

## **ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

### **Coordination Segment**

Session on: Conversation with Executive Secretaries of regional commissions and Chairs of functional commissions and expert bodies on sustainable, resilient, and innovative solutions to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda

Statement by Ms. Ana Neves  
Chair of the CSTD

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Thank you Chair! It is a great pleasure for me to speak as Chair of the Commission on Science, Technology and Development (CSTD).

At the 2023 HLPF, there is general recognition that for all the SDGs, science, technology and innovation (STI) play a crucial role in overcoming challenges and accelerating progress while it is concerning that the technological gap between developed and developing countries has been widening. This necessitates enhanced international knowledge exchange and collaboration for capacity-building.

At the CSTD which is the focal point in the UN system on STI for development, the call for enhancing international cooperation in sharing knowledge and technology among countries has been heard at each of its annual sessions. In response, in the recent years, particularly after the Covid 19 pandemic, the CSTD, through the UNCTAD that serves as its secretariat, has strengthened its work on enhanced international collaboration among Member States, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, to promote and share STI solutions for achieving the SDGs.

The CSTD's contribution to this question has a strong policy dimension, which is apparent in the discussion of our annual priority themes and involves not only the sharing of experiences between policy-makers from countries facing very different STI environments and development challenges, but also the articulation of policy recommendations addressed to the international community and to national governments. The issues of solidarity, capacity-building, collaboration and partnership are always prominent in the STI agenda discussed at the CSTD.

Our work also involves a practical effort to facilitate knowledge sharing and capacity building through concrete partnerships. This is done through voluntary knowledge and technology transfer and capacity-building activities that target specific STI solutions. These activities have been well-received by the beneficiary countries and are attracting other countries to join.

Let me share some examples with you:

- Cropwatch Innovative programme in collaboration with China Academy of Science since 2021. It concerns using satellite-based remote sensing technology to help 11 developing countries change from using manual agricultural survey only to also using remote-sensing monitoring. It will, among other things, enable these governments to predict crop yields and prospects, hence giving them a useful tool for food security. Female participation is notable in this programme. Hence the programme contributes directly to SDGs2, 5 and 17.
- Young female scientist programme & Young scientist PHD programme in collaboration with the Okayama University in Japan since 2021. It concerns building research capabilities in developing countries. The programmes aim to directly deliver SDGs 5 on gender equality and empowerment and SDG9.5 which calls for enhancing scientific research in developing countries, by fostering and nurturing young scientific talents in these countries. Apart from these SDGs and SDG17, they also contribute to the achievement of other SDGs, such as SDG3, SDG6 and SDG 9, as under both programmes, research topics should relate to the implementation of specific SDGs in these countries.
- Harnessing space technological application in support of sustainable urban development in collaboration with Atlantic International Research Centre since 2022. The project will support STI policymakers in two developing countries in using geospatial technology as a catalyst for sustainable urban development and for SDGs. It contributes directly to SDG11 and SDG17.
- A Training workshop held in August 2023 in collaboration with Thailand's Science, and innovation Research Institute on Biodiversity, circular and green growth for 17 female researchers from 9 countries in Africa and Asia. It contributes directly to SDG5, SDG12, SDG13 and SDG17.
- A forthcoming workshop on harnessing the STI power for disaster risk reduction in collaboration with the United States and the Philippines has been

scheduled for 29 Feb and 1 March in Manila, the Philippines. It contributes to directly to SDG11 and SDG17.

These cooperation programmes address the issues that have been discussed at the CSTD and respond to the resolutions adopted by the CSTD and approved by the ECOSOC on these issues. In addition, the UNCTAD ongoing pilot technology assessment project for three African countries to assess different technologies (agrovoltaic, hydrogen and biogas) was also intended to translate the resolution of the ECOSOC into action.

At the forthcoming 27<sup>th</sup> CSTD in April, which will discuss Global cooperation in science, technology and innovation for development, there will be exhibitions at the meeting venue to demonstrate international cooperation initiatives in sharing STI solutions for achieving the SDGs. I look forward to welcoming you at the CSTD annual session from 15 to 19 April in Geneva to see these initiatives and hear the discussions on how to harness the power of STI in accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Thank you for your attention!

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