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ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (CSTD)**

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Contribution by Zambia

**to the CSTD 2024-2025 priority theme on “Technology foresight and technology
assessment for sustainable development”**

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Response to CSTD Questionnaire on Foresight for Science, Technology, and Innovation (ForSTI) and Technology Assessment (TA) in Zambia:

1. **ForSTI and TA in Zambia:** Zambia has not yet conducted formal ForSTI but did a TA exercises that was sponsored by UNCTAD for biomass energy technology.
2. **Interest in ForSTI and TA:** Zambia is interested in pursuing both ForSTI and TA as policy tools in the near future, recognizing their potential to inform evidence-based decision-making in science, technology, and innovation (STI).
3. **Responsible Agency:** The National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) is the primary agency responsible for ForSTI and TA in Zambia.
4. **Implementation Responsibility:** In the absence of prior ForSTI/TA experience, the responsibility for implementation would likely fall under the NSTC's purview, potentially in collaboration with other relevant ministries and stakeholders.
5. **Sectors and Policy Processes:** ForSTI and TA could be applied across various sectors, including agriculture, health, energy, and ICT, to inform policy design and implementation, and align with relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
6. **Methods and Methodologies:** Specific methods and methodologies would be determined based on the nature of the ForSTI/TA exercise and the sector-specific context. These could include horizon scanning, scenario planning, Delphi surveys, expert panels, and stakeholder consultations.
7. **Challenges and Capacity Needs:** Zambia anticipates challenges related to limited capacity in ForSTI and TA methodologies, data availability, and stakeholder engagement. Capacity building initiatives, training programs, and knowledge sharing platforms would be crucial to address these needs.
8. **Combined ForSTI and TA:** The feasibility of combined ForSTI and TA would depend on the specific context and objectives. While such an approach could offer a comprehensive perspective, it might also pose challenges in terms of resource requirements and coordination.
9. **International Cooperation:** Zambia is open to international cooperation and partnerships for ForSTI and TA such as the one with world technology bank.

Collaborating with regional and international organizations could provide access to expertise, best practices, and capacity building opportunities.

10. **Role of International Cooperation and CSTD:** International cooperation can play a crucial role in promoting ForSTI and TA by facilitating knowledge exchange, providing technical assistance, and fostering capacity building initiatives. The CSTD can serve as a platform for sharing experiences, best practices, and lessons learned.
11. **ForSTI and TA Examples:** Zambia has not yet conducted formal ForSTI or but has conducted a TA exercises in energy sector which focused on biomass energy source with UNCTAD.
12. **Impact on STI Decision-Making:** While Zambia lacks direct experience, it recognizes the potential of ForSTI and TA to improve STI decision-making processes. These tools can enhance evidence-based policy design, prioritization, and implementation, ultimately leading to better outcomes in STI development.

Contact Persons:

[Chilema Burgner Emmanuel]

[Mr]

[Emmanuel.chilema@mots.gov.zm]