

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

**Geneva, Switzerland
25-26 October 2022**

Contribution by Belarus

to the CSTD 2022-2023 priority theme on “Ensuring safe water and sanitation for
all: a solution by science, technology and innovation”

DISCLAIMER: The views presented here are the contributors' and do not necessarily reflect the views and position of the United Nations or the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

PRIORITY THEME 2: Ensuring safe water and sanitation for all: a solution by science, technology and innovation

United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD)

1. What are the concrete challenges that your country has encountered in managing water and sanitation and providing access for all to these services?

They are: (a) access to centralized water supply and sanitation systems in rural areas, and (b) high content of Fe (iron) and Mn (manganese) in water from underground sources, and in case of shallow aquifers also high content of N (nitrogen) containing compounds.

2. What projects/policies has your country implemented to use the above-mentioned range of technologies and innovations or other STI, including frontier technologies (e.g., AI and drones) to address these challenges? What are the main outcomes? What are the main difficulties confronted while trying to implement these projects/policies? Pls. include the gender dimension.

3. Can your country provide examples of policies/projects/initiatives aimed at strengthening national STI capabilities in managing water and sanitation for ensuring their access by all population in your country? One example is what institutional and regulatory arrangements are in place to stimulate R & D and innovation in managing water and sanitation for access by all.

A number of state scientific and technical programmes (at national and at sectoral level) are underway in Belarus.

For instance, through the State Scientific and Technical Programme “Scientific and Technical Arrangements for Ensuring the Quality and Accessibility of Medical Services” for the period 2021–2025 an evidence-based framework in the field of drinking water hygiene has been developed which allowed (a) to justify updating of hygiene standards for drinking water safety, and (b) to develop regulations on supervision over sanitary and epidemiological well-being in the field of drinking water. Among the latter is “Method of Hygienic Assessment of Drinking Water Safety”, “Method of Quantitative Risk Assessment Associated with Microbiological Factor in Drinking Water”, “Method of Integrated Risk Assessment Associated with Water Use”, “Method of Hygienic Assessment of Water Disinfection Means Safety”, etc.

4. Could you share case studies of regional and international cooperation that have helped your country in strengthening STI capacities? Can you provide success stories in this regard?

Belarus has benefited from the international and regional cooperation in this specific area through the EU Water Initiative Plus (EUWI+) for the Eastern Partnership Programme, as well as in partnership with the UNECE and WHO Regional Office for Europe and with the use of mechanisms of the Protocol on Water and Health to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes. Belarus has been intensively participating in topical national and regional reviews and capacity-building activities.

Belarus has also participated in UN-Water Global Annual Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water (GLAAS 2021/2022).