UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (CSTD), twenty-fifth session
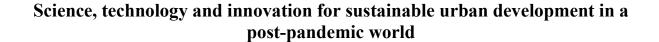**Geneva, 28 March - 1 April 2022**

Science, technology and innovation for sustainable urban development in a post-pandemic world

Statement submitted by

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Research and Innovation for todays and future cities

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Cities are, and have been along history, seeds for humankind and knowledge development. Today, cities are very complex worlds in terms of dimension and diversity, that encompass all scientific domains and involve all levels of science from fundamental to applied aspects and to innovation, while definitively requiring action programming and implementation.

Let us stress the twofold axles of technology advances and of the society tissue. Crises, such as these pandemic years, clearly show their importance, entanglement and need for a knowledge based short, medium and long program implementation.

Technology allowed us to bring in innovative actions and quick implementation, and to collect data on multiple areas of social life and city functions such as consumption, mobility, energy, health, security and so on. This information should be one of the basis to develop knowledge both for the systems functioning and new developments as well as for the social integration.

Cities are laboratories where knowledge and innovation are created. The incentives to science development should therefore target this large, complex, multi and interdisciplinary laboratories. Apart from the funding of projects – and several targeted project designs should be considered -, we propose a cross-cutting measure of increasing advanced formation at the doctoral level. The research work carried out under doctoral programs will bring knowledge and innovation results in the next years, will encompass the different domains, the use of available data and necessarily increase the interactive dynamics with higher education, research entities and stakeholders. Such programs are sufficiently flexible to be adaptable to different realities namely regarding the amount of funding available. Therefore we believe they will have an impact on the technological and social architecture of cities.