

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
Management Segment

Item 19: Economic and environmental questions

Report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its twenty-eight session (E/2025/31)

Briefing by H.E. Mr. Muhammadou M.O. Kah
Chair of the CSTD 28th session

New York, 29 July 2025

Excellencies,
Distinguished participants,
Ladies and gentlemen,
Good morning!

It is a great honor to brief you on the outcomes of the 28th annual session of the CSTD held from 7 to 11 April.

Due to reduction in word limits for UN parliamentary documents, the report of the 28th session contains only the actions taken by the CSTD and those to be taken by the ECOSOC such as the two draft resolutions -one on WSIS and the other on STI for Development. It cannot accommodate a summary of the discussions, including discussions on WSIS+20. Such information is available on the CSTD web page.

Discussions at the 28th session were organized with a view to harnessing science and technology for the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient, and innovative solutions that could advance the implementation of the 2030 agenda. About 20 high level participants, including over dozen ministerial participants, shared their national practices in deploying STI solutions to address national development challenges. Two priority themes were discussed: a) Diversifying economies in a world of accelerated digitalization; and b) technology foresight and technology assessment for sustainable development. UNCTAD also shared its capacity building projects in the STI area, including its project to build beneficiary countries' expertise in leveraging science, technology or innovation parks to promote national development.

As we spent a full-day on the 20 years' implementation of the WSIS outcomes (WSIS+20), I wish to give it a bit more coverage. The discussion's outcome was reflected in the WSIS resolution. I'd like to draw your attention to the following elements particularly related to the WSIS+20 review at the General Assembly this December.

1. Avoid duplication and enhance synergies, resource efficiencies and thereby impact among different UN processes and UN entities on digital cooperation, notably between the implementation of the Global Digital Compact (GDC) and WSIS. In this regard, the resolution
 - a) recommends integrating the GDC commitments into the WSIS architecture;
 - b) recommends integrating, as appropriate, the GDC into WSIS action line facilitators' work of WSIS, extending the role of the United Nations Group on Information Society (UNGIS) to the implementation of the GDC and including further United Nations offices with responsibilities in matters of digital cooperation into UNGIS, as well as multi-stakeholder advice on UNGIS' work. And
 - c) calls for strengthening CSTD's well-established role as an intergovernmental platform for discussions on the impact and opportunities of technologies for the achievement of the SDGs while emphasizing the role of CSTD in the follow-up and review process of the GDC;
2. Continue dialogue and work on the implementation of enhanced cooperation as envisaged in the Tunis Agenda; and
3. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to CSTD an annual report on progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the WSIS.

I am glad to report that after two years' close engagement with the WSIS community's multistakeholders, CSTD has successfully completed its work on WSIS+20 as mandated by ECOSOC. I highly appreciate the CSTD secretariat's support.

Thank you!