



## COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT 24<sup>th</sup>

High-level segment

### The role of science, technology and innovation in a sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic

**Upgrading STI capabilities**, digital infrastructure and connectivity, regulatory frameworks for digital health, and supporting local innovation and indigenous technologies are central to the response to COVID-19 and its aftermath.

**Coordinated policy responses** are needed against COVID-19 and similar future crises

Open science and reconsidering intellectual property rights to ensure inclusive access to new technologies were encouraged.

Special session:

### A conversation with great minds



**Dr. Jennifer Doudna**  
of California University, Berkeley  
Nobel Laureate  
for discovery of CRISPR,



**Dr. Katalin Karikó**  
of BioNTech for using mRNA  
to develop modern vaccine  
against Covid 19.

Advances in biotechnology such as CRISPR and mRNA can help develop innovative solutions to challenges such as eradicating pathogens, treating degenerative conditions and growing more food.



Biotechnological development has far outpaced regulatory development.  
Ethical concerns with new biotechnologies should receive increased attention.

## Health

Digitalization will transform healthcare radically in the next ten years.

Countries must improve their science-policy interface and address inequalities in STI capabilities.

Treating diseases that disproportionately affect the poor remains a priority despite the pandemic.

Stronger global solidarity in scientific research, knowledge, and technology transfer are critical.

## Blockchain

Blockchain offers great potential for development but the focus needs to shift away from financial applications dissociated from the real economy.

Collaborative, multistakeholder partnerships could help orient blockchain innovation towards sustainable solutions in areas such as land titles, remittances, identity systems, climate change and financial inclusion.

## WSIS

The pandemic accelerated digitalization in all dimensions of development, but also highlighted the persistence of digital divides.

Emerging governance challenges regarding platforms, data management and business models must be addressed in an inclusive global dialogue.

Digital skills of the population, as well as the quality, speed, reliability, and affordability of connectivity, are crucial to close the various digital gaps among countries and within countries.

The CSTD can play a critical facilitating role.

## Gender

Closing gender gaps in knowledge is essential for building equitable societies. Globally, less than 30% of researchers and scientists are women.

More diversity in R&D teams is needed to avoid gender biases in emerging technologies.

Countries should consider awareness raising and education on the intersection of gender, technology, and innovation for early childhood educators.

Legal requirements and policies to support and empower women to enter in STI fields could be considered.

## STIP Reviews

### Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Reviews

This UNCTAD programme, launched as an initiative of the CSTD, helping developing countries improve their STI plans and programmes so that they strengthen their national innovation systems for inclusive and sustainable development.

STIP reviews discussed at the CSTD 24 concerned:

- **Dominican Republic** ([link to the published report](#))
- **Uganda** ([link to the published report](#))
- **Zambia** (report forthcoming)

ACCESS MORE INFORMATION ON SUBSIDIARY BODIES

<https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/content/ecosoc-subsidiary-bodies-0>