

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

**Lisbon, Portugal  
6-7 November 2023**

**CSTD 2023-2024 priority theme on “Global cooperation in science, technology and  
innovation for development”**

Statement submitted by

The Philippines

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### PHILIPPINE INTERVENTION

CSTD 2023-2024 Intersessional Panel Meeting  
6-7 November 2023 | Lisbon, Portugal

#### **PRIORITY THEME 2: GLOBAL COOPERATION IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION FOR DEVELOPMENT**

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Thank you very much, Chair.

The Philippines agrees that the success of national policies also depends on global cooperation. The alignment of not just the local and international communities but also of the public and private sectors contribute to the success and progress of national science, technology, and innovation development.

Global cooperation may come into play through the four key elements of STI development such as in strategic planning, STI prerequisites which are infrastructure and human and knowledge resources, research and development, and innovation.

The Philippines has been in fruitful collaborations with bilateral partners as well as through its membership in various multilateral STI platforms. We would like to share the Philippines' successful collaboration under the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Committee on Science, Technology, and Innovation (COSTI). Just recently, we hosted the 84<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN COSTI and its Subcommittees on 16-20 October 2023 in Bohol, Philippines.

Discussions have been made in the various fields of STI such as in biotechnology, food S&T, marine, materials, meteorology and geophysics, sustainable energy, space, microelectronics and information technology, and infrastructure and resources development. Through this platform, the ASEAN Member States were able to discuss their priorities and approve joint R&D and capacity building projects. All are aligned with the ASEAN's common STI agenda called "ASEAN Plan of Action on Science, Technology, and Innovation (APASTI) 2016-2025".

In line with the principle of "*ASEAN-helping-ASEAN*", the Philippines, through the Department of Science and Technology, is implementing the Scholarship Offerings for ASEAN Researchers coming from Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Myanmar. This scholarship

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programme targeted to contribute to the efforts of addressing the gap in STEM education. The objective is to promote human resource development in engineering and sciences for sustainable socio-economic development of the ASEAN region particularly in Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Myanmar. To date, there have been 15 graduates and 26 scholars undergoing their programs.

The Philippines is also a member of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC). In terms of STI, the DOST represent the country in the Policy Partnership on Science, Technology, and Innovation (PPSTI). In STI, particularly, priority is also put into the areas of connectivity, digitalization, and innovation. Connectivity means digital and people-to-people connectivity and mobility of researchers and S&T personnel. Digitalization also comes in manufacturing sector, investment in digital technologies, and supporting MSMEs to be equipped with digital tools and skills to access global markets and participate in the digital economy. There are also efforts to improve productivity through digitalization and supply-chain resilience. Lastly, innovation is focused towards sustainable and economic growth which includes cybersecurity, data privacy, and online consumer protection.

On policies for knowledge and technology transfer, the Philippines is also a part of the Asian and Pacific Center for Transfer of Technology or UNESCAP-APCTT. It creates an enabling environment for technology transfer for the Member States and address the regional and global development challenges through dialogue and exchange of knowledge and expertise. The Philippines is also an active member and partner of international mechanisms such as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) where our country engages in technical cooperation activities with the IAEA as part of its national development efforts, including R&D, training programs, and enhancement of nuclear technology facilities of the country. These are just a few of our experiences.

As we do our best to push forward, the Philippines recognizes limitations and challenges being encountered by cooperation mechanisms. In implementing joint projects such as in scholarship or R&D, there are difficulties in meeting consistent and aligned timelines, processes, criteria, and priorities. To achieve common goals, the Philippines believes that there must be clear and well-defined objectives, effective communication and coordination, adaptability, robust monitoring and evaluation, foresight and strategic planning, and adequate and sustained funding must be secured. There should also be sufficient competent human resource to participate in these mechanisms.

The CSTD plays a significant role in facilitating dialogue and knowledge exchange among Member States. It can also impart directionality in identifying priority areas for collaboration and guide Member States towards impactful and sustainable STI initiatives. By facilitating partnerships, providing technical assistance, and helping in mobilizing resources, the Philippines recognizes the CSTD's vital contribution in bridging the gap in STI and digital divide and ensuring equitable access to scientific knowledge and technological advancements.

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The rapid changes in the international STI community and advancements in STI itself calls for a collaborative action. With this, the Philippines believes in stronger partnerships, in consideration of developing countries. As we move forward, no one should be left behind.

Thank you.