

**UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
FOR DEVELOPMENT (CSTD), twenty-sixth session
Geneva, 27-31 March 2023**

**Technology and innovation for cleaner and more productive and competitive
production**

Statement by

Mr. Raimonds Purviņš
Republic of Latvia

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.



Statement by the delegate of the Republic of Latvia Mr. Raimonds Purviņš on

Technology and innovation for cleaner and more productive and competitive production

at the 26 session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development

**28 March 2023
*Palais des Nations***

Your Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

I am glad to address you and share Latvia's perspectives on technology and innovation for cleaned, more productive and competitive production.

Our world is experiencing multiple and overlapping crises. As globally integrated country, Latvia faces challenges as most of the countries. The consequences of the global pandemic, security situation, cross sectoral gaps are just few of the elements that are significantly affecting economic development and achievement of the sustainable development goals.

A powerful way to tackle challenges is through maintaining a rules-based international order rooted in the United Nations Charter and by remaining true to the principle of leaving no one behind. Latvia has been a keen supporter of rules-based international order. Every country matters, irrespective of size or wealth. We all have equal rights.

Sadly, but this can not go unmentioned, the United Nations Security Council Permanent member Russia has started a war of aggression against its peaceful neighbor Ukraine, it has undermined the international law and principles of the United Nations Charter. The impact of this aggression stretches far beyond Europe.

Countries who struggled to recover from the COVID pandemic, now, because of this war, face further challenges - food scarcity, shortage of fertilizers and rising energy costs.

Latvia will continue to be at the forefront of global efforts to address food insecurity in a Team Europe spirit. We offer our know-how and smart solutions for sustainable agriculture, water management, support in strengthening small and medium enterprises and other areas. Moreover, building long-term resilience, particularly to the countries on the frontlines of crises is of utmost importance.

Distinguished delegates,

Current international challenges, including achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, requires synergy and cooperation among all international, regional, national, governmental and non-governmental actors.

First, in order for countries to benefit from the use of technologies and having in mind Agenda 2030, we should support mechanisms and initiatives that will define green technologies as a more competitive and high-potential option of technological development.

Second, we should stimulate cooperation among companies and creation of clusters to enable an easier and more competitive green technology development.

Third, we should introduce more support mechanisms for start-ups that advance green development. One of the options is to create demand for innovation from the public sector by promoting green and innovation procurement.

As the basis, it is necessary to invest into education in sustainable and greener industries as well as allocate sufficient resources for research and innovation.

Distinguished delegates,

Digital and green transformation, coinciding with the increasing adoption of technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT) and renewable energy are transforming business and production. Critical areas for innovation in this new technological revolution are renewable energy technologies and frontier technologies for sustainable production.

The technological innovation of the international community creates powerful solutions. However, it is important to create mechanisms of sharing the unique knowledge among countries of different regions in order to adopt possible solutions to the specific country needs.

We must also learn from the developing countries. The environmental challenges that the developing countries have been facing throughout centuries are very much needed in the new fight of the international community against the consequences of climate change reflected in the development of the circular economy concept.

In conclusion, let me underline that Latvia is committed to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Latvia will continue to engage with the multilateral system and provide contributions to support structural transformation, promote good governance and rule of law, address climate change and build resilience. Latvia has developed a number of technological solutions which could be applied globally, especially in the ICT sector.

For example, rolling-out digital solutions for e-governance, document verification, router and software technologies. Moreover, we are active in promoting media and information literacy as key to build resilience and provide opportunities for all.

Using this opportunity, I would like to invite you all to Latvia hosted CSTD Thematic event. It is titled “Protecting Information Integrity in the Age of Artificial Intelligence” and will take place on 29 March at 8:45 in this meeting room.

Thank you for your attention!