

**UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
FOR DEVELOPMENT (CSTD), twentieth session
Geneva, 8-12 May 2017**

**Item 2: Panel discussion on Progress made in the implementation of and
follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) outcomes
at the regional and international levels”**

Statement submitted by

European Union

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20th Session of the Commission for Science and Technology

EU Speaking points on WSIS

Thank you Chairman,

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Austria has the honor today to deliver this statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

1. The European Union and its Member States wish to express their appreciation to the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development ("CSTD") and all its members and stakeholders for their intensive work in preparing the 20th session. The CSTD is a leading organization for multistakeholder cooperation within the UN system and delivers good results that take into account the contributions from all stakeholders.
2. The EU and its Member States are fully committed to the success of the WSIS process, building on the work of the CSTD, UNESCO, the ITU, the Internet Governance Forum and others. We continue to strongly support the use and the expansion of ICT for development and note with appreciation the focus of the 2016 WSIS Forum on links between the Sustainable Development Goals and WSIS, which resulted in the publication of the WSIS Action Lines and the Sustainable Development Goals Matrix, which are intended to facilitate coordination.
3. The 2030 Agenda recognized that the spread of ICTs and global interconnectedness has great potential to accelerate human progress, bridge the digital divide and develop knowledge societies. Digital Competencies

will play a major role and should be seen as a priority. ICTs will also play an important role in providing digital monitoring rules to measure the progress made towards achieving the SDGs. The EU and its Member States wish to express their appreciation for the list of indicators to measure progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals as drawn up by the United Nations Statistical Commission, where six ICT-related indicators support the monitoring of SDGs related to infrastructure, education, women's empowerment and science, technology and innovation.

4. As reaffirmed by the WSIS+10 review and reiterated by the Human Rights Council in July 2016 in Resolution 32/13 on the promotion, protection and enjoyment of human rights on the Internet, the same rights that people have offline must also be protected online. The EU and its member states strongly believe that human rights have a central role in creating a people-centred, development oriented and inclusive Information Society and achieving the SDGs.
5. The EU and its Member States recognize that effective participation, partnership and cooperation of all stakeholders, including governments, especially with balanced representation from developing countries, is vital in developing the Information Society. We reaffirm the value and principles of multi-stakeholder cooperation and engagement that have characterized the WSIS process since its inception and that have been essential to its achievements thus far. The EU and its Member States welcome the transfer of the stewardship of the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority to the global stakeholder community.
6. We now look forward to the next steps for the CSTD in taking this important agenda forward:

- i. We need to reconsider the WSIS resolution to reflect the developments in the field over the last year. We hope that the resolution this year will be shorter and more focused than in previous years. We should continue to focus on the future, how we can address the challenges facing us and how we can best align with the Sustainable Development Agenda.
- ii. The EU and its Member States note with appreciation the establishment and first three meetings of the Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation as a multi-stakeholder group. This Group offers us an important opportunity to make further progress on the issue of enhanced cooperation. We know that this is a difficult area of work and we believe it is vital that we continue to take a cautious, step-by-step approach. We hope that we can capture at an early stage the common ground that already exists and build from there a positive way forward.
- iii. Finally, we continue to support the overarching role of CSTD in the overall implementation of WSIS.

The EU and its Member States look forward to working with all stakeholders in all these areas and to taking forward the WSIS agenda to build the Information Society for all.

20th Session of the Commission for Science and Technology

EU speaking points on STI

Thank you Chair,

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Austria has the honor today to deliver this statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

1. The EU and its Member States believe that solutions generated by science, technology and innovation (STI) can support both the implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Achieving the SDGs by 2030 will require new approaches to development and innovation, therefore it is important that all stakeholders exploit the potential offered by STI for sustainable development. All countries need to foster appropriate and responsible innovation that helps citizens to escape poverty, promotes economic growth, generates quality employment, optimizes complex systems and value chains, promotes sustainable consumption and production patterns, reduces the vulnerability to disasters and other shocks, and promotes the protection of natural resources and the efficient use of scarce resources.
2. STI underpins the implementation of the SDGs by building a sound evidence base for decision-makers. We believe that we need to frame our discussion within this broader context. The success of a sustainable development agenda requires a world-wide effort which will benefit from, and will be accelerated through, cooperation in STI. Appropriate enabling

environments and regulatory frameworks, including for Intellectual Property Rights protection at all levels in accordance with the World Trade Organisation rules, and investments at the domestic level, have key roles to play. Similarly, acquisition of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics skills, capacities and know-how, access to financing, entrepreneurship and foreign direct investments are all necessary elements. Participation of the private sector, including through Public Private Partnerships and collaborative platforms in accelerating knowledge application, technology leapfrogging and development is critical. Furthermore, the EU and its MS seek to ensure that research and innovation are based on a participatory approach promoting the co-design, co-generation and co-development of solutions that address the needs of local communities.

3. The EU and its Member States are very active in international cooperation in research and innovation, and support sustainable development in Europe and globally, notably through the Horizon 2020 program for research and innovation as well as EU development cooperation instruments. Common interests and mutual benefits are key aspects of our global commitment to co-creation of solutions, as well as knowledge sharing for sustainable development. In this context, the EU will continue to contribute to global initiatives such as the Global Earth Observation System of Systems, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases. We will also continue to support relevant EU collaborations with non-EU countries, such as the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership.

4. The EU and its MS remain convinced that all countries should reinforce bilateral regional and multilateral cooperation on science, technology and innovation and solution-oriented research; strengthen scientific, technological, digital, statistical and research capacities; promote gender equality; promote worldwide and cross-sector mobility of researchers; and promote access to publicly-funded publications to facilitate knowledge circulation. In order to facilitate development of and access to vital and environmentally sound technologies, not only North-South cooperation but also South- South and triangular cooperation are needed, in particular for LDCs. This is in line with the report of the Secretary General on the first priority theme of the current CSTD on “New innovation approaches to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals” which stressed the importance of strengthening the framework conditions for STI amongst others.

5. The EU and its Member States are looking forward to discussing the current CSTD priority themes, “New innovation approaches to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals” and “The role of science, technology and innovation in ensuring food security by 2030”.