

BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE

Sponsored by the David M. Kennedy Center for International Studies
Friday, October 26, 2018 – Provo, Utah

SECRETARIAT

Jacob Stebbing
Security Council

Olivia Demordaunt
General Assembly Plenary

Nell Stevens
*General Assembly Fourth
Committee*

Emma Gleave
*United Nations Environment
Programme*

Aidan Houston
Model European Union

Marco Pesci
*Commission on Science and
Technology for Development*

Elizabeth Griffith
Human Rights Council

Cheyenne Rivera
*Organization of American
States*

Olivia Whiteley
Secretary General

Emily Jackson Thorn
Executive Director

DAVID M. KENNEDY
CENTER FOR
INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

Cory Leonard
Assistant Director

Bill Perry
MUN Instructor

Dear Delegates,

I am very pleased to welcome you to the 2018 Brigham Young University Model United Nations High School Conference. My name is Marco Pesci and I will be the Director of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD). I am a Junior at Brigham Young University and am studying Interdisciplinary Humanities. After graduation I plan on pursuing a law degree.

Last year, I competed with BYU's Model United Nations team at both the University of Pennsylvania's Model United Nations Conference (UPMUNC) and at the National Model United Nations (NMUN) competition in New York City. Both of these successful, yet competitive conferences have allowed me to gain a deepened understanding of the powerful influence of a skilled diplomat.

Just as the name would suggest, the purpose of this Commission is to address the issues of scientific and technological development of the international community. The Commission on Science and Technology for Development provides both the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council high-level advice on pertinent and contemporaneous science and technology issues.

The topics under discussion for the Commission on Science and Technology for Development are:

- I. Global Diversity in an Evolving Technology World
- II. The Impact of Emerging Financial Technologies in Developing Nations

This Background Guide will be useful to you as you familiarize yourself with the topics for this committee. However, it is not meant to replace further personal research and I highly encourage you to invest time in exploring your topics and your assigned country's policies.

If there are any issues or questions about this Commission or regarding preparation, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Marco Pesci

Director, Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD)
Pesci2424@gmail.com

Commission History

*“The science of today is the technology of tomorrow.”
-Edward Teller, Father of the Hydrogen Bomb*

Establishment and Membership

The United Nations was established on October 24th, 1945. The conclusion of yet another World War pushed 51 countries to draw up the United Nations Charter in an effort to prevent another such conflict. These countries united themselves in their conviction to, “defend life, liberty, independence and religious freedom, and to preserve human rights and justice...”¹ To facilitate this effort, governing and decision-making bodies were created with specific purposes and aims to further global progress. One of these decision-making bodies was the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), which remains one of the principal organs of the United Nations.

ECOSOC was created for the purpose of coordination, policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on economic, social and environmental issues, as well as for implementation of the internationally agreed development goals. This Council supervises the subsidiary and expert bodies in the economic, social and environmental fields. The Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) is one of these expert bodies that aides ECOSOC with its advice-giving duties.

CSTD was created in 1992 as a result of the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic and social fields. The Commission has forty-three members that are elected by ECOSOC. These members remain for a term of four years and are nominated on the merits of their necessary qualifications and knowledge. The CSTD is composed of one Chair and four Vice-Chairs. These officials are elected at each normal session. The current Chair is Mr. Placido Gomez of the Dominican Republic.

Mandate

The Commission on Science and Technology was established to provide the General Assembly and ECOSOC with high-level advice on pressing and current issues. The future work of the United Nations depends on the development of consensus-driven, data-informed policies. The Commission on Science and Technology for Development allows organs of the United Nations to create substantiated policy decisions by providing in-depth analysis, carefully measured policy recommendations, and potential policy enabling options. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) is responsible for the substantive servicing of CTSD.

In 2006, the Commission was given a mandate to serve as the focal point in the system-wide follow-up on the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). Advising this council would be aimed particularly at the implementation of Summit outcomes through the elaboration of recommendations to the Council. The promotion of partnerships and common practices between appropriate United Nations funds and programs for the purpose of attaining Summit goals is a major focus of the Commission.

Recent Developments

In the most recent Inter-Sessional Panel Meeting of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, Chair-designate Mr. Placido Gomez addressed the panel with a small recap of the previous recommendations the Commission had made to ECOSOC. These recommendations were made on behalf of two recently adopted resolutions propelled in large part by the Commission. Resolution E/RES/2017/21 and E/RES/2017/22 focused respectively on “Science, technology, and innovation for development,” and “Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World

¹ Foreign Relations of the United States: The Conferences at Washington, 1941-1942 and Casablanca, 1943

Summit on the Information Society” (WSIS).² Each of these resolution’s adoptions were officially announced to the Commission on November 6, 2017.

The main focus of the newly adopted E/RES/2017/21 centered itself on the necessity for progress and implementation of the most recent World Summit on the Information Society. This Summit outlined the importance of re-establishing current policies regarding the internet and affirming those policies necessity going forward. A key issue outlined in this resolution was that of recognizing “the importance of enhanced cooperation in the future, to enable Governments, on an equal footing, to carry out their roles and responsibilities in international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet, but not in the day-to-day technical and operational matters that do not have an impact on international public policy issues.”³ Emphasizing the pivotal distinction between Government roles and responsibilities regarding the internet and international public policy issues creates a clearly defined role between Government and private partnerships. Urging the fostering of multi-stakeholder partnerships aligns this resolution with the emphasis of partnerships cited in the Tunis agenda formed at the World Summit on the Information Society in 2005.⁴

The second of the two resolutions adopted by ECOSOC and announced at the Inter-Sessional Panel was focused on the recognition of “the role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development as the United Nations torch-bearer for science, technology and innovation for development.”⁵ The passing of this resolution only strengthens the time, energy, and focus that the United Nations has collectively emphasized regarding science and technology. By encouraging Member States to provide technical assistance, infrastructure building, and technology transfers on mutually agreed terms and conditions, the CTSD looks to disperse the responsibility of these tasks among all Member States. A method spelled out in this resolution, outlines technical training programs or courses for educating in the S.T.E.M fields of learning.

Conclusion

The CTSD has focused primarily on helping extend digital competency in all fields to developing nations and marginalized groups. As efforts are combined to better strengthen groups of people who find themselves in disadvantaged areas of the world or situations have been bolstered, the CTSD has been looked to for the expertise and advice in a very serious way. This focus on developing nations, disadvantaged groups, and disenfranchised people should be at the forefront of each one of the designated topics.

² Commission on Science and Technology for Development, *Inter-sessional Panel meeting of the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development*, 2017.

³ UN Economic and Social Council, *Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society*, (E/RES/2017/21), 2017.

⁴ WSIS, *Tunis Agenda for the Information Society*, 2005.

⁵ "Document E/RES/2017/22 - UN.org." http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/RES/2017/22.

Annotated Bibliography:

"E/RES/2017/21 - E." S/RES/1888(2009) - E. Accessed at: <https://undocs.org/E/RES/2017/21>

Resolution E/RES/2017/21 was adopted by acclamation by the Economic and Social Council. This resolution helped to fulfill the purpose of the Commission, that is to assess the progress made in the implementation of the actions and outcomes that are a result of the WSIS. This resolution made sure that the emphasis of gender equality in the S.T.E.M fields of learning were to be overseen and treated as a priority as technology advances. This meeting acknowledged and asked for the recollection of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

"Foreign Relations of the United States : The Conferences at Washington, 1941-1942 and Casablanca, 1943." Avalon Project - Documents in Law, History and Diplomacy. Accessed at: <http://avalon.law.yale.edu/wwii/washc014.asp>

During the second World War, the President of the United States of America and the Prime Minister of Great Britain created a joint declaration along with 26 other governments, to unite in enumerating human rights. The purpose of the conference was to respond to the atrocities being committed by Adolf Hitler. This conference laid the building blocks for post-world war diplomatic and political actions and accentuated the world's willingness to be recognized as a part of the United Nations.

"United Nations Official Document." United Nations. Accessed at: http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/RES/2017/22

Resolution E/RES/2017/22 was adopted in succession to the previously mentioned resolution E/RES/2017/21. Both of these documents were created with the large influence of the CSTD and done so contemporaneously. This resolution looks to address both the positive efforts in regional integration across the world in S.T.E.M and other fields of learning and innovation. This issue of including and integrating areas of the world that lag behind in advancements in the aforementioned fields are closely tied to the issues of food security. In this document, the advancement of science, technology, and innovation are essential in achieving the Sustainable Development goals, particularly the goals concerning food security.

"WSIS: Tunis Agenda for the Information Society." ITU | 2017 Global ICT Development Index. Accessed at: <http://www.itu.int/net/wsis/docs2/tunis/off/6rev1.html>

The Tunis Agenda focus centering on the Information Society, revolved in large part around the Internet. The Summit recognizes the increase in technological advancements and accompanying disparity. The Summit looked to allow for internet access to be strengthened (primarily in developing nations) and its dissemination. This document highlights the importance of private and public programs, both associated with the United Nations and those otherwise, work together in this task.

"2017 Report of the Secretary-General: Progress Made in the Implementation of and Follow-up to the Outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the Regional and International Levels." UNCTAD | Press Release. Accessed at: <http://unctad.org/en/pages/PublicationWebflyer.aspx?publicationid=2040>

Because the Commission on Science and Technology for Development is a subsidiary body of ECOSOC, the Secretary-General is inclined to update the members of CSTD about the expectations of ECOSO. The major responsibility of the Commission is that of implementation and follow up regarding the WSIS and its outcomes. Because of the vast and ever continuing resolutions that are formed and accepted, the CSTD is charged with encouraging Member States to follow through.

I. Global Diversity in an Evolving Technology World

*“Sharing is good, and with digital technology sharing is easy.”
-Richard Stallman, American Free Software Activist*

Introduction

On November 2, 2001 the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) declared “that the process of globalization, facilitated by the rapid development of new information and communication technologies, though representing a challenge for cultural diversity, creates the conditions for renewed dialogue among cultures and civilizations.”⁶ Technological and global advancement creates wonderful opportunities for all people. Much like with any form of change regarding technological advancements, there are issues that accompany these opportunities. The issue of the gender digital divide, seen clearly in the fields of technology, science and innovation, calls for the attention of the Commission.⁷

In article 26, section 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the declaration addresses the importance of “Technical and professional education” and the making of such education “generally available” and “accessible to all on the basis of merit.”⁸ This milestone document in the history of human rights was drafted by men and women of diverse legal and cultural backgrounds. Though the Declaration was given by the United Nations General Assembly in December of 1948, the understanding and direct acknowledgement of the importance of education has only grown with time. Establishing and maintaining technical continuity through the dissemination of educational opportunities was and will continue to be a major point of concern.

Gender and the Digital Divide

The March 2018 WSIS Summit addressed the gender digital divide and the issue of access to information and knowledge. Strategies, policies, plans, and budgets that explicitly address women’s needs, circumstances, capabilities, and preferences are essential if governments, businesses and other stakeholders are to tackle the digital gender gap effectively. To accomplish this objective, the CTSD has turned in large part to advising the private sector, non-governmental organizations, and academia/research institutions.⁹

Though the areas of technical education and the access to this education have been declared accessible to all, there remain large gaps between genders in the fields of S.T.E.M education, entrepreneurship, and technological innovation. A recent study conducted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) entitled “Applying a Gender Lens to Science, Technology and Innovation” presented compelling evidence to suggest that women are underrepresented in these fields. UNCTAD reports that a core issue in making positive strides toward gender equality in the fields of science, technology, and engineering can be attributed to “education at primary levels and educating girls and women in S&T at secondary and tertiary levels”.¹⁰ The General Assembly of the United Nations described the purpose of sustainable development goal (SDG) 4, point 4.6 as one to, “ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy.”¹¹ Essential to the completion of both this goal and equality in these fields, are widespread focuses of literacy and primary education. Though the percentage of global illiteracy continues to

⁶ UNESCO, *Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity*, 2001.

⁷ UN Women – Headquarters, *Innovation and technology*, 2015.

⁸ UN General Assembly, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, 1948.

⁹ Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development, *Bridging the gender gap in Internet and broadband access and use*, 2017

¹⁰ UNCTAD, *Applying a Gender Lens to Science, Technology and Innovation*, 19 Oct. 2011.

¹¹ UN General Assembly, *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, (A/RES/70/1), 2015.

decrease, “Women continue to account for two thirds of the world’s 796 million illiterate adults – a trend which has remained constant over the past 20 years, despite a decline in the total illiterate population.”

Almost three in four illiterate women in the world are found in 11 countries.¹² Many of these countries have experienced perpetual political unrest and economic hardships; however, change, in this regard, has begun. Eastern and South-Eastern Asia, Western Asia, Southern Asia, and Northern Africa have made the greatest progress in improving adult literacy over the past 26 years.¹³ CSTD and UNESCO have found correlating trends among “the demand for political freedom and socio-economic development expressed by young people”¹⁴ and the spread of female literacy in a particular region. These regions of Asia and Africa have experienced substantial progress regarding female literacy and many of them are comprised of nations trending positively toward political freedom and socio-economic improvement.¹⁵

Women and Specialized Technology

As improvements among youth and women in regards to basic education are being made, a major issue that the UN has attempted to solve is allowing women to learn specialized modern work skills. The recent UN Women's Innovation and Technology Projects announced a successful partnership and subsequent conference with Innovation Norway “to assess the potential of leveraging blockchain technology to address day-to-day challenges faced by women in crisis-affected contexts.”¹⁶ These organizations together have allowed for hundreds of women to learn and discuss ways in which their specific countries and situations may hinder them from economic improvement via education and practical implementation of cutting edge financial technologies.

Conclusion

As a body of experts, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development looks to demonstrate its expertise by supplying unbiased and equal suggestions. A solid understanding of the Commission’s published materials and literature is integral in creating support and unity among Member States. Familiarize yourself with the materials recently published by the CTSD regarding global diversity. Be particularly aware of the recent publications regarding technology and gender. Consider studying the CTSD and their publications through the lens of gender equality and analyzing the improvements that have been made.

Questions to Consider

1. With the weight of the Commission of Science and Technology for Development, what can be done to eliminate the disparity between men and women in fields of science, technology and innovation?
2. What can be done to encourage Member States to be involved and supportive of the fourth sustainable development goal, while being cognizant and respectful of cultural diversity?
3. How can the Commission of Science and Technology advance the effective implementation of the WSIS and its outcomes regarding the gender digital divide?

¹² UNCTAD, *Efforts to boost science and technology in developing nations*, 11 Dec. 2011.

¹³ UNESCO Global Review, *Spread of literacy among women*, 21 Apr. 2017

¹⁴ CQR – CQ Press Library, *Democracy in Southeast Asia*., 7 Jun. 2010.

¹⁵ UN Women, *UN Women's innovation and technology projects*, 2018.

¹⁶ Ibid.

Annotated Bibliography:

"Applying a Gender Lens to Science, Technology and Innovation." UNCTAD | Press Release. Accessed at: <http://unctad.org/en/pages/PublicationArchive.aspx?publicationid=1450>

This recent study was delivered in 2011 as a part of the annual reports given. The objective of this study is to persuade Member States of the vitality of female involvement in the fields of science, technology and innovation (STI). In an abbreviated summary of the report, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD stated, "Applying a gender lens in STI policies includes promoting and leveraging science and technology (S&T) to support women's development in key sectors, such as agriculture, water, energy and transport, where they play a particularly important role." These specific fields of STI are highlighted as influential starting points for the improvement of female involvement.

"Bridging the Gender Gap in Internet and Broadband Access and Use." Broadband Commission Special Session at the World Economic Forum. Accessed at: <http://www.broadbandcommission.org/publications/Pages/default.aspx>

The Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development is a commission supported by UNESCO that is focused on improving "the importance of broadband on the international policy agenda, and expanding broadband access in every country as key to accelerating progress towards national and international development targets." Their main resources of influence in this effort is found with their strong ties to top CEO and industry leaders. This particular report highlights the issues found in the global gender digital disparities.

"Democracy in Southeast Asia." CQ Researcher by CQ Press. Accessed at: <http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/document.php?id=cqrglobal2010060000>

In conjunction with the observations in positive trends regarding literacy parity between genders, regions that have begun to trend toward socio-economic freedom report the largest changes. Though Southeast Asia has historically lagged behind the world in both literacy and economic growth, the recent democratic changes in these nations have resulted in both economic growth and major strides toward a gender equal society. These regions of Southeast Asia have produced statistics concerning gender equality consistently in the lowest percentile in the world, yet as of the last quarter century the improvements in these regions have grown exponentially. There remains much to be done, but because of this research correlations between gender equality and societal success can be quantified in specific categories.

"Efforts to Boost Science and Technology in Developing Countries Should Be Gender-sensitive, Report Says." UNCTAD | Press Release. Accessed at: <http://unctad.org/en/pages/PressReleaseArchive.aspx?ReferenceDocId=16151>

This press release re-emphasized the importance of the UNCTAD report entitled, "Applying a Gender Lens to Science, Technology, and Innovation." This study was prepared as a contribution for the fifty-fifth session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. A major theme in the UN's press release was that of accentuating the pursuit of gender-sensitive STI policies and reaping the economic gains from these efforts.

"Innovation and Technology." UN Women. Accessed at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/how-we-work/innovation-and-technology>

This strategy created by United Nations Women, is devoted to gender equality and the empowerment of women. This UN sanctioned organization has developed and implemented strategies to involve women in industries of all kinds. This strategy focuses on building investment and industry-wide awareness and actions to grow market innovation that advances gender equality and empowerment of women and girls. In achieving this equality, the UN Women has created a Coalition for Change and have developed tools and methodologies with private partners to further the progress in gender equality in innovation. Many of these methodologies focus on phasing old ideology and practices out of industries and replacing them with the promotion of women as innovators and entrepreneurs.

"UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity: UNESCO." UNESCO - The Social and Economic Impact of Drug Trafficking. Accessed at: http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=13179&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

This declaration was delivered and accepted by UNESCO in 2001. The purpose of this document was to affirm to the world what is spelled out in Article 1, "As a source of exchange, innovation and creativity, cultural diversity is as necessary for humankind as biodiversity is for the nature. In this sense, it is the common heritage of humanity and should be recognized and affirmed for the benefit of present and future generations." The necessity of cultural diversity outlined in this document was sustained through the resolutions adoption at the 20th plenary meeting

"Universal Declaration of Human Rights." United Nations. Accessed at: <http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>

A groundbreaking document created to address the human rights among all nations, the Declaration of Human Rights spells out fundamental human rights to be universally protected. It was adopted shortly after the conclusion of World War II and was heavily influenced by the Four Freedoms enumerated by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in his State of the Union address in 1941. In this document cultural diversity is declared as a right and the acceptance of such diversity is an essential part of a human's basic rights.

"Spread of Literacy among Women Highlighted in UNESCO Anniversary Global Review | UN News." United Nations. Accessed at: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2017/04/555752-spread-literacy-among-women-highlighted-unesco-anniversary-global-review>

The findings of this highlighted study by UNESCO found that literacy among women has begun to trend upward. The study observes the importance of progressive thought and action being cultivated by the young people of a specific area to bring change to the governance of a region/nation. This change among young people has correlated directly with the rise in literacy among women. The rise of literacy among women has helped with improvement of specific aspects of economic growth, gender equality and cultural diversity.

"Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform." United Nations. Accessed at: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>

In 2015, the United Nations established 17 global goals for the global transformation and progress toward sustainable development. These 17 goals (SDG's) are widespread and interdependent, yet are comprised of smaller targets to aid in Member States' ability to track progress in a particular area. The target year for completion is set at 2030. Goal four focuses on the importance of quality education and the dissemination of such education for all. The Commission on Science and Technology for Development finds itself in a unique position to aid in this goal by facilitating the implementation of the spread of important skills concerning STI.

II. The Impact of Emerging Financial Technologies in Developing Nations

*“Those in the developing world have so few rights - we take a lot for granted in the developed world.”
-Annie Lennex*

Introduction

As financial technologies have become more sophisticated, the first Sustainable Development Goal that focuses on ending poverty in all its forms everywhere has been supplied viable tools in its pursuit toward the eradication of poverty. The seven associated targets outlined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development aim to reduce the proportion of men, women, and children of all ages living in poverty by one half and implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all. UNCTAD offers direct technical assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, helping them build the capacities they need to become equitably integrated in the global economy and improve the well-being of their population.¹⁷

Micro-Enterprises

Many developing nations find the bulk of all domestic businesses defined as micro-enterprises. For example, roughly 99 percent of all Indonesian businesses fall into the category of a micro enterprise. The Indonesian government has defined such micro-enterprises as, “productive businesses owned by an individual and/or group of individuals that have net assets worth a maximum of 3,467\$ USD (not inclusive of land and buildings where the business is located) or an annual sales revenue that do not exceed 20,807\$ USD.”¹⁸ These business and individuals find themselves at a significant disadvantage because of the lagging progress in the formation and implementation of realistic financial objectives. Financial education, public financing facilities, financial information mapping, supportive regulations, distribution networks and consumer protection are must be improved to achieve lasting positive effects for developing nations.¹⁹

Finance Mapping and Debt Management

The Commission on Science and Technology for Development supports and works closely with programs that help achieve the aforementioned financial objectives for developing nations. The Debt Management and Financial Analysis System Programme (DMFAS) of the UNCTAD aids both developing and developed Member States in financial mapping, particularly debt management. In the executive summary of the DMFAS annual report to UNCTAD, the program gives the description of their objectives as being “a leading provider of technical cooperation and advisory services in debt management,” and strengthening “the capacity of countries to handle the day-to-day management of public liabilities and produce reliable debt data for policy making purposes.”²⁰ The DMFAS works in close cooperation with other international bodies such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and other institutions to enhance coordination.

Though progress in debt management has been made among governments, many citizens remain unbanked. The World bank reports that, “globally, 1.7 billion adults remain unbanked, yet two-thirds of them own a mobile phone that could help them access financial services. There has been a significant increase in the use of mobile phones and the internet to conduct financial transactions.”²¹ New and developing technologies have the ability to use these mobile phones as ways to involve more people in the global financial system.

¹⁷UNCTAD, *Annual Report 2012*, 17 Jul. 2013.

¹⁸UN Global Pulse, *Improving Access to Financial Services with Fintech*, 6 Feb. 2018.

¹⁹Ina Parlina, *The Jakarta Post*, *Indonesia promotes financial inclusion with new strategy*, 18 Nov. 2016.

²⁰UNCTAD, *Debt Management and Financial Analysis System Programme Annual Report 2017*, 2017.

²¹World Bank, *Financial Inclusion on the Rise, But Gaps Remain*, 2018.

Blockchain and Cryptocurrency

UNCTAD and the CSTD published a report to facilitate the involvement of developing nations and their governments, businesses, and citizens in the global financial system through a new and innovative technology. The report entitled, *Usage of Blockchain in the UN System* was published to provide a thorough, yet brief understanding of the current usage of blockchain technology and the potential opportunities to use this technology in the UN system. UNCTAD has partnered with Alibaba Group to test the proof of concept for a planned application focused on enabling all global citizens to be a part of e-trade. The application is, “to help people from all over the world start their own online business.”²² The concept was based off Estonia’s healthcare data management through blockchain technology.

This new technology will allow for specific securities that will ensure the expulsion of government corruption. As described by UNCTAD, “The ‘Blockchain’ is a powerful encoding and data sharing method that encrypts data, for example, with time and location stamps, values cannot be altered after the fact. When data are unalterable and can be monitored in seven fully transparent “public ledgers,” such as those underlying cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin or Ethereum, it enables data sharing. Blockchain technology creates the potential for a shared data layer that will enable automatically executable contracts and royalty payment systems, distributed file storage, peer-to-peer retailing, secure crowdfunding, transparent polling and corporate governance.”²³ This innovative technology allows for mobile phones to essentially become tools for creating a business, facilitating payments, and self-banking.

However, this technology does not come without disruptive and volatile aspects. Because cryptocurrencies are tracked through transparent ledgers, there is no way for governments to regulate this new asset. The United Nations Economic and Policy Division published their worries in a recent report. Because this new currency is unaffected by, “political influence and actions of monetary authorities” leaving this newfound currency extremely liable to a “valuation prone to sudden changes and high volatility.” Policy makers have voice concern about, “the misuse of cryptocurrencies for tax evasion, money laundering, and funding of illegal activities, given their ability to bypass formal banking networks and cross-border capital flow controls.”²⁴

Conclusion

As technology continues to advance, many opportunities are made available to those who would otherwise have been left behind. Financial technology continually innovates. Familiarize yourself with the specific financial technologies that have been previously mentioned in the guide. Consider the CTSD’s efforts in this regard and the private partnerships that have been made and those that could potentially be beneficial.

Questions to Consider

1. How can the CTSD properly advise the furthering of innovation and entrepreneurial ventures in developing nations, while maintaining established monetary policies?
2. Where can UNCTAD and its associated programs help encourage Member States to increase the percentage of banked adults in the global economy?
3. What actions can the CTSD suggest to better incorporate innovative technologies in developing nations?

²²UN Office of Information and Communications Technology, *Usage of Blockchain in the UN System – Unite*, August 2017.

²³UNCTAD, *The New Digital Economy and Development*, 8 Oct. 2017.

²⁴UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *World Economic Situation and Prospects: November 2017 Briefing*, Nov. 2017.

Annotated Bibliography:

Debt Management and Financial Analysis System Programme Annual Report 2017. PDF. United Nations, 2017. Accessed at: http://unctad.org/divs/gds/dmfas/who/Documents/ann_rep2017en.pdf

This report by the UNCTAD sponsored program, Debt Management and Financial Analysis Program (DMFAS) is published for reporting the progress made among government debt and its management. The CSTD helps with the advising and staffing of such a program.

"Financial Inclusion on the Rise, But Gaps Remain, Global Findex Database Shows." World Bank. Accessed at: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2018/04/19/financial-inclusion-on-the-rise-but-gaps-remain-global-findex-database-shows>

The World Bank maintains its incredibly close relationship with the UN in many ways, one of which comes through the through studies it conducts. This press release explains the state of the unbanked adults in today's world. Over 1 billion adults without a bank, yet the report appears to be optimistic concerning the progress between the percentages of the unbanked from year to year. These statistics influence the allocation of funds from the World Bank to specific nations, programs and initiatives.

"Improving Access to Financial Services with Fintech." United Nations Global Pulse. Accessed at: <https://www.unglobalpulse.org/news/improving-access-financial-services-fintech>

This article helps describe the issues experienced by business in developing nations. It helps the definition and understanding of what a micro enterprise is and why so many of them comprise the overwhelming majority of all business in developing nations. By using Indonesia as an example, the necessity of fintech services is highlighted as being essential for the economic growth of nations like Indonesia.

Jakarta Post. "Indonesia Promotes Financial Inclusion with New Strategy." The Jakarta Post. Accessed at: <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2016/11/18/indonesia-promotes-financial-inclusion-with-new-strategy.html>

The Jakarta Post addresses the promotion of financial inclusion with the new strategy based on assisting micro enterprises and increasing the percentage of adults who are banked in their country. By establishing specific pillars aimed at financial growth, Indonesia has primed itself to increase the percentage of adults banked in their country by more than 30 percent.

"November 2017 Briefing on the World Economic Situation & Prospects | Economic Analysis & Policy Division." United Nations. Accessed at: <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/publication/world-economic-situation-and-prospects-november-2017-briefing-no-108/>

This briefing highlights the importance of acknowledging cryptocurrency and blockchain technology as viable ways that the world can bring innovation to the payments processing space. Though the article highlights the benefits of such a new market, it explains the issues law and policy creators will have as far as regulation goes.

"Poverty Eradication: Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform." United Nations. Accessed at: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics/povertyeradication>

This article analyzed solely the first Sustainable Development Goal. The analyzing of the goal and the objectives associated with the goal is used to explain the need for an emphasis in work and focus to

achieve such goals. The general notion behind each goal, but especially the first is that no man, women or child will be left behind and each has a right to this goal.

The New Digital Economy and Development. PDF. UNCTAD, October 2017. Accessed at:
http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/tn_unctad_ict4d08_en.pdf

This technical note was delivered by UNCTAD to address five prominent areas of the digital economy:

- 1) advanced manufacturing, robotics and factory automation*
- 2) new sources of data from mobile and ubiquitous Internet connectivity*
- 3) cloud computing*
- 4) big data analytics*
- 5) artificial intelligence.*

UNCTAD Annual Report. PDF. UNCTAD, 2012. Accessed at:
http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/dom2013d1_en.pdf

UNCTAD's annual report describes the goals achieved by the Conference and the associated programs. Furthermore the report allows for the briefing of current problems and issues associated with science, technology and innovation that are occurring contemporaneously with the Conference. In this report UNCTAD reaffirms its purpose and how it plans on serving the needs of UNESCO and ECOSOC.

Usage of Blockchain in the UN System. PDF. United Nations Office of Information and Communications Technology, August 2017. Accessed at:
https://unite.un.org/sites/unite.un.org/files/session_3_b_blockchain_un_initiatives_final.pdf

This report was used to provide a quick overview of the current blockchain and cryptocurrency capabilities being utilized by the UN and their system, as well as avenues that could possibly be explored. To date there are 15 UN entities carrying out blockchain initiatives.