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ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (CSTD)**

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Statement submitted by

Prof. A Min Tjoa
Chair of the 22nd session of the CSTD

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**Introductory remarks by
Prof. A. Min Tjoa
Chair of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development**

2018-2019 Inter-sessional Panel Meeting
Vienna, Austria, 15 January 2019

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Dear colleagues,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to welcome you to Vienna, and to open the 2018-2019 Inter-sessional Panel meeting of the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD). I am glad to see high-level participants from various parts of the world.

Over the next three days, the panel will address some pressing science, technology, and innovation-related issues. We will consider two priority themes: “The impact of rapid technological change on sustainable development” and “The role of science, technology and innovation in building resilient communities, including through the contribution of citizen science” as well as progress made in the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) outcomes. These themes are particularly timely and pertinent, given the challenges posed by the way digitalization is changing our societies and the continuous shocks like health emergencies, conflicts, natural and climate change-related disasters affecting different communities all around the world. To facilitate our discussions, the secretariat has prepared draft issues papers on our two priority themes. Our work here is critical to prepare relevant and action-oriented messages and recommendations for the Ministers attending the twenty-second session of the CSTD, which will take place in May 2019.

At the twenty-first session, the CSTD recommended to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) the adoption of two draft resolutions: one on “Science, technology, and innovation for development,” and one on “Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society” (WSIS). I am pleased to report that ECOSOC has adopted both of these resolutions (E/RES/2018/29 and E/RES/2015/28) in the July session of ECOSOC. They are important for our deliberations as we prepare for the upcoming twenty-second session of the CSTD.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me provide you with an update on further ECOSOC and General Assembly (GA) activities in which the CSTD took part since May 2018.

In June, CSTD Vice-Chair, Mr. Peter Major attended the third Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs (STI Forum) in New York. Mr. Major briefed the STI Forum on the discussions taking place at the high-level roundtable during CSTD-21 on rapid technological change and its impact on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). During the STI Forum, the Secretariat held a briefing for the Permanent Missions of the Group of 77 (G77) about the work of the CSTD and possible areas for collaboration. At the request of the G77, the Secretariat has developed a paper on how to harness new and emerging technologies for sustainable development in the Group of 77.

As you may recall, during CSTD-21 we held a ministerial roundtable to discuss the role of science, technology and innovation in supporting sustainable and resilient societies. The objective of the roundtable was to collect inputs for the 2018 High-level Segment of ECOSOC, around the theme of “From global to local: supporting sustainable and resilient societies in urban and rural communities.” I am delighted to inform you that we transmitted the summary of the roundtable to the ECOSOC High-level Segment which took place last July. Also in July, the Chair of CSTD-21, H.E. Mr. Plácido Gómez Ramírez, attended the ECOSOC Coordination and Management Meeting, and introduced the report on the CSTD-21.

As some of you may now, in July, the General Assembly has passed a resolution entitled “Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 68/1 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council” (A/RES/72/305). The resolution called upon ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies to better insure division of labor and improve outcomes. It also requested subsidiary bodies to ensure that they best support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the work of the Council and redefined the mandate of the Integration Segment.

In October, in my capacity as CSTD Chair, I participated at the meeting of Chairs of Functional Commissions and Expert Bodies and ECOSOC President, where I gave a briefing about how the current priority themes can contribute to the 2019 themes of ECOSOC and the High-level Political Forum (HLPF). I also contributed to the discussions on how ECOSOC and Subsidiary Bodies can

implement General Assembly Resolution 72/305, and how CSTD could make its work more relevant for the High-level Political Forum (HLPF).

In October, the Secretariat participated at the General Assembly discussions under two agenda items, “Rapid technological change and sustainable development” and “Information and communications technologies (ICTs) for development”. The Secretariat presented the report of the Secretary-General on WSIS follow-up. The report was welcomed by member States, some of whom requested the continuation of the CSTD Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation in the context of Internet governance. A briefing was also provided at the request of G77.

Two resolutions were negotiated that concern the work of the CSTD. In November, the General Assembly adopted the resolution on the impact of rapid technological change on the achievement of the SDGs and targets (A/73/L.20), while in December, the General Assembly has adopted the resolution on ITCs for development (A/C.2/73/L.29/Rev.1).

Finally, I would like to inform you that last week I represented the Commission in two events in New York. I attended the annual dialogue of the ECOSOC Bureau and the Chairs of the Subsidiary Bodies, as well as the retreat of the ECOSOC President on renewing the role and authority of ECOSOC so that it contributes to its full potential during the period up to 2030.

Ladies and gentlemen, this panel provides us with an excellent opportunity to deliberate on these important outcomes and the contribution of the CSTD to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. I invite all of you to actively engage in discussions and produce concrete proposals for consideration by the Commission in May. I would like to stop here and wish you fruitful and productive meeting.

Thank you.