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

**Lisbon, Portugal
6-7 November 2023**

Contribution by Gambia

to the CSTD 2023-2024 priority theme on "Global cooperation in science,
technology and innovation for development"

PRIORITY THEME 2: Global cooperation in science, technology and innovation for development

United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD)

Dear CSTD Member,

The 26th CSTD annual session selected "Global cooperation in science, technology and innovation for development" as one of the priority themes for its 27th session (2023-24 period). This theme addresses SDG 17 "Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development" at the 2030 Agenda.

Although the contribution of science, technology and innovation (STI) to the achievement of other sustainable development goals (SDGs) is discussed in every session of the CSTD, SDG 17 itself has not been specifically addressed for several years in the Commission. Interaction among CSTD members has resulted in several pilot programmes for international collaboration in STI. However, there is a need to consider from a broad strategic perspective the question of international collaboration in STI, including its digital dimensions. Under this priority theme the Commission could discuss the status of global STI cooperation (including coordination and funding) in knowledge creation and dissemination, the diffusion and sharing of technology and alternative modes of technology creation and distribution such as open-source approaches.

Under this theme, the Commission will examine how STI organizations at the global and regional levels collaborate better to scale up their impact on key development challenges; how to ensure that the international STI agenda is aligned with the development priorities of the Global South and includes adequate mechanisms for cooperation and sharing; and finally what could be the role of the CSTD in coordinating and imparting directionality to international STI collaboration and technology sharing.

The CSTD secretariat is in the process of drafting an issues paper on the theme to be presented at the CSTD inter-sessional panel meeting to be held in the second half of October 2023 in Portugal. In this context, we would like to solicit inputs from the CSTD member States on this theme. We would be grateful if you could kindly answer the following questions based on your experience in your country or region.

1. What STI cooperative mechanism(s) at global or regional levels has your country joined in?

Answers:
- **United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD)**
- **Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries**
- **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**
- **International scientific and research collaborations.**
- **Regional innovation networks and partnerships.**
- **Participation in international conferences, workshops, and forums related to STI.**
- **Joint research and development initiatives.**

2. To what extent the existing cooperation programmes are aligned with the development priorities of participating developing countries?

Answers:
- **Cooperative programmes are aligned with the development priorities of the National Development Plan of the Gambia (NDP) 2018-2023, more so outcomes 7.4: Harness partnerships and cooperation at national and international levels**

3. What are the main outcomes of such mechanism(s)? And what are the impacts of the resultant cooperation on your country? Pls. include the gender dimension.

Answers:
- **Increased knowledge exchange, research capacity, and technology transfer.**

- **Enhanced collaboration leading to innovative solutions to local challenges.**
- **Empowerment of women in STI roles, contributing to gender equality.**

4. What are the main difficulties member countries have encountered or are facing when implementing the cooperation mechanisms?

Answers:

- **Uneven distribution of benefits among participating countries.**
- **Resource constraints affecting effective participation.**
- **Limited access to technology and infrastructure.**

5. In respect of achieving the objectives and goals, what are the factors contributing to the success or failure of the cooperation mechanism(s) that your country has joined in?

Answers:

Success:

- **Clear objectives and mutual goals among participating countries.**
- **Effective communication and knowledge sharing.**
- **Strong commitment and engagement from member countries.**

Failure:

- **Misalignment of goals and priorities**
- **Insufficient resources or support to sustain collaborative efforts**.

6. In your country's view, what role could CSTD play in coordinating and imparting directionality to international STI collaboration and technology sharing?

Answers:

- **Facilitating Knowledge Exchange: Creating platforms for sharing best practices, success stories, and lessons learned among member countries.**
- **Policy Advocacy: Advocating for policies that promote equitable and inclusive STI cooperation.**
- **Capacity Building: Organizing workshops and capacity-building initiatives to enhance the technical and scientific capabilities of member countries.**
- **Guidelines and Standards: Developing guidelines for responsible and ethical STI collaboration.**
- **Monitoring and Evaluation: Establishing mechanisms to assess the effectiveness of STI cooperative programs and make recommendations for improvement.**

Contacts: Mr. Malang A. Bass – Deputy Permanent Secretary Technical – mabass@mocde.gov.gm
Mr. Serign Modou Bah – Director of Telecoms and Postal Services – smbah@mocde.gov.gm

Please indicate contact person(s) responsible for projects/policies and international collaboration in this context in case we need clarification on the inputs.

Please send your responses and any further inputs on the theme to the CSTD secretariat (stdev@unctad.org) by **15 August 2023**. We look forward to receiving your valuable inputs.

Sincere regards,

CSTD secretariat