

ECOSOC Management Segment

Statement by

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Chair of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD)

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*Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,*

I am honoured to introduce the work and outcome of the 23rd session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD), which was held virtually with interpretation into all official UN languages, from 10th to 12th of June this year. This virtual session attracted accumulatively more than 1,000 participants and consisted of four segments.

During the high-level segment on “Harnessing science, technology, and innovation to accelerate progress on the SDGs and addressing COVID-19”, participants reaffirmed the importance of supporting research and development and innovation activities as well as skills development, while also recognizing the need to enhance international cooperation and multilateralism in this effort.

In considering the priority theme on “Harnessing rapid technological change for inclusive and sustainable development”, participants focused on the need to redirect STI policies beyond merely boosting industrial development, and to ensure that frontier technologies enable marginalized people to transform their lives for the better.

Participants of the session entitled “Exploring space technologies for sustainable development and the benefits of international research collaboration in this context” acknowledged that there is a need for developing countries to strengthen their capacity to process the myriad of data accumulated by space technologies. In this regard, the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) announced that they will offer developing countries access to its earth observation satellite system for crop monitoring for the better use of space technologies for development.

In reviewing the progress made in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, speakers and participants highlighted the persistent existence of the digital divide and the importance of the Internet and digital technologies in tackling societal challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I also wish to inform you that the dates for the twenty-fourth session of the CSTD are now set for 17-21 May 2021 with two priority themes: “Using STI to close the gap on SDG 3, good health and well-being” and “Harnessing blockchain for sustainable development: prospects and challenges”.

In conclusion, CSTD reaffirms its commitment to promote science, technology and innovation as key means of implementation to tackle development challenges and will continue to serve as an intergovernmental forum for timely discussion on pertinent issues.

Thank you.