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

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Contribution by Finland

to the CSTD 2020-2021 priority themes on "Using science, technology and innovation to close the gap on Sustainable Development Goal 3 on good health and well-being" and "Harnessing blockchain for sustainable development: prospects and challenges"

**Finland's inputs to CSTD on blockchain and using STI to close the gap on SDG 3**

**Blockchain**

The opportunities blockchain technologies offer should be utilized for reaching the SDG's. Blockchain provides an opportunity for individuals to be at the center of operations and benefit from their assets without an organization that owns the platform.

Increasing understanding of blockchain technologies, their uses, benefits, problems and regulatory issues is key in ensuring an inclusive, equitable and safe digital future for all.

A positive atmosphere is a basic requirement in order to ensure that foreseeing new blockchain technologies and their experimentation are effective ways to ease the assessment of the benefits of emerging technologies and the identification of regulatory disadvantages.

The foresight of emerging blockchain technologies should be carried out systematically. In order to do this, a culture that supports the foresight of new technologies should be created and sufficient resources allocated to it.

The design of blockchain technologies should be people-centered and inclusive. It must take into account human rights, sustainability, leaving no one behind and gender equality.

Policy actions can support the potential of blockchain technology to produce new solutions to various issues. Policy coherence should be regularly monitored and evaluated.

Obstacles to the utilization of blockchain technologies in existing regulation should be identified. In the future, regulation should create opportunities for the utilization of blockchain technologies, instead of preventing it.

**Using STI to close the gap on SDG 3**

Inclusive and people-centered digital transformation is necessary for improving the health and wellbeing of people, including through strengthening health systems and supporting the preparedness and resilience of societies. Human rights, sustainability, leaving no one behind and gender equality are key in this transformation in order to deliver maximum benefits for all and reach those most in need.

Innovation for health and wellbeing and for building back better requires huge collective efforts. It involves a large number of stakeholders and requires new partnerships; including public-private. The United Nations has a key role in fostering these partnerships.
We are committed to supporting the achievement of the SDG 3 and other health related targets of the UN Agenda 2030 and for us human rights and gender equality are key crosscutting themes.

In digital health, the WHO plays a critical role in facilitating the global understanding and guidance on privacy, data protection and ethics.

The UN Technology Innovation Lab or UNTIL generates scalable, SDG-based digital solutions for the needs of developing countries and the UN. UNTIL's expertise in relation to digital health should be utilized. Finland works with UNTIL as part of our contribution to the follow-up of the High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation, under the recommendation that focuses on Digital Public Goods. With Finnish funding, a project carried out by UNTIL will develop guidance for digital public goods in the area or maternal, newborn and child health.

Investments in and capabilities for innovation are critical for generating needs-based solutions in the health sector. The UNICEF and UNFPA innovation funds, which Finland has supported for several years, invest and build capacities of early-stage ventures all over the developing world focusing on children's wellbeing and SRHR. UNICEF's innovation work at the country level also feeds into broader processes such as the work of the Digital Public Goods Alliance.