

**18th annual session of the United Nations Commission
on Science and Technology (CSTD)**

**Remarks by
His Excellency Mr. Martin Sajdik,
President, Economic and Social Council**

Monday, 4 May 2015, Geneva, Switzerland

Excellencies,

Dear Colleagues,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very pleased to address this session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development. I regret that I could not join you in person. However, I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to address you via video.

We are seeing a very different set of global challenges at the outset of the post-2015 era compared to when the Millennium Development Goals were adopted.

Global interdependence has opened up extraordinary opportunities for many. Advancements in science, technology and innovation, as well as enhanced trade and finance have led to the emergence of new centers of dynamism. Yet many have been excluded from positive impacts.

The world has also seen in the past decade an increasing trend of disruptions in one country cascading over national borders and amplifying into global systemic risks for everyone. This is the new reality of greater interconnectedness in today's world, where the distinction between national, regional and global challenges has become less-and-less clear.

Dear Colleagues,

In September 2015, the United Nations will adopt a universal and unified post-2015 development agenda that reflects the changes that have taken place since the adoption of the Millennium Development Goals in 2000.

The post-2015 development agenda will broaden the focus to a renewed emphasis on reducing economic fragility and addressing social disparities within and between countries while limiting the destruction of the environment.

The new agenda will bring the three pillars of sustainable development together into a unified and universally applicable framework. For its implementation, science, technology and innovation will need to be tapped and capacity development strengthened.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Much has been accomplished to recognise and advance the important role of science, technology and innovations in sustainable development, particularly through setting new norms and standards and providing integrated policy guidance. STI serve an instrumental role in assisting countries to “leapfrog” in their development and as a significant contributor to development solutions.

Yet, there are challenges that need collective solutions: emissions from technologies impacting the environment; the divide created by the disparate access to technology and knowledge; and varying social impacts related to media and ICT.

STI should have the protection of human dignity and human rights and the protection of a liveable environment for present and future generations at the source of and as the ultimate motive for any deliberations. Science, technology and innovations should always promote peaceful societies and the rule of law and not undermine them.

For the post-2015 era, we need a genuine partnership, particularly between the public and private sectors, grounded in the belief that the fruits of scientific endeavour, innovation and creativity should be shared equitably.

Creating the broad perspective necessary to take care of integrated challenges will require bridging silos and strengthening policy integration. For example, education will have a critical role in developing the knowledge, skills and innovation on which talent, productivity and employment creation can grow.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The principles of policy integration, policy coordination and inclusion will be at the core of the post-2015 development agenda. Such integration is crucial to the transformation to a single universal framework for development. The ECOSOC system as a whole - of which CSTD is an important member - is supporting the transition from the MDGs to the SDGs and the effective implementation of the new development agenda. Given the contribution of science, technology and innovation to the implementation of the new development agenda, the Commission will continue to play a critical role by providing

technical guidance and policy recommendations for implementation.

I would like to commend the Commission for its work on the system-wide follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Summit. This task that you are performing on ECOSOC's behalf allows the Council to fulfil its mandate to promote the integrated follow-up to conferences and summits. We look forward to the upcoming review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit in the General Assembly.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have an important and challenging task before us.

We must mobilize our common resources and energy to face two major challenges – the fate of human beings and of our planet. We have a shared responsibility to do so.

The United Nations needs a strong Commission on Science and Technology for Development to be an effective platform for the engagement of relevant stakeholders.

Your session this week is a valuable step in our quest for a world without poverty on a path towards sustainable development.

Thank you.