

**UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
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Geneva, 27-31 March 2023**

**The role of science, technology and innovation in accelerating the recovery  
from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the  
2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels**

Statement by

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United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD)  
Twenty-fifth annual session

**Ministerial Roundtable on  
“The role of science, technology, and innovation in accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels”**

**Monday, 27 March 2023, 15:30-18:00 (Geneva time)**

Contribution of the Commission to the 2023 theme of the Economic and Social Council and the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and the implementation of its 2022 Ministerial Declaration”

Dear Ministers, dear CSTD and national representatives,

Countries today are making tireless efforts to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Science and innovation have played essential roles in providing a better understanding of the virus and its transmission, and in developing hundreds of candidate therapeutics and vaccines over a very short period.

Digital technologies have enabled large parts of the economy and society to continue to function, mitigating the impact of COVID-19.

Summing up, the COVID-19 crisis has triggered an unprecedented mobilisation of the science and innovation community, accelerated the digital transition in all fields and highlighted the role of science in evidence-making.

The post-pandemic period is a unique opportunity to maintain and advance these scientific and digital developments.

For example, further research is needed on the long-term impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on wellbeing and health of people, in particular on mental health of children and young adults.

In global emergencies like the COVID-19 pandemic, open science policies can remove obstacles to the free flow of research data and ideas, and thus accelerate the pace of research critical to combating the disease.

To leverage STI and digital technologies for accelerating recovery from the pandemic and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, follow-up studies must be conducted to inform policymaking and to address the weaknesses revealed by the pandemic.

During 2020-2021, Latvia supported a State Research Programme aimed at tackling the impact of Covid-19, and the results of that programme are considered in developing further research programmes.

This year, Latvia will launch several State Research Programmes investing 7,3 million Euro with relevance for the Sustainable Development Goals, including programmes on transformative processes in education, on infectious diseases, on social cohesion, biodiversity in the context of climate change, and bioeconomy in the context of soil and water use.

Latvia also supports the increasing uptake of Open Science practices, which were key for accelerating the pace of research to combat Covid-19. The Latvian Open Science Strategy for 2021-2027 foresees open access publishing for all state-funded research, FAIR research data, and support for citizen science.

Latvia shares the results of its research programmes in European partnerships, in particular, Biodiversa PLUS (in the field of biodiversity), Water4All (in water resources), Driving Urban Transition (in transformation of city life), the Clean Energy Transition Partnership, as well as other upcoming partnerships.

Latvia sees the present moment as an opportunity to strengthen international research collaboration, including particularly with Ukrainian researchers. Latvia has put measures in place to ensure Ukrainian researchers currently residing in Latvia can continue work via involvement in Latvian research projects and institutions.

Thank you for your attention.