

**UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
FOR DEVELOPMENT (CSTD), twenty-fourth session
Geneva, 17-21 May 2021**

**The role of science, technology and innovation in a sustainable and resilient
recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic**

Statement submitted by

H.E. Ms. Kirsti Kauppi
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Finland
to the United Nations Office in Geneva

DISCLAIMER: The views presented here are the contributors' and do not necessarily reflect the views and position of the United Nations or the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

For interpretation:

Finland's contribution in general discussion

- The UN's agenda on science, technology and innovation is expanding rapidly, as also guided by the Secretary-General in his Roadmap for digital cooperation. Finland would like to thank the Secretary-General for his vision and leadership.
- Finland strongly believes that science, technology and innovation are essential if we are to reach the SDGs. At the same time, we do not see innovation solely in technological terms. We need a human-centric and human rights –based approach.
- Finland supports the UN's activities in this area through, for example:
 - o a multi-year support to the follow-up to the report of the High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation and the SG's Roadmap, with special focus on AI (Where Finland is one of the so-called Champions), digital public goods and digital inclusion;
 - o By co-leading the Technology and Innovation for Gender Equality Action Coalition of the Generation Equality campaign (note the importance of gender);
 - o Through establishment of a niche UN presence in Finland focusing on innovation (Global Pulse, UNOPS); and
 - o Through Long-term support to UNICEF's important innovation work.
- Finally, it is important to ensure system-wide coherence of the UN's approach to the rapidly evolving and expanding agenda.
- CSTD has a long-standing role in the intergovernmental architecture. To ensure its continued relevance, the Commission needs to further strengthen its cooperation with civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders. Especially the private sector plays a crucial role.
- In this regard, we suggest that the Commission consider discussing at its 2022 intersessionals its role within the aforementioned UN architecture, with a view to ensuring its continued relevance.