

**UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
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**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

H.E. Mr. Abhay Karandikar
Secretary of Science and Technology
India

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Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) Twenty-seventh Session

Prof Abhay Karandikar, Secretary, DST: 5th talk in the session

Excellencies,

Distinguished Members, delegates and other participants, Greetings from India!

I congratulate the entire Team for organizing the 27th UN-CSTD. I am happy to note that we are addressing global challenges through the interfaces of Science, Technology and Innovation in this challenging time. Thank you for your kind invitation to this esteemed meeting and to share my thoughts here.

I endorse the agenda of this meeting which primarily focused to stress the role of science, technology, and innovation in reinforcing the 2030 Agenda. Eradicating poverty is certainly a global concern including for India.

While enabling the established platforms for eradicating poverty, I see tremendous role of technology interventions in addressing social disparity.

We have seen and experienced the technology as a driver for accelerated economic growth. We had also discussed in the past on emergence of technology as a cause of inequalities. This truly calls for a well-drawn and well thought-out strategy for balancing of technology interventions for societal needs. I want to reinforce the potential of technologies to reduce inequality in society and ensure access and use technologies and solutions that respond to the needs of the needy. We should ensure technology as an enabler and not disabler.

CSTD could play a bigger role to identify gap areas in the STI and enable a platform or engage for wider international partnership in a way that could serve for the interest of all.

Excellencies,

India has transformed tremendously in the technological front in recent years. We have dedicated programs to engage Research in the emerging fields such as Quantum Technology, Green Energy, Cyber Physical System, Climate Change challenges and sustainable Development.

We also want to highlight the role of start-ups in connecting technology with the society. India has witnessed an unprecedented surge in the creation and funding of start-ups in the last ten years. Their number stands close to quarter of a million.

Several factors like increased internet penetration, digitization, and government initiatives have fuelled the growth of sectors like Fintech, Transportation & Logistics tech, Food & Agriculture tech, Auto tech etc. India is now deeply looking at Deep Tech sector.

India connects through the Department of Science and Technology in S & T with many countries, more than 80, in all the continents across the globe.

I do believe, collaboration, given the diverse nature of problems, is the focal point in bringing impactful solutions in a competitive environment with minimal investment of time.

The STI development is becoming more of an inter-dependent mode rather than independent, especially when the demand and resources are diverse.

The world is more connected. The developed, developing and under developed nations are all facing global issues and a common agenda could be envisaged.

As we concluded the G-20 presidency, we have addressed among other issues, the role of S&T in energy security and particularly, of environment. UN-CSTD could lay a

very specific targeted agenda of STI networks and Policy to support effective technology and knowledge transfer. The modalities and way-forwards can be taken up accordingly.

Thank you

New Delhi

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