

**UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
FOR DEVELOPMENT (CSTD), twenty-seventh session  
Geneva, 15-19 April 2024**

**Data for Development**

Statement by

H.E. Ms. Leah Buendia  
Undersecretary for Research and Development  
Department of Science and Technology  
Philippines

DISCLAIMER: The views presented here are the contributors' and do not necessarily reflect the views and position of the United Nations or the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

## Theme 1

### PHILIPPINE STATEMENT

Twenty-seventh Session of the CSTD  
15-19 April 2024 | Geneva, Switzerland

#### PRIORITY THEME 1: DATA FOR DEVELOPMENT

16 April 2024, 10:00-13:00

#### **DR. LEAH J. BUENDIA**

Undersecretary for Research and Development  
Department of Science and Technology  
Republic of the Philippines

---

Thank you very much, Chair.

Excellencies,

As the Secretary-General's Report states, data serve as a crucial decision-making tool, aiding in achieving economic, social and environmental objectives and advancing Sustainable Development Goals.

The Philippines, through the Department of Science and Technology believes that data, when properly managed, can be a powerful instrument to address pressing global issues especially in disasters, climate change, health, and environment. The Philippines has been maximizing the application of data in disaster risk reduction and management through a government-led, multi-agency initiative called "GeoRisk Philippines". It is an integrated platform that serves as a central resource of information on natural hazards and risk assessment. It can generate indicative hazard assessment reports on the user's specified location. This also led to the creation of the PlanSmart Ready to Rebuild web application, an automated planning tool that can systematically generate a rehabilitation and recovery plan using calculation tools and producing consolidated results.

The country also uses data to reduce climate risks by providing agricultural stakeholders with site-specific crop advisories. The Philippines also innovated and developed RxBox, a telemedical device that transmits vital signs data to specialists who analyze the patient's status remotely, which is useful most especially in rural health units in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas or "GIDAS" in the Philippines. Lastly, we use satellite data for environment to also assess the air quality, pollution, and other geographical observations.

Excellencies,

## Theme 1

We cannot stress more how much we can all benefit from data and its applications. However, we must also be aware of the possible adverse impact this can create such as in widening the gap within and among countries of different economic capacities. This heightens the call for addressing digital divide, promoting inclusivity, and ensuring connectivity.

Globally accepted framework, reliable infrastructure, and fair and just regulations and standards must be put in place, most especially in consideration of developing countries. We must all share the advantages of data. In designing the frameworks and policies, all sectors must be included in consultations and working groups as they provide valuable inputs which would also be significant in the implementation stage. International policy discussions on cybercrime convention and the ethics of AI should also be considered to ensure data privacy and security.

In addition, to be able to further unleash the full potential of data and data-enabled technologies for societal benefit, countries should work together. Benchmarking on the best practices, learning from the lessons of one another and seizing opportunities for partnerships would create an enabling environment and ecosystem for everyone to benefit from this innovative leap while considering risks. The CSTD plays a significant role in providing an avenue for the Member States and other stakeholders to come together, exchange ideas and information and initiate joint activities that would ensure that data would create solutions for everyone.

Thank you.