**Roundtable on 6 June**

**Speaking points for H.E. Ambassador Muhammadou M. O. Kah,**

**Chairperson of the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development.**

**Role of the Commission**

As the United Nations focal point for science, technology and innovation (STI) for development, the CSTD analyzes how STI, including information and communications technologies (ICTs), the CSTD is the place to discuss what is new in technology, what matters, what is changing, and how this affects development. In this sense, important normative issues raised in CSTD include the governance of frontier technologies, including of course digital technologies like big data, the Internet of things (IoT) and artificial intelligence.

## Highlights from the discussions at the 27th session (15-19 April 2024)

**Role of STI in Sustainable Development:**

During the ministerial round table on the theme "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", Ministers highlighted the need to foster the creation and growth of start-ups as they play an important role in connecting technology with the society, engaging research in frontier technologies; they also stressed efforts to improve the quality of higher education and develop scientific and technological research; and promoting innovation and technology transfer. Furthermore, the gender and other challenges in STI should be transformed into opportunities through strengthening the STI ecosystem so that practical scalable solutions are found through international cooperation.

**Data for Development**

A full-day session was dedicated to exploring the connection between data and sustainable development.

Data was recognized as a crucial economic asset that can drive sustainable and inclusive development if managed properly.

Challenges faced by developing countries, such as digital and infrastructural development and brain drain, were highlighted, with a call for capacity building and technical assistance.

Recognizing the critical importance of international cooperation around data governance issues, the commission, in a ground-breaking initiative, agreed to establish a working group within the CSTD that would engage in a comprehensive and inclusive multi stakeholder dialogue on the fundamental principles of data governance at all levels, as relevant for development under the auspices of the United Nations and taking into account the conclusion of the negotiations on the outcomes of the Summit of the Future including the Global Digital Compact. This agreement is part of the draft resolution on Science and Technology for Development that has been submitted to the ECOSCOC for adoption.

**Global Cooperation in STI**

Ministers reaffirmed the importance of inclusive and equitable international collaboration in STI to deliver the solutions needed to respond to global challenges, such as COVID-19 and climate change. It was stressed that STI cooperation efforts should aim at closing the technology gap between developed and developing countries, including through increased ODA and increased involvement of the latter in global research networks. Participants also emphasized the importance of incorporating gender and social considerations, sustainable development and an anticipatory culture into STI policymaking.

**Progress on WSIS Outcomes**

Participants, including ministers, stressed that WSIS is a living process, which can be adapted to accommodate new needs.  There is unanimous support to continue the WSIS process, while forging clear and robust links between the WSIS+20 review and the Global Digital Compact (GDC), to ensure synergies while avoiding duplications and ensure effective digital cooperation.

**Informal Discussion on Global Digital Compact (GDC):**

An informal discussion on the GDC addressed the links between the GDC and the Commission's intergovernmental mandate established by the General Assembly in the follow up of WSIS. Members of the CSTD emphasized their readiness to contribute to the success of the GDC process, and to its implementation and follow up. The summary of the informal discussion was shared with the Co-facilitators of the GDC, signaling the Commission's proactive engagement.

**Implementation of the recommendations of the 2022 review of subsidiary bodies**

The CSTD systematically aligns its work with the 2030 Agenda. This is much facilitated by the fact that science, technology and innovation are powerful enablers of each and every one of the SDGs. It has also strived to bring gender to the centre of its considerations about STI and STI policy for development. In this sense, we greatly benefit in our discussions from the expert input of the CSTD's Gender Advisory Board that provides substantive feedback on our documents and discussions. The choice of priority themes in recent years of topics related to green technologies and to water and sanitation also attests to the effort to align with recommendations 6 and 9 of the review. We have strived to contribute to the work of other functional commissions, in particular the Commission on Social Development and the Commission on the Status of Women when their discussions focused on issues related to science, technology and innovation. As indicated in recommendation 21, we continue to coordinate our efforts with the Multistakeholder Forum of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, with mutual contributions and exchanges in terms of our respective outcomes, an effort in which I have been involved personally. As for recommendation 26, it is a long-established practice of the CSTD to dedicate a significant part of its ministerial segment to the discussion of the contribution of the Commission to the annual theme of the ECOSOC and the HLPF. In conclusion, I would like to appreciate the  serious engagement of member States, and other stakeholders, in the work of the Commission with the common goal of leveraging STI to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.