

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

**The role of science, technology, and innovation in reinforcing the 2030 Agenda
and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of
sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions**

Statement by

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

Ministerial Roundtable on

“The role of science, technology, and innovation in reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions:

Contribution of the Commission to the 2024 theme of the Economic and Social Council and the High-level Political Forum on sustainable development and the implementation of its 2023 Ministerial Declaration”

Monday, 15 April 2024, 12:00-13:00 (Geneva time)

**Angolan Minister of Higher Education, Science Technology and Innovation,
HON Maria do Rosário Bragança statement.**

Science, technology and innovation play a fundamental role in finding innovative solutions to complex challenges, such as access to education, healthcare, clean water, food security and clean energy, which are crucial to eradicating poverty. Furthermore, STI is a strong driver of economic growth, creating job opportunities for highly skilled professionals who generate innovative solutions, with a special emphasis on those that promote social inclusion. This, in turn, reduces inequalities and improves the quality of life of the most vulnerable communities.

During crises, such as pandemics, natural disasters and conflicts, eradicating poverty becomes even more challenging. However, science, technology and

innovation play a crucial role in responding to these crises and reducing poverty, through the development of effective solutions such as more resilient health systems, sustainable agricultural methods, clean energy technologies and access to information and quality education. Additionally, social and technological innovation can create economic opportunities for the most vulnerable, empowering communities and individuals to overcome poverty in a sustainable way.

In the Angolan National Development Plan for 2023-2027, which is the instrument for planning government action for a five-year period, within the framework of implementing the long-term strategy, STI is considered a tool for significant strides towards achieving SDGs and promoting inclusive and sustainable development. Two programs focus on Higher Education and Science, Technology and Innovation, namely: *“Improving the quality of higher education and developing scientific and technological research”* and *“Promoting Innovation and technology transfer”*, whose actions converge towards improving the national scientific system and, consequently, contribute to technological development and innovation.

Strengthening research and development and innovation boosts actions to achieve these SDGs 1, 2, 13, and 16 through the transfer of knowledge produced in academia to entrepreneurs and firms. This approach particularly focuses on priority sectors for economic development, namely:

1 - Fostering economic growth, job creation, and innovation, which in turn can reduce poverty by providing opportunities for income generation and improving livelihoods. SDG 1: No Poverty

2- Enhancing agricultural productivity, improving food security, and promoting sustainable agriculture practices through innovations in crop breeding, irrigation techniques, and distribution systems - SDG 2: Zero Hunger.

3- Driving research and development of renewable energy sources, sustainable technologies, and climate-resilient infrastructure to mitigate the effects of climate change and promote environmental sustainability - SDG 13: Climate Action.

4- STI can support the development of effective governance systems, enhance access to justice, promote transparency, and strengthen institutions using innovative technologies such as e-governance and digital platforms for citizen engagement - SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions.

It is crucial to note that STI solutions should be context-specific and culturally suitable to effectively address the needs of diverse communities and socio-economic factors. Community involvement must be considered, avoiding exclusive reliance on technology. On the other hand, there is a need to ensure that STI solutions are accessible and beneficial to all, especially marginalized communities, to avoid exacerbating inequalities and must be focused on long-term sustainable solutions rather than quick solutions that may not address underlying issues. Furthermore, the risk of lack of collaboration cannot be ignored. Therefore, successful actions require multi-stakeholder partnerships to leverage diverse expertise and resources for more effective and inclusive solutions.

For Angola, the consistency of STI contribution to sustainable development is evident in the ongoing review of the national science, technology and innovation policy. Is taking place with the support of UNCTAD and Organization of African, Caribbean, the Pacific and European Union States (OACPS-EU), to better align it with the designs of the 2030 agenda and the African Union 2063 agenda.

In 2022, the Ministry of Higher Education and Science, Technology and Innovation of Angola (MESCTI), the UNDP in Angola and UNCTAD concluded a study on innovation and entrepreneurship in Angola (Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Revision – STIP Review). This study serves as a diagnosis for the development of policies in Angola, making the necessary information

publicly available to actors in the national innovation and entrepreneurship system.

Overall, CSTD could serve as a central platform for coordinating efforts to make STI agendas more globally inclusive and provide directionality to guide global STI development towards a more equitable and sustainable future, making it easy to support collaboration between stakeholders. Finally, CSTD could establish mechanisms to monitor progress towards achieving inclusive and sustainable STI goals, providing accountability and guiding adjustments to strategies as needed.