

**UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
FOR DEVELOPMENT (CSTD), twenty-second session
Geneva, 13-17 May 2019**

**High-level roundtable on “The impact of rapid technological change on
sustainable development”**

Statement submitted by
Romania, on behalf of European Union

Tuesday, 14 May 2019

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20th Session of the Commission for Science and Technology

EU speaking points on STI

Thank you Chair,

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

I have the honor today to deliver this statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

1. The EU and its Member States believe that solutions generated by science, technology and innovation (STI) can support both the implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Achieving the SDGs by 2030 will require new approaches to development and innovation, therefore it is important that all stakeholders exploit the potential offered by STI for sustainable development. All countries need to foster appropriate and responsible innovation that helps citizens to escape poverty, promotes economic growth, generates quality employment, optimizes complex systems and value chains, promotes sustainable consumption and production patterns, reduces the vulnerability to disasters and other shocks, and promotes the protection of natural resources and the efficient use of scarce resources.
2. STI underpins the implementation of the SDGs by building a sound evidence base for decision-makers. We believe that we need to frame our discussion within this broader context. The success of a sustainable development agenda requires a world-wide effort which will benefit from, and will be accelerated through, cooperation in STI. (Uk proposal) Appropriate

enabling environments and regulatory frameworks have key roles to play. These include intellectual property rights protection, compliance with multilateral trade commitments, and transparent, predictable investment frameworks.

3. Similarly, acquisition of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics skills, capacities and know-how, access to financing, entrepreneurship and foreign direct investments are all necessary elements. Participation of the private sector, including through Public Private Partnerships and collaborative platforms in accelerating knowledge application, technology leapfrogging and development is critical.
4. The EU and its Member States are very active in international cooperation in research and innovation, and support sustainable development in Europe and globally, notably through the Horizon 2020 program for research and innovation as well as EU development cooperation instruments. Common interests and mutual benefits are key aspects of our global commitment to co-creation of solutions, as well as knowledge sharing for sustainable development.
5. The EU and its MS remain convinced that all countries should reinforce bilateral regional and multilateral cooperation on science, technology and innovation and solution-oriented research; strengthen scientific, technological, digital, statistical and research capacities; promote gender equality; promote worldwide and cross-sector mobility of researchers; and promote access to publicly-funded publications to facilitate knowledge circulation. In order to facilitate development of and access to vital and environmentally sound technologies, not only North-South cooperation but also South-South and triangular cooperation are needed, in particular for LDCs.