

**UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
FOR DEVELOPMENT (CSTD), twenty-eighth session
Geneva, 7-11 April 2025**

**The role of science, technology, and innovation in advancing sustainable,
inclusive, science-and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda for
Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for leaving
no one behind**

Statement by

H.E. Ms. Leah J. Buendia
Undersecretary for Research and Development
Department of Science and Technology
The Philippines

DISCLAIMER: The views presented here are the contributors' and do not necessarily reflect the views and position of the United Nations or the UN Trade and Development.

United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD)
Twenty-eighth Annual Session | 7-11 April 2025

**Ministerial Roundtable on
"The role of science, technology, and innovation in advancing sustainable,
inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda for
Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for leaving no
one behind"**

(Monday) 7 April 2025 | 11:00-13:00 (Geneva time)
Room XIX, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

PHILIPPINE STATEMENT

To be delivered by

LEAH J. BUENDIA, PH.D.

Undersecretary for Research and Development
Department of Science and Technology
Republic of the Philippines

Thank you, Mister Chair.

Excellencies, colleagues, distinguished panelists, good morning.

As the Pact for the Future states, science, technology, and innovation can accelerate the realization of the aspirations of the United Nations across the three pillars, which are sustainable development, peace and security, and human rights.

To fully maximize the potential of STI, the Philippines believes that there must be a conducive environment not just for experts but also for all stakeholders of the society to thrive through the application of STI.

First is through enabling policies. The Philippines has put in place policies that will help scientific and technological innovations in the country flourish. These include the Philippine Innovation Act and the Philippine Technology Transfer Act of 2009, among many others. Focusing on Sustainable Development Goal 8, the Philippine Innovative Startup Act was enacted to foster inclusive growth through an innovative economy by streamlining government and nongovernment initiatives to create new jobs and opportunities, improve production, and advance innovation and trade in the country. This law also paved the way for the Startup Grant Fund.

In SDG 5, the country also has a Magna Carta of Women which guarantees the civil, political and economic rights of women in the marginalized sectors. It particularly states women's right to employment, livelihood, credit, capital and technology.

Second, governments should also promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth through productive employment and decent work. The Philippines implements a Community Empowerment thru Science and Technology (CEST) Program which is a package of S&T interventions that aims to build progressive, empowered and resilient rural communities, including through livelihood programs directed for women in communities. The government also provides support for the advancement of technological needs of local MSMEs through the SETUP 4.0 Program.

Third, the Philippines recognizes that science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education is a powerful tool to prepare the younger generations for more opportunities. We have been providing scholarship opportunities for secondary education through the Philippine Science High School System and STEM undergraduate to postgraduate scholarship offerings through the Department of Science and Technology and its partnership with international partners.

There is a crucial need to retool, reskill, and upskill the workforce in this rapidly changing world. Hence, there has been upskilling tens of thousands of individuals in data science and AI, preparing the workforce for an AI-driven economy.

Excellencies, lastly, international cooperation would further help us collectively work towards sustainable development and advance inclusive science- and evidence-based solutions. Technical cooperation among Member States in the CSTD and in the UN built on trust and equally beneficial partnerships would help us all harness the benefits of STI. We could promote talent mobility, knowledge sharing, joint research and development and STI initiatives, and transfer of environmentally sound technologies, especially to developing countries, while ensuring equal access for all genders.

Together, we could create just and science-based policies and promote the ethical use of science, technology, and innovation for the greater good.

Thank you.

Actual word count: 489 words

Time limit: 7 minutes