**UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (CSTD), twenty-seventh session**
**Geneva, 15-19 April 2024**

# Global cooperation in science, technology and innovation for development

Statement by

Ms. Sophia Huyer
Member
Gender Advisory Board of the CSTD

## Integrating women into Global Cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation for Development

Statement by Sophia Huyer, Gender Advisory Board
Commission on Science and Technology for Development, 27th Session
April 15, 2024

The CSTD issue paper on "Global Cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation for Development" collaboration highlights four key elements for STI development and global collaboration:

**Four key elements for science, technology and innovation development: Areas of global collaboration**

| *Key element* | *Main components* | *Areas of global collaboration* |
|---|---|---|
| **Strategic planning** | Agenda setting | International STI agenda |
| | Policies, standards and regulations | Multilateral STI foresight and assessment system |
| | | Supportive international rules |
| **STI enablers** | Physical and digital resources | Digital infrastructure and interoperability |
| | Human and knowledge resources | Capacity-building activities |
| **Research and development** | Basic and applied research | Research funding |
| | Experimental development | International research collaboration |
| | | Alternative modes of technology creation and distribution |
| **Innovation** | Production and logistics | Technology and knowledge transfer |
| | Marketing and sales | Testbeds |
| | | Incubators and accelerators |

*Source*: UNCTAD.

The paper highlights the importance of gender in the section on capacity development. Some good examples from UNCTAD in supporting human and knowledge resources development as well as capacity development for female scientists include: Harnessing geospatial tech for SDGs (mission just completed): to build capacities of women scientists in using geospatial tech for accelerating progress on SDGs; Training for female researchers and entrepreneurs on the Bio-Circular-Green Economic (BCG) Model, a new economic model for inclusive and sustainable growth that connects innovation with the sustainable development goals.

There is a critical need to focus on capacity development for women researchers in new technology areas such as AI and health technologies. But there are also three other critical elements that need attention, in order to bring about greater equity in global collaboration in STI development:

**Research and funding** – The trend continues that men tend to be awarded more grants for research than women, and tend to be awarded larger grants. Elsevier found that the global average ratio of women to men grantees is 25-45 per 100 men. Solutions for this include strategies such as the Horizons

program in Europe which has targets for participation of women researchers and IDRC in Canada which requires proposals to provide information on the participation of women investigators in proposed research. Consideration should also be given to targeted funding programs, such as The Organization for Women in Science in the Developing World at The World Academy of Sciences, which provides research and higher education grants for women in LDCs.
But there are other aspects…

**International research and collaboration** – women tend not to travel for their research or conferences, as as such have less access to more prestigious international research collaborations and are less published in prestigious journals as a result. Women still tend to be less represented in prestigious science publications such as Nature.

**Technology planning and foresight** - few scenario-guided planning processes centred gender and social inclusion considerations from an early stage and consistently throughout the interventions, translating often into low diversity of stakeholders and insufficient depth reached in the content produced. This is due to low representation of women in technology organizations, or lower importance allocated to social dimensions of technology planning.

Increasingly, participatory approaches and engagement of different stakeholders are seen as crucial for futures of social good, by bringing intrinsic and socially-relevant values into the process. It is also required to take a gender lens to foresight exercises, for example, in Ethiopia a foresight exercise to increase milk production and supply in the country took into account the dairy and milk production and marketing practices of women in the country.

Thank you for your attention.