

## 26<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development

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**Date and time:** 29th March (Wednesday) 10h

**Location:** Room Tempus, Palais des Nations

### Participants in the panel:

- UNCTAD's Chief, Technology & Innovation Policy Section, Division on Technology and Logistics - **Clovis Freire**
  - MESCTI Minister - **Maria do Rosário Bragança**
  - UNCTAD's Economic Affairs Officer, Science, Technology and Innovation for Development Section, Division on Technology and Logistics - **Michael Lim**
  - Minister of Communications, Knowledge and Technology, Botswana - **Thulagano Merafe Segokgo**
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### Introduction Notes

*"Your Excellency, Minister of Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, Dr. Maria do Rosário Bragança Sambo"*

*Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

*It is a great pleasure to be here with you today. I would like to thank for this invitation and extend my greetings to our UNCTAD colleagues with whom we have collaborated on this study.*

### Talking Points

- This study, developed in collaboration with MESCTI goes beyond sectorial boundaries, providing **important recommendations to support innovation from a cross-cutting, systemic perspective.**
- One of the interesting elements of this work is the way in which it **connects innovation with the Diversification of the Economy**, which is to some extent a result of interagency collaboration.
- The **intersectorial nature of innovation** therefore implies that **it is critical to improve coordination and establish integrated policies.** UNDP has been supporting the Government of Angola in strengthening capacity and coordination, to achieve a more systemic approach to development.
- Angola is a country that is taking significant steps to transition from an economy centered around oil production and heavy dependence on imports, towards **a diversified economy that can harness the great potential found in agriculture and industry** to create new products and services, generate jobs, and build a more sustainable future. UNDP Angola has been **supporting the Government** of Angola,

in the **diversification of the economy**, through **the growth of the productive sectors** (agriculture and industry).

- We have been working with Ministries, at central and local levels, strengthening technical, professional, and vocational training, and implementing specific initiatives to increase employment and entrepreneurship.
- This study highlights **the role of private sector in innovation and economic diversification**. We believe that **strategical support to the private sector is critical**. More programs targeting **MSMEs, cooperatives and associations** within strategic value-chains are needed.
- **Digitalization and access to internet are critical factors for innovation and development**, playing a fundamental role in access to health, education, and markets, with significant impacts in livelihoods and the economy. The **expansion of connectivity must be inclusive** to ensure the same opportunities for all Angolans, leaving no one behind. UNDP has a global commitment to digital inclusion through its strategic plan.
- Our **new CPD**, aligned with the new NDP 2023-2027, we will **reinforce our commitment** to support the GOA **through work on health, employment, and climate change** as key priority areas, with a special focus on women and girls, and ensuring that **innovation is cross-cutting, acting as a fundamental enabler for sustainable development**.