

ECOSOC Management Segment, 7 June 2023
item 18(b) Science and technology for development

Statement by Ms Ana Cristina das Neves
Chair of the CSTD

*Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,*

It is an honour to stand before you today and present the outcomes of the 26th session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD), which took place from March 27th to March 31st, 2023.

This session was an extraordinary gathering, featuring various segments that explored critical topics and engaged the minds of great innovators.

I am proud to share with you the progress made during this session, attended by over 1,600 individuals, and including more than 20 ministerial representatives.

During the Ministerial Round Table on the theme of the 2023 High-level Political Forum (HLPF), we emphasized the pivotal role of science, technology, and innovation (STI) in our recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the full implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The Commission recognized the challenges faced by nations in harnessing the power of STI to achieve our shared goals under the 2030 Agenda.

It acknowledged the significance of leveraging the benefits of the current technological revolution and called for countries to integrate STI, including information and communications, and digital technologies, into their national development planning.

Moreover, the CSTD encouraged nations to review their progress in incorporating STI into their SDG implementation plans.

At the 26th session, we were privileged to have UNCTAD present its Technology and Innovation Report 2023.

This report acknowledged the importance of green technologies and emphasized the need for coherence between international agreements on trade, intellectual property, and climate change within the realm of the green technology revolution.

It highlighted the importance for developing countries to seize the opportunities presented by green technologies.

The priority theme of "Ensuring safe water and sanitation for all: a solution through science, technology, and innovation" sparked much needed discussions.

The Commission recognized the necessity of long-term water resource planning and integrated water resource management.

It highlighted the need to reduce market entry risks, foster partnerships with non-governmental organizations, and prepare for emergency situations.

Governments were encouraged to design and implement STI policies, incorporating a gender dimension in scaling up innovation for water and sanitation management.

In our discussions on the priority theme of "Technology and innovation for cleaner, more productive, and competitive production," the

CSTD explored the tremendous opportunities presented by rapid technological advancements.

Developing countries require support in increasing awareness of technological opportunities. Variations in the speed and capacity of adopting green technologies among nations were still too large.

To address this challenge, Governments were advised to establish national mechanisms for coordination and promotion of clean technology diffusion.

The review of progress made in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society confirmed the cross-cutting contribution of ICTs to the SDGs and poverty eradication.

We stressed the need for a comprehensive approach involving all sectors of society and emphasized the importance of international partnerships for successful digital transformation.

The CSTD was called upon to explore the connection between data and sustainable development, including data governance, while considering the multiple dimensions of data.

We emphasized the importance of transparent, inclusive discussions in the United Nations on digital cooperation, aligning with the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society.

Furthermore, we highlighted the significance of ensuring synergies and avoiding duplication across various entities, drawing on the knowledge and institutional memory gained by the CSTD through its extensive review of progress made in the WSIS follow-up.

I must commend the launch of the STI policy reviews for Botswana and Angola, conducted by UNCTAD as the secretariat of the CSTD.

These reviews have been well received and signify our commitment to assisting developing countries in their STI policy development and implementation.

Additionally, the CSTD has undertaken several capacity-building activities aimed at strengthening South-South and North-South cooperation.

These activities focus on knowledge and technology sharing, as well as research capability building, to assist beneficiary countries in implementing multiple sustainable development goals under the 2030 agenda.

Looking ahead, I am pleased to announce that the twenty-seventh session of the CSTD has been scheduled for March 18th to March 22nd, 2024.

This session will delve into two priority themes: "Data for development" and "Global cooperation in Science, Technology, and Innovation for development.", including the digital cooperation. These themes will contribute to the 2024 HLPF review of SDG 17.

In conclusion, I want to reaffirm the unwavering commitment of the CSTD to promoting science, technology, and innovation as powerful tools for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Therefore, we are looking forward to working fiercely towards the cross-cutting contribution to the SDGs and expecting, from all of you, to make the best use of the CSTD.

Thank you.