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

Geneva, Switzerland
18-22 January 2020

Contribution by Belgium

to the CSTD 2020-2021 priority theme on "Harnessing blockchain for sustainable development: prospects and challenges"

INPUT OF BELGIUM

Questions

1. Could you share specific examples, projects or initiatives that have used or plan to use blockchain technology for the SDGs in your country? What are the main challenges confronted while trying to implement these projects/initiatives? (Examples may include blockchain solutions for financial inclusion, trade facilitation, supply chains, health, energy, e-Government, etc.)

2. National systems of innovation affect how different countries can harness blockchain for increasing competitiveness, growth and sustainable development. Please share information about the ecosystem of innovation in blockchain in your country by informing: What are the key industries/specific sector that are pioneer in blockchain innovation in the country? What are the key actors in the national ecosystem of innovation (entrepreneurs, development teams (firms), venture capital, Banks and financial services, academia, regulators)? What are the key networks of the ecosystem in your country (including online networks, innovation hubs, forums, etc)? What are the national strategies, policies, laws and regulations (in place or preparation) related to blockchain?

3. What are the challenges that your government have faced or may face for promoting innovation and competence building in blockchain in your country, to contribute to national development priorities and accelerate the progress towards the SDGs?

4. What are the actions that the international community, including the CSTD, can take to contribute to harnessing blockchain for sustainable development?

5. Could you suggest some contact persons of the nodal agency responsible for projects/policies and international collaboration in this context as well as any experts (from academia, private sector, civil society or government) dealing with projects in this area? We might contact them directly for further inputs or invite some of them as speakers for the CSTD inter-sessional panel and annual session.

6. Do you have any documentation, references, technological assessments, future studies or reports on the priority theme in your country or region?

Input

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At federal, regional or community level, there is no specific legislative or fiscal framework for the Blockchain in Belgium.

Companies wishing to raise funds via the issuance of tokens, or private individuals speculating on crypto-currencies, must comply with the banking legislation in force. The Walloon companies active in this field are essentially consultancy companies (see here a list of the 10 main companies). Among those, NRMine is a company that has devised a more environmentally-friendly way to mine cryptocurrencies.

There is also an innovation centre on the blockchain in Brussels driven by the company Fujitsu and active mainly in the use of technology for smart cities.

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Professor in cryptography **Jean-Jacques Quisquater** is known worldwide for having contributed to the validation of several cryptographic concepts used in Bitcoin, he is also quoted in the original document of this crypto-currency: https://fr.unesco.org/blockchain-usages-perspectives/jean-jacques-quisquater

There are also experts at the level of the regional and federal authorities. They are focal points within their administration for new developments in the area of blockchain technology. They would be interested in workshops or reports aiming at policy-makers.