



#UNCSTD

## **UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development, 22nd Session**

The first day of the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development provided a fascinating opportunity to explore issues around the role of science, technology and innovation in sustainable development.

The day began with the insight of a Nobel Laureate, a collaborator on the building blocks of the early internet and a computer scientist whose work in machine learning and AI is used across multiple billions of LSTM-translations per day by some of the world's largest companies.

[\*\*CSTD Website and Information\*\*](#)

## A Conversation with Great Minds

SCIENCE WAS ALWAYS INTERNATIONAL  
BUT DEVELOPMENTS CAME FROM  
EITHER EUROPE OR AMERICA; NOW  
IT IS REALLY BECOMING GLOBAL  
WITH SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS  
FROM AROUND THE WORLD.



**CARLO  
RUBIO**



Professor Carlo Rubbia Nobel Laureate for Physics and former Director General of CERN.

**INNOVATION IS NOT BLACK  
AND WHITE. BUT, IT IS EASIER  
TO DEVELOP NEW ETHICS  
CODES ON AI THAN DEVELOP  
NEW AND GOOD AI.**



**WENDY  
HALL**



Professor Dame Wendy Hall, Professor, University of Southampton and Executive Director, Web Science Institute

**IN THE LONG RUN AI WILL BE VERY  
CHEAP AND DEMOCRATIC. WE ARE  
GOING TO SEE THE SPREAD OF  
IDEAS AND TECHNIQUES THAT  
MAKE ROBOTS SMART.  
EVERYONE WILL BENEFIT.**



**JÜRGEN  
SCHMIDHUBER**



Professor Jürgen Schmidhuber, Co-founder and Chief Scientist, NNAISENSE  
Scientific Director, Swiss AI, Lab IDSIA Professor of AI, USI & SUPSI, Switzerland.



Inga Rhonda King, the United Nations Economic and Social Council (UNECOSOC) President addresses the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development on opening day.

## A gender lens for science, technology and innovation



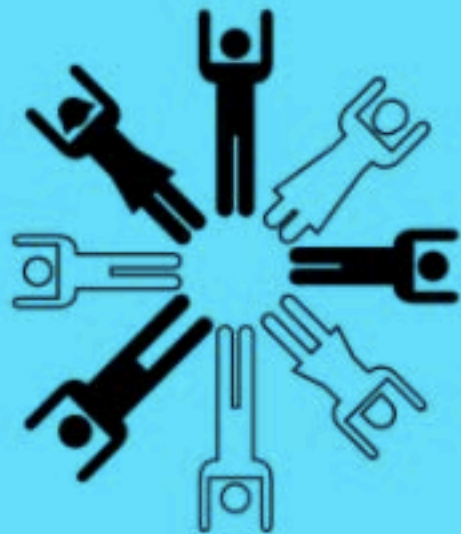
Astrophysicist Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell knows well the challenges that women face for entering the fields of science and technology. She along with Shirly Malcom, *Director of Education and Human Resources Programs of the American Association for the Advancement of Science* and Neth Daño, *Co-Executive Director, ETC Group* provided an inspiring discussion on the universe of possibilities and benefits that increased diversity in the workplace can give.



**MISSING WOMEN IN THE  
WORKFORCE IS A LOSS OF  
TALENT. DIVERSITY MAKES  
WORK PLACES MORE ROBUST,  
FLEXIBLE AND SUCCESSFUL  
THAN THOSE THAT ARE  
MORE MONOCHROMATIC.**



**DAME JOCELYN BELL  
BURNELL**



OUR UNDERSTANDING OF A "GENDER LENS" HAS EVOLVED. NOW WE TALK ABOUT THE PERSPECTIVE WOMEN CAN BRING TO SCIENCE AND NOT JUST AS BENEFICIARIES OF INNOVATION FOR DEVELOPMENT.



SHIRLY  
MALCOM



WHEN WE LOOK AT IMPROVING GENDER BALANCE IN THE FIELDS OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION, ITS NOT JUST ABOUT IMPROVING NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGES, BUT WE NEED TO LOOK AT THE QUALITY OF POSITIONS



NETH  
DANO





## High-level Roundtable: The impact of rapid technological change on sustainable development

"We need a painfully honest discussion on the impact of frontier technologies – including the good, the bad and the ugly."

**Shamika Sirimanne**, Director of Division on Technology and Logistics UNCTAD



"Every technology is a double-edged sword with the best and the worst in store for us. It's our duty to have a deeper reflection on the path to take and how we want to get there."

**Ms. Julia Sieger**, Presenter of Tech24 Programme, FRANCE24

"Genetic disorders like muscular dystrophy have no cure currently. With gene editing you could cure everyone who has that disease."

**Jacob Corn**, Professor of Genome Biology, Principal Investigator at Corn Lab, ETH Zürich



"We started an experiment to look at people who are not typically into technology to help prepare them for jobs. The result is, instead of building robots out of curiosity, we see that they tend to use technology for solving SDG challenges."

**Ms. Kriti Sharma**, Vice President of Artificial Intelligence, Sage Group

"The solution is very rarely just technology but rather it is about how to build a coalition of partners around the tech for social good. Yes, it is tech but is as also better, more selfless leadership."



Mr. David Grier, Professor, George Washington University and Editor in Chief, IEEE Computer

## CSTD Dialogue



The **CSTD Dialogue** brings together some of the best minds in science including leaders and experts from a range of fields to address the question of *"What must be done to ensure that the potential offered by science, technology and innovation towards achieving the SDGs is ultimately realized?"* It explores opportunities and challenges of STI in several crucial areas including gender equality, food security and poverty reduction. Discover the [CSTD Dialogue](#)



"How gendered innovations can help make technology safe and effective for all."

**Londa Schiebinger**, Professor of History of Science, and Director of Gendered Innovations in Science, Health & Medicine, Engineering, and Environment, Stanford University



**"Technology Breakthroughs to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals"**

**Shashi Buluswar, CEO of the Institute for Transformative Technologies**