

**UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
FOR DEVELOPMENT (CSTD), twenty-sixth session  
Geneva, 27 - 31 March 2023**

**Opening Session**

Address by

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**Statement by**

**H. E. Ms. Lachezara Stoeva, President of the Economic and  
Social Council**

Twenty-sixth Session of  
the Commission on Science and Technology for Development  
Geneva, Switzerland, 27 March 2023

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*Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and gentlemen,*

It is a great pleasure for me to address the twenty-sixth annual session of the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development.

As the focal point in the United Nations system for science, technology and innovation for development, the Commission's role is pivotal in promoting the use of STI to advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Your advice on how science, technology and innovation can help the world respond to the multiple crises that confront us today is indispensable to the ECOSOC's own guidance to member states.

The world continues to face serious challenges on climate and water. Your discussions this week on technologies and innovation for cleaner, more productive and competitive production and the role of STI in providing access to water and sanitation are important contributions towards the review of SDG 6 and SDG 9.

Your focus on the distribution and delivery of safe water and sanitation and addressing inequalities in relation to gender, are also relevant for the UN Water Conference and this year's session of the Commission on the Status of Women, which just concluded. These two SDGs are key enablers that can catalyze economic growth while addressing the existential threat of climate change and making sure to leave no one behind. SDG 5 is critical for the realization of all SDGs.

The proceedings of the Commission will also provide an important input to the High-level political forum on sustainable development as SDG 6 and SDG 9 are under review in July.

As we reach the midpoint of our journey towards 2030, your contributions will also be relevant for the SDG Summit in September. These two events will be important

opportunities to promote multilateral cooperation to take decisive action to advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Your discussions will also continue to provide valuable inputs to global processes such as the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) as we approach the 20-year milestone. There are many lessons to be learned from the WSIS process for our future efforts to create a people-centered, inclusive and development-oriented information society.

Let me take this opportunity to call on all stakeholders to fully exploit the knowledge and expertise on digitalization in the Commission. Your contribution will be indispensable to the ongoing discussions on the Global Digital Compact in preparation for the Summit of the Future.

The work of the Commission and the work of the STI Forum are closely interconnected.

Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to conclude by expressing my great appreciation for the valuable contributions of the Commission to the review of the work of ECOSOC functional commissions and expert bodies that I had the honour to lead during the 2022 session.

I am especially grateful to the CSTD Bureau for the thorough conduct of the process, and for assuring business continuity which will certainly promote the implementation of the recommendations of the review.

I am encouraged to see that the Commission continues to strengthen its collaboration with other functional commissions, such as the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission for Social Development. I also welcome the spirit of collaboration and development of synergies between the Commission and the STI Forum. The recommendations aim to promote the effectiveness of the work of ECOSOC functional commission and expert bodies. They will increase the efficacy of the Council itself and thus make a major contribution to strengthen our capacity to respond to global challenges and achieve the SDGs.

I wish you fruitful discussions and look forward to receiving the outcomes of your deliberations.

Thank you.