

## ECOSOC Management Segment

Statement by  
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Chair of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD)  
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*Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and gentlemen,*

I am honoured to introduce the outcome of the 25<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD), which was held in a hybrid format from 28<sup>th</sup> March to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022. With six main segments, one special event “Conversation with Great Minds” and side-events on issues including AI strategies, technology assessments, and growth on bioeconomy, circular economy and green economy for sustainable development, the session attracted over 1400 participants, including near 30 ministerial participants.

During the High-level Round Table on the HLPF theme, the importance of using science, technology and innovation (STI) in achieving the goals under the 2030 agenda was reiterated. Participants remain concerned over the digital connectivity gaps as evidently shown during the Covid-19 pandemic. They **recommended that to build forward better, international collaboration in scientific research should be enhanced and technological cooperation between Member States, including North–South, South–South and Triangular cooperation should be strengthened, through various means such as transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms and conditions as well as capacity building through training programmes or courses. A robust STI financing framework and increased STI-related official development assistance (ODA) should be considered and CSTD should**

**continue playing its role of being a cooperation platform to support the policies and activities of developing countries in the fields of science and technology.**

In considering the priority theme of “Industry 4.0 for inclusive development”, participants recognized that Industry 4.0 may create a window of opportunity for technological upgrading and economic catch-up in developing countries. To benefit from industry 4.0, countries need to strengthen their manufacturing sector. To that end, **Governments were recommended to take some measures seen as critical enablers.** These include mobilizing investment in digital infrastructure, building workforce skills for industry 4.0, developing ethical frameworks and guidelines for the adoption of industry 4.0 technologies, and international cooperation on exchange of knowledge and experiences. **Governments were also recommended to take actions to address the implications of fundamental changes in the digital economy, and industry 4.0, for labour markets.**

Discussions on the priority theme “Science, technology and innovation for sustainable urban development in a post-pandemic world” revealed clearly the numerous challenges facing countries, especially developing countries and least developed countries to attend the triad goals of liveability, economic prosperity, and environmental sustainability of their urban areas. There was unanimous recognition of the contribution of STI towards mitigating the sustainability challenges facing urban societies in a COVID-19 recovery and subsequent development. To seize the STI innovation momentum generated by the pandemic, **governments were recommended to giving priority to the STI suggestions that offer value for money and more efficient spending, focusing on activities that boost urban resilience. International collective and collaborative actions are key to achieve urban sustainability globally.**

In reviewing the progress made in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, participants stressed the need to close as early as possible the connectivity gaps. The WSIS' commitment to build a people-centered inclusive and development-oriented information society remains highly relevant and unfulfilled. While partnerships and collaboration are essential to achieving common international goals, the proliferation of multilateral forums makes it extremely difficult for developing countries to actively participate in decision making. The CSTD was called upon to continue playing an important role in identifying today's and tomorrow's challenges and opportunities related to ICT. **The Chair of the Commission was invited, in consultation with member States and other relevant United Nations entities, to present at the Commission's 26th annual session a draft roadmap outlining the preparations for the contribution of the Commission to the overall review in 2025. The international community was invited to make voluntary contributions to the special trust fund established by UNCTAD to support the review and assessment work of the Commission regarding follow-up to the WSIS.**

During the presentation of reports on Science, Technology, and Innovation Policy Reviews (STIP review), the STI Policy Review of Zambia was launched. Participants also discussed the initial findings of the STIP reviews undertaken in Botswana with UNCTAD assistance and in Angola with joint assistance from UNCTAD and UNDP Angola Office. **UNCTAD, as secretariat of the Commission, was encouraged to continue assisting developing countries and LDCs to enhance their STI policy making capacity through STI policy reviews and the implementation of the recommendations in those reviews, as appropriate, in close cooperation with United Nations agencies and international organizations.**

The Bureau's assessment of the Commission's work, discussed at this session, was transmitted soon after the meeting to the ECOSOC and was taken into consideration in its final review. So I won't elaborate on it here.

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

I would like to inform you that the dates for the twenty-sixth session of the CSTD are now set for 27 to 31 March 2023 with two priority themes: one is "Ensuring safe water and sanitation for all: a solution by science, technology and innovation". It is intended to contribute to the 2023 HLPF review of SDG 6. The second one is "Technology and innovation for cleaner and more productive and competitive production", which is intended to look into opportunities and challenges for developing countries in the global response to climate change.

In closing I would like to reiterate the CSTD's commitment to promote, under the guidance of the resolutions of the ECOSOC and General Assembly, science, technology and innovation as key means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Thank you.