD

17 March 2021