

**Commission on Science and Technology for Development
29th session**

**Side Event on
Artificial Intelligence for Regional Sustainable Development**

**Monday, 20 April 2026, 13:30-15:00 (Geneva Time)
Room VIII, 3rd Floor, Building A, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland**

Concept Note

Background

The accelerating wave of technological revolution and industrial transformation, led by artificial intelligence (AI), is reshaping the global development landscape. At the same time, the widening technological divide among countries poses a challenge to the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Ensuring that AI-driven innovation benefits developing countries and enhances their capacity for regional sustainable development is a priority within the United Nations system. Against this backdrop, the side event “Artificial Intelligence for Regional Sustainable Development” will provide a platform for stakeholders to share governance experiences and practical applications in leveraging AI for sustainable development.

Objective

The event aims to facilitate policy dialogue and experience-sharing among United Nations Member States, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, and experts. Discussions will focus on AI governance, narrowing technological gaps, and practical pathways for regional sustainable development. Through keynote presentations and a panel discussion, the side event seeks to consolidate best practices, explore cooperation mechanisms, and identify capacity-building initiatives, particularly for developing countries, while promoting international collaboration in AI-enabled sustainable development.

Format

The side event will be held in person on 20 April 2026 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. It will include two keynote presentations and one panel discussion, allowing participants to exchange experiences, discuss policy approaches, and highlight successful models of AI governance and application for regional sustainable development.