28th COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

Ministerial Segment

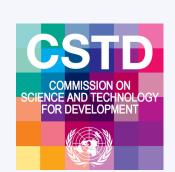**CSTD** COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

Over a dozen ministerial participants shared their national practices in national STI legislation and strategies and deploying STI solutions to address development challenges and promote sustainability, inclusivity, and resilience. The United Nations Under-Secretary General for Policy highlighted the Pact of Future and its attention to the role of STI in addressing global challenges. The Secretary-General of UNCTAD presented its Technology and Innovation Report 2025, outlining the transformative potential of AI for global development and five urgent actions the Report recommends for avoiding a risk that the AI divide today deepens global inequalities

Resolution on the assessment of the progress made in the implementation of the **WSIS** (link here)

Resolution on **Science, technology and innovation** for development (link here)

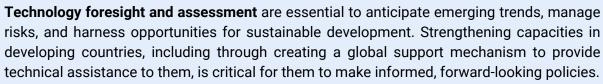## CSTD EXHIBITION ON WOMEN IN STI FOR SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT

The UNCTAD exhibition highlighted women's significant role in science, technology, and innovation, promoting gender equality and empowerment to foster inclusive and sustainable development. (Read more here)
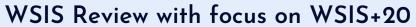
Diversifying economies in a world of accelerated digitalization (Report of the Secretary-General link here)

Digitalization presents significant opportunities for **economic diversification** while developing countries face challenges, primarily relating to inadequate digital infrastructure and connectivity, limited access to data and financing, and a shortage of skilled professionals capable of leveraging advanced digital technologies. International cooperation including through CSTD, stable funding, and the development of long-term, sustainable STI policies are crucial to ensure that no country is left behind in the digital age.

Technology foresight and technology assessment for sustainable development (Report of the Secretary-General link here)

Technology foresight and assessment are essential to anticipate emerging trends, manage risks, and harness opportunities for sustainable development. Strengthening capacities in developing countries, including through creating a global support mechanism to provide technical assistance to them, is critical for them to make informed, forward-looking policies.

WSIS Review with focus on WSIS+20

The 28th annual session devoted a full day to discussing the **20 years' implementation of the WSIS outcomes (WSIS+20)**. To inform the discussion, the secretariat presented a comprehensive report entitled to _Implementing World Summit on the Information Society Outcomes: A Twenty-Year Review_. Member States and other stakeholders of the WSIS expressed strong and unanimous support for continuing WSIS as a living, adaptable and multistakeholder process. They emphasized ensuring synergies between WSIS and the Global Digital Compact while avoiding duplication and promoting coherence in global digital governance.

The outcome of the discussion and the Report of the secretariat were submitted to the preparatory process for the WSIS+20 review at the General Assembly.

Jun. 2023 Mandate from ECOSOC (UN ECOSOC Resolution E/RES/2023/3)	Sept.2023-Feb. 2025 Consultations organized by the CSTD	Nov. 2023&Oct.2024 Informal discussions	Apr. 2024&Apr.2025 Formal discussions	Apr.-Jul. 2025 Final outcome

• Gather inputs from all stakeholders
• Hold discussions at CSTD (27th and 28th sessions).
• Report to UN GA via ECOSOC
	• Online questionnaires (Sep 2023–Mar 2024)
	• Hybrid consultations (Oct 2023–Dec 2024)
	• Written inputs (May–Nov 2024)
	• Focus groups (Jan–Feb 2025)
	  ▪ Digital & Environment
	  ▪ E-Government
	  ▪ Digital Economy
	  ▪ Gender
	  ▪ Children's Rights
		• CSTD Intersessional Panels (Nov 2023 & Oct 2024)	• Annual sessions of the 27th & 28th CSTD
			• Secretariat's Report on WSIS+20 for the 28th CSTD
				• WSIS resolution recommended by the 28th CSTD
				• ECOSOC to adopt & submit to the General Assembly

CSTD journey

Implementing World Summit on the Information Society Outcomes: A Twenty-Year Review (Download here)

Capacity building and technical cooperation

The UNCTAD **Technology Assessment** project, the joint UNCTAD-Atlantic International Research Centre project on **Harnessing space technological applications** in sustainable urban development and the UNCTAD **Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Parks** Project supports developing countries in building capacities in making informed STI policy making, harnessing STI for enhancing urban resilience and strengthening innovation ecosystems, thus contributing to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals through technology- driven development.

Technology Assessment discussed at the 28th CSTD:
- Technology assessment in developing countries: An updated proposed methodology (link to the published report)

STI parks discussed at the 28th CSTD, **Gap analysis reports**:
- Uzbekistan (link to the published report)
- Mozambique (link to the published report)
- Ghana (link to the published report)
- Mongolia(link to the published report)

Upcoming 29th CSTD (20-24 April 2025)
- **Science, Technology and Innovation in the age of AI**
- **WSIS** review
- Progress report by the **Working Group on Data Governance**

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