

**UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
FOR DEVELOPMENT (CSTD), twentieth session  
Geneva, 8-12 May 2017**

**Opening Ceremony**

Statement submitted by

Mr. Ruijun Wang  
Chairperson of the CSTD

**Monday, 8 May 2017**

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Statement by  
**Mr. Ruijin Wang**  
**Chair-designate of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development**

Twentieth Session of the  
Commission on Science and Technology for Development  
Geneva, Switzerland, 8 May 2017  
(Duration: 10 minutes)

*Excellencies,*

*Distinguished delegates,*

*Ladies and gentlemen,*

I am honoured to be elected the Chair of the twentieth session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and I thank you for putting your trust in me.

It is my privilege to welcome all of you to this session of the Commission.

I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Mr. Peter Major of Hungary who steered the work of the Commission so ably during its last session.

Furthermore, I would like to thank members of the Bureau who carried forward the preparatory work for the twentieth session in the time before my designation as Chair. I wish to assure you that we all on the Bureau will do our utmost to make this session a success.

*Excellencies,*

*Distinguished delegates,*

*Ladies and gentlemen,*

Over the next five days, the Commission will address several important issues related to science, technology, and innovation. We will consider two priority themes, namely, “*New innovation approaches to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals*”, and “*The role of science, technology and innovation in ensuring food security by 2030*”, and we will review the progress in the implementation of World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) outcomes. To facilitate discussions, the secretariat has prepared reports of the Secretary-General on these themes and has made them available both in print version and on the CSTD website. These reports summarize the key discussions and policy recommendations emerging from the inter-sessional panel meeting held in January in Geneva. I thank the Secretariat for the timely preparation of these reports.

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Drawing on information from the UN system and many other public and private sources and stakeholders, the Economic and Social Council is continuing its work on addressing key issues that form the basis for the 2030 agenda for sustainable development and its implementation. Let me provide you with an update on some of the activities the CSTD took part in, during this inter-sessional period, within the framework of ECOSOC.

In June, our Vice-Chair, Mr. Benedicto Fonseca Filho represented the Commission at the First annual Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals (STI Forum), which was held in New York. The Forum was Convened by the President of ECOSOC and supported by the 10-Member Advisory Group and the UN Inter-agency Task Team on Science, Technology and

Innovation (STI) for the SDGs. The Vice-Chair participated as one of the speakers of the concluding session of the Forum entitled “*Adding value through the Science, Technology and Innovation Forum*”.

The 2016 ECOSOC High-level Segment was held during July in New York under the theme "Implementing the post-2015 development agenda: moving from commitments to results". I am pleased to inform you that the Secretariat transmitted the inputs from the CSTD (E/2016/74) to the high-level segment of the Council. The inputs were well received by the high-level segment.

In July, Mr. Peter Major attended the ECOSOC Coordination and Management meeting, and introduced the report on the nineteenth session of the Commission.. In addition, and as former Chairman of the CSTD Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum, Mr. Major attended a retreat organized by the United Nations Secretariat on “Advancing the 10-Year Mandate of the IGF”, which took place in New York as part of the process of continual improvement of the IGF. Finally, last December, he represented the Commission at the Internet Governance Forum held in Mexico.

*Excellences,*

*Ladies and gentlemen,*

I would like to inform you that the 2017 ECOSOC High-level Segment will take place in July in New York and will be devoted to the theme "Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions through promoting sustainable development, expanding opportunities and addressing related challenges". The discussions we have in the next few days will serve as a contribution to ECOSOC.

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

In 2015, the General Assembly, in its overall review of the implementation of WSIS outcomes, requested the Chair of the CSTD to establish a working group to develop recommendations on how to further implement enhanced cooperation as envisioned in the Tunis Agenda. As some of you may know, the Working Group was established last May by the Chair of the 19<sup>th</sup> session of the CSTD. During this session, we will hear a briefing of the activities of the Working Group from its Chairman, Ambassador Benedicto Fonseca Filho from Brazil.

Last but not least, on Wednesday, we will hear presentations about an important programme of work initiated by this Commission and implemented by UNCTAD. I am talking about the national Science, Technology and Policy (STIP) reviews. During this session the Commission will hear the presentations of recently finalized STI reviews of Iran and Rwanda. Other member states in which we have recently concluded STIP reviews are invited to present updates of follow-on activities and contribute to the discussions.

*Excellences,*

*Ladies and gentlemen,*

The timeliness and significance of the Commission's substantive work has been noted with satisfaction by a number of member States at ECOSOC and at the General Assembly. Therefore, I hereby invite all of you, distinguished participants, to actively engage in discussions and produce useful and constructive proposals for consideration in draft ECOSOC resolutions that we will discuss in this week. I hope

that we will transmit strong messages to ECOSOC that contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Ladies and gentlemen, we have a very busy week ahead so I would like to stop here. I conclude by warmly welcoming you again, and by wishing you a fruitful meeting and assure you that the CSTD secretariat and I myself stand ready to assist you with your work.

Thank you.