

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

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

CSTD 2022-2023 priority themes on “Technology and innovation for cleaner and more productive and competitive production” and “Ensuring safe water and sanitation for all: a solution by science, technology and innovation”

Statement submitted by

Guatemala

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CSTD 2022-2023 Inter-sessional Panel

Palais des Nations, Room XVIII (10 am – 1pm; 3-6 pm CEST)

25-26 October 2022

Statements Guatemala

Theme 1. Technology an innovation for cleaner and more productive and competitive production.

(Tuesday, 25 oct. 2022; 15:00- 18:00 hrs.)

Thank you, Mr. Chair, for giving me the floor, it is a pleasure to speak on behalf of the Government of Guatemala.

I would like to thank to the Commission for the preparation and introduction of the Issues Paper on the theme: “Technology and Innovation for cleaner and more productive and competitive production”.

My delegation believes that it is a timely topic because it touches upon the core mandate of the CSDT and channels-it to the current needs and challenges of climate change. Guatemala is a country facing serious challenges and risks caused by climate change, therefore it is of outmost importance that discussions on green technologies and clean production become a priority of our work.

Guatemala has also challenged regarding technology infrastructure and low investment in research and development. Despite these challenges, we have seen initiatives that have has a positive impact in society and have brought access to essential services and generated economic development opportunities in their communities. For example Stellar Ixq-Saq’e Such is the example of the project, from the Company New Sun Road a project that promotes community development through the creation of digital community centers in regions where there are no electricity services. These centers use green technology for producing the energy needed to support the centers. In addition, the project empowers women community leaders that run the digital centers and provide services such as digital literacy trainings with a gender focus, to contribute to the reduction of the technology gap.

Another example that I can mention is Kingo, a company founded in 2013 that provides clean energy from solar panels to different rural communities, as studies have shown that the poorest communities in the country are the ones that do not have electricity-

Finally, the Project Horus Energy, from the Company Onyx, is a photovoltaic plant that covers 175 acres that generate solar energy that is then used by the main grid to provide electricity to the country. From this project, a 20% increase in energy production was recorded.

As an example of the efforts of the Government of Guatemala, I can mention the initiative from the Ministry of Energy and Mining for the use of ethanol as a source of energy for mobility.

I also would like to mention that one of the main challenges of technology projects are their high need for financing, investments, and infrastructure. The involvement of academia as a

promotor of research and emerging technologies development it's essential, but they also need financing from private and public funds.

As a country we recognize the gaps that we have in research and development of renewable sources of energy, but we also see the strategic location of our territory that might provide opportunities when it comes to natural resources as sources of clean energy.

Digital transformation in Guatemala is mainly focused on building technology capacities, but additional investment on research and development, especially focused on priority areas such as clean energy production, is needed.

We are convinced that green technology will not only have an effect in the increase of energy production, but also have a great positive effect for industry, trade, agriculture and in general sustainable development of our population. We hope to continue our journey in advancing in our digital transformation with the help of international cooperation and national policies and funds.

Thank you.

Theme 2. Ensuring safe water and sanitation for all: A solution by science, technology, and innovation

(Wednesday, 26 oct. 2022; 10:00- 13:00 hrs.)

Thank you, madam Chair, for giving me the floor, it is a pleasure to share Guatemala's experience under this important topic.

Guatemala recognizes access to clean water as a basic human right and therefore we think this topic is timely and appropriate. We praise those initiative presented by the background note that go beyond providing simple services to access of water, but also promote high quality services that consider the environment, resources and make good use of technology, science, and innovation.

Guatemala has a National Development Plan, called K'atun, which also aligned with the SDGs priorities that need to be implemented. But in order to achieve these ambitious goals, science and technology-based solutions need to emerge.

Regarding the specific topic of water, Guatemala shares similar challenges to other developing countries, in the areas of management and preservation of water sources. Our territory has been blessed with many sources of water, however the current infrastructure for extraction, processing and recycling is rudimentary and insufficient. Only 40% of the homes has access to potable water.

Pollution and mismanagement of solid waste are also affecting the sources of water. There are currently some water treatment plants in the country that are being operated by local municipalities, but many operate using rudimentary methods and do not have access to the latest technology. Unfortunately, this leaves us with a gap of water treatment solutions for many areas of the country.

In this topic, we think the background note, discussions during this intersessional panel and, especially, technical cooperation from Members of the CSTD (ci es ti di), are vital to learn and access the necessary technology needed to improve the access to clean water in Guatemala.

I would like to share with Members two examples of creative solutions in Guatemala regarding sanitation and access to clean water. The first one, is a project from a company called Mosan, who provides "water saving toilets" also known as dry toilets, that promote waste management and avoid the contamination of water.

The second one, is a solution called "Ecofilter" that is a cheap and environmentally friendly solution, that uses natural components to filter water, transforming it to clean water for human consumption. This solution has spread among the country and in particular, in rural areas that do not have the infrastructure necessary for water treatment.

For developing countries like Guatemala, one of the main obstacles for finding solutions to this problem is the lack of public investment and lack of research and scientific evidence-based solutions that can be applicable to water sanitation.

This made it clear that in Guatemala we are behind in comparison to our neighboring countries, since we are still solving basic problems, such as water governance, as a country we must make

an effort to solve this basic need and thus, be able to direct our efforts to adopt the recommendations that developed countries and international entities share with us.

Therefore, we reiterate the importance of international cooperation and coordination, for accessing technology and financing to provide solutions for access to water and sanitation in our countries.

Thank you Chair