

**UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
FOR DEVELOPMENT (CSTD), twenty-sixth session
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

H.E. Ms. Rekha Sharma
Minister for Communication and Information Technology
Nepal

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.

Statement by Hon'ble Rekha Sharma, Minister of Communication and Information Technology, at the Ministerial Roundtable held at the Twenty-sixth Session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, Geneva, 27 March 2023

Mr. Chairman,

Madam Secretary-General

Honorable Ministers,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentleman.

It is, indeed, a great pleasure to speak at the ministerial roundtable of the 26th Session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development. The recent realization on the importance of science, technology and innovation (STI) for accelerating the overall development of a nation as well as for enhancing a quality of life has stimulated countries to develop policies and programs aligned with STI and sustainable development goals. Along the same line, Nepal has closely considered the resolution adopted in the 25th Session of CSTD and has taken into account its recommendations in our national policies, plans and actions.

Mr. Chairman,

We have been witnessing the present-day world gradually entering into a new era characterized by rapid development and convergence of emerging technologies in physical, digital and biological spheres. Digital technologies are proving itself as unbiased, equally accessible, and efficient tools for

fulfilling individual needs for education, information, health services, social network platforms, and retail services, among others.

In our national context, the issue of science, technology and innovation has been addressed in the Constitution and periodic plans. Science technology and innovation policy, 2019, which is under implementation, aims to attain research-based quality education; and encourage innovation in industry, infrastructure and governance. Nepal has accorded priority to digital governance and is in the process of digitalizing service delivery to the people. The country is currently focused on improving IT infrastructure in education sector, service sector and government services. In view of the important contribution that science, technology and innovation can make to achieve SDGs, Nepal has prioritized the development of institutional, legal and human resource capacities at all three levels of government. From our perspective, the overall mechanism of science, technology and innovation needs to be dealt with ecosystem approach.

Mr. Chairman,

With a view to bridging technological divide and achieving SDGs, the international community and CSTD can assist and facilitate technology transfer between developed and developing countries; can create an enabling environment for meaningful support in strengthening STI infrastructure; and can arrange exchange programs on information and knowledge sharing on emerging technologies and digital economy. Nepal being an LDC, which is set to graduate in 2026, has been facing huge obstacles in this regard. Nepal underlines the effective utilization of the UN Technology Bank for LDCs

for providing useful, transformative and comprehensive technological support to Nepal. Nepal also seeks cooperation and assistance from the international community, especially in the area of infrastructure and human resource development, to meet its SDG targets.

Thank you!