

**INTERSESSIONAL PANEL OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION
ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (CSTD)**

**Geneva, Switzerland
17-19 November 2021**

CSTD 2021-2022 priority theme on “Industry 4.0 for inclusive development”

Statement submitted by

International Telecommunication Union

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UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT
CSTD 2021-2022 Inter-sessional Panel on “Industry 4.0 for Inclusive Development ”
(14:30-16:30 CET) 17 November 2021

Statement by Vladimir Stankovic on behalf of ITU

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with pleasure that I address this meeting today on behalf of International Telecommunication Union and briefly introduce the ITUs contribution to the Priority Theme: Industry 4.0 for Inclusive Development. As the UN specialized agency on ICTs ITU is working in collaboration with multiple stakeholders to bring the benefits of Industry 4.0 for inclusive and sustainable development.

It is key for developing countries to be assisted in the development of policies and best practices for Industry 4.0 that will ensure that they receive the benefits (e.g. increased productivity, lower consumption of resources, decreased costs) while avoiding potential negative impacts (e.g. e-waste, cyber security, data privacy). ITU-Development sector is supporting countries in the development of national policies and strategies, including those on e-waste management, with objective to help countries to prepare, from a circular economy perspective, for the potential waste arisings from the roll out of technology associated with Industry 4.0.

Stakeholders will also need to ensure that standards are developed to manage all aspects of Industry 4.0 (e.g. Sensors, AI, Blockchain, 5G networks). ITU has established a number of Standardization Sector Focus and Study Groups that impact the technology needed for Industry 4.0 and its environmental impact including those on environmental efficieancy for artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies. ITU is addressing the standardization requirements of Internet of Things technologies, which form a basis for Industry 4.0, with an initial focus on IoT applications in smart cities and communities.

ITU has published numerous international standards that are related to Industry 4.0. It is this focus on the availability of free standards that allows developing countries to have the information needed to develop and implement the infrastructure needed for Industry 4.0. Additionally, ITU organizes events in different regions which allow countries to get new knowledge on this evolving topic.

The sixth World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum (WTPF-21) will take place later this year and will be exchanging views on the key policy issues arising from today’s fast-changing (ICT) environment. The theme of WTPF-2021 is “Policies for mobilizing new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs for sustainable development: The WTPF-21 will discuss how new and emerging digital technologies and trends are enabling the global transition to the digital economy. In this regard, the WTPF-21 will focus on opportunities, challenges and policies to foster sustainable development, and we invite stakeholders to take active participation and contribute to this important event.

Stakeholders need new approaches to understand and diagnose their ecosystem issues, update their policies and programs and ensure the right collaboration mechanism to accelerate achievement of SDGs. One such approach is through the [World Summit on the Information Society Forum](#) and WSIS Stocktaking, processes coordinated by ITU and other UN agencies, and which serve as a ready platforms to showcase examples of projects and policies in helping countries undertake transition towards sustainable development. WSIS Forum annual events are witnessing an increased number of sessions and workshops that discuss the impact of ICTs on Industry 4.0 and vice-versa, organized by WSIS stakeholders and ITU membership, sharing national strategies, policies, programs and initiatives.

Dear colleagues, an ITU input has been submitted to the CSTD Secretariat to both CSTD 2021-2022 Inter-sessional Panel Priority Themes, addressing its questions in details, and kindly invites you to review it carefully, and to contact our focal points for further information and collaboration.

Thank you.