At the outset, we congratulate you Mr. President upon your election, to chair this very important MYEM.

My delegation acknowledges the three Reports on IIA Reform, effective harnessing ST&I to achieve SDGs and responsible and sustainable business practices and corporate social responsibility and enterprise development, following on the successful 5th, 6th and 7th MYEM’s held in 2017, 18 and 19 respectively.

Chair

Access to clean energy as well as Science, Technology, and Innovation are mentioned as chief enablers towards the achievement of SDG Agenda 2030. However, Uganda among other countries especially, LDCs risk being left behind. This situation is further exacerbated by the Covid 19 pandemic. We therefore, call for Holistic approaches and partnerships.

The international technological divide has many facets, both in policy and practice, and with important implications on both a global scale and in particular for our ability to rise to the challenge of Agenda 2030 and the global health crisis, more so now. Of key concern is the ability of STI to address the immediate challenges of poverty, unemployment, and the informal economy while being mindful that sustainable development requires a commitment that goes far beyond those areas.

We recognize that SD requires strengthening policymaking capacities in order to develop coherent and implementable STI policies and strategies. UNCTAD’s STI Policy Reviews and the accompanying capacity building activities have made an important contribution in this regard. We therefore call upon the international community to support the continuity of STIP reviews. In particular, donor agencies should consider cooperating in expanding future support to UNCTAD STIP activities and their follow up.

Chair,

In conclusion, my delegation looks forward to UNCTAD’s work particularly on national STI policy reviews which shall include the one on Uganda, in its next cycle and underscores the need to address SDG concerns both from a policy as well as from a capacity-building perspective.

I thank you.