

## **United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD)**

**20th Annual Session 8-12 May, 2017**

### **High-Level Roundtable on ‘Review of progress made in the implementation of World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) outcomes’**

#### **Concept Note**

During the twentieth annual session of the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD), a High-level Roundtable will be held on the afternoon of 8 May 2017, under the theme of ‘*Review of progress made in the implementation of World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) outcomes*’. The Roundtable will focus on the role of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in helping new innovation approaches to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes that the spread of ICTs and global interconnectedness has great potential to accelerate human progress, bridge the digital divide and develop knowledge societies. ICTs permeate profoundly today's economy and society, and should be major drivers of progress towards achieving all the SDGs. Highlighting this potential, the General-Assembly (A/RES/70/125) has called for close alignment between the WSIS process and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The achievement of the SDGs will not only require economic growth but also more inclusive and greener forms of social and economic development. It will also require mobilizing and scaling up funding and resources for development. New innovation approaches, particularly those enabled by ICTs, offer the opportunity to incorporate marginalized groups and sectors into the innovation processes, to reach broader communities, and to increase collaboration across stakeholders, sectors and regions. To reap the innovation opportunities offered by ICTs it may be necessary to invest in infrastructure and capabilities, to develop new financing models, explore regulation mechanism that promote innovation, and to embrace digitalization as an enabler of innovation.

The Roundtable will provide an opportunity for high-level policymakers to exchange experiences, lessons learned and best practices, and to discuss challenges faced at the national level. The outcome of the session will feed into the High-Level Segment of the Economic and Social Council in July 2017.

The following questions will guide the discussion:

- From your perspective, what are urgent actions needed to reap the development opportunities provided by ICTs in the context of the SDGs?
- What are the best practices/lessons learnt in implementing ICT enabled emerging innovations in your country/sector of expertise (e.g. crowdsourcing, digitally enabled open collaboration, financial innovation, digital forecasting)?
- How can we ensure consistency and coherence between ICTs and innovation policies and other development policies (e.g. social, education, health, agriculture, environment)?
- What novel financing models can support innovation in the implementation of the SDGs?

- What can the international community do to support the wide application and scaling of innovation, including on ICTs, to achieve the SDGs by 2030?

**Format of the High-Level Roundtable:**

Following a brief introduction by the moderator high-level participants will make their initial interventions (5-8 minutes), broadly addressing the guiding questions. After this the moderator will initiate an interactive discussion among the participants, including those from the floor.