

Meeting of the ECOSOC
with the Chairs of the Functional Commissions and Expert Bodies
31 January 2020, 10:00 AM [THIS IS 16:00 GENEVA TIME]
Speaking points for Mr. Kekgonne Baipoledi

Science, technology and innovation (STI) are cross-cutting issues that touch upon all of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) is the forum to discuss how STI can serve as enablers of sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda. Every year, the CSTD has two priority themes. The upcoming 23rd session will address the themes “*Harnessing rapid technological change for inclusive and sustainable development*” and “*Exploring space technologies for sustainable development and the benefits of international research collaboration in this context.*”

The Commission’s work in these two areas will identify concrete actions by the international community to fast track progress towards the SDGs during the decade of action. Both themes can speak to the 2020 theme for ECOSOC and the HLPF. Therefore, the CSTD aims to provide important substantive inputs for the ECOSOC system to inform its deliberations.

Based on the work of the CSTD, the initial key policy messages for the 2020 theme, arising from both priority themes – on space for the SDGs and rapid technological change –, highlight the importance of the international community coming and working together. Both themes also speak to the role of technology in accelerating action in a cross-cutting manner.

I would like to highlight certain concrete key initiatives that the CSTD has undertaken which are going to contribute to the Decade of Action. Achieving the 2030 Agenda depends on everyone pulling together to support progress. That is why the CSTD is aiming to increase buy-in through a series of regional consultations. In this Inter-sessional cycle, we had one in Asia, hosted at ESCAP. And I led a similar discussion for African stakeholders.

Furthermore, the CSTD is increasingly developing its function as an international bridgebuilder in ST. We facilitated more and more initiatives for capacity building collaboration, in particular South-South collaboration:

In the past 2 years, the Commission has collaborated with the Chinese Government on training courses on STI policy. In 2019, the collaboration expanded from two courses to also include a young scientist program through which 24 scientists from developing countries members States will work in China for 6-12 months and exchange experience and knowledge.

Similarly, we expect two additional training tracks to be announced at the 23rd session of the CSTD in March: training courses on STI in collaboration with the Brazilian government and a new collaboration with Okayama University in Japan to offer joint research and training courses to young female scientists from developing countries and opportunities for doctoral studies to young scientists.

With respect to implementing the provisions of General Assembly resolution 72/305, the CSTD secretariat is happy to foster CSTD an active working relationship with the secretariat of the

CSW. This work was presented at the 22nd session of the CSTD and were made available to the CSW at its 63rd session and contribute to the preparatory process for the 25th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

At this point, I would like to highlight that the CSTD is the only functional commission with its own gender advisory board that supports its analytical work. And starting last year, we are very excited to have introduced a gender and STI session to feature regularly, which in 2019 was attended by the chair of the CSW. For 2020, we will explore the STI dimension of the Beijing +25 anniversary and we hope that the Chair of the CSW will join us to share the outcome of the CSW's Beijing+25 discussions.

Finally, the CSTD hopes to contribute to the implementation of GA resolution 72/305 through putting a strong emphasis on bringing the UN system together in its work. In this regard I am pleased to underline that in the current cycle 35 UN and other international entities as well as a large share of the Commission's Member States contributed inputs to its substantive work.