

**INTERSESSIONAL PANEL OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION
ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (CSTD)**

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**CSTD 2020-2021 priority theme on “Using science, technology and innovation to close the
gap on Sustainable Development Goal 3 on good health and well-being”**

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UK contribution to CSTD Intersessional Panel

Using science, technology and innovation to close the gap on Sustainable Development Goal 3, on good health and wellbeing

- Thank you to the chair and panelists for your insightful contributions and for sharing your expertise on the priority theme.
- We are also grateful to the Secretariat for preparing a very informative draft issues paper addressing some of the key aspects of the theme. We are especially pleased to see the diverse range of good practice and often ground-breaking work reflected in the paper and welcome the opportunity to learn from these.
- I'd now like to say a few words from the UK's perspective.
- As discussed in the paper and by the panelists so far, scientific innovation and technological developments in areas such as AI, digital health and gene-editing have enormous potential to transform healthcare systems and delivery, helping to make them more effective, efficient and inclusive. The UK is working both domestically and internationally to support and accelerate this progress.
- I will begin by sharing a few examples of our domestic work. Healthcare in the UK is provided by our National Health Service (or "NHS"). The UK's [NHS Digital program](#) is working to transform the UK national health service using digital technologies, with initiatives such as online consultations, health apps and electronic prescription services. Meanwhile, the [NHS Digital Academy](#) is continuing to build the skills and capabilities of UK healthcare staff so that they are digital-ready.
- We are also working to strengthen and simplify the institutional landscape for healthtech support in the UK. The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care has published a [Vision for Technology](#) which outlines a plan for the UK to develop a strong healthtech ecosystem.
- Our experience supports the finding in the draft issues paper that cross-government collaboration is crucial to ensure science, technology and innovation policies are consistent with national health priorities and development plans. We also welcome the paper's emphasis on the value of international cooperation, private-public partnerships and multi-stakeholder collaboration.
- The UK is committed to sharing the work we are doing domestically with other countries in order to accelerate progress internationally. The [NHS Global Digital Exemplars](#) is developing blueprints that will make it quicker and cheaper for others to develop their own capacity in digitised healthcare, while the [International Health Regulations Strengthening Project](#), a £16 million UK-run project, supports countries to better manage public health incidents through the building up of technical

capacities.

- The Covid-19 crisis has intensified the need to utilise science, technology and innovation to address health and development challenges. Harnessing this potential will be crucial to enabling health services to manage the impacts of the pandemic and build resilience to future outbreaks.
- We welcome the opportunities these meetings provide to share experiences and perspectives on the priority themes and look forward to the rest of the discussions.
- Thank you.