INTERSESSIONAL PANEL OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (CSTD)

Lisbon, Portugal
6-7 November 2023

Contribution by Burundi

to the CSTD 2023-2024 priority theme on "Data for Development"

PRIORITY THEME 1: Data for Development

United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD)

Dear CSTD Member,

The 26th CSTD annual session selected "Data for Development", as one of the priority themes for its 27th session (2023-24 period).

Data, including for scientific and research purposes, are becoming a key strategic resource for sustainable development. If well managed, data can help overcome major global development challenges, such as poverty, food security, climate change, disaster risk management, and pandemics. If badly handled, they can generate unequal development outcomes. General Assembly's resolution 77/150 of 14 December 2022 noted that the Commission on Science and Technology for Development could explore the connection between data and sustainable development, including data governance, while taking into account the multiple dimensions of data. The development implications of data, including data quality, data capabilities, and responsible data handling should also feature prominently in discussions about the Global Digital Compact and in the Summit of the Future, adding to the relevance of the CSTD's perspectives on this issue as the UN focal point for STI for development.

Under this theme, the Commission will consider issues such as major contributions and risks of data in relation to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; how to ensure that developing countries benefit from the data revolution while considering risks; national and international policies and support measures that can help address the challenges of the developing countries in the area of data relevant for sustainable development, while taking into account the multiple dimensions of data.

The CSTD secretariat is in the process of drafting an issues paper on the theme to be presented at the CSTD inter-sessional panel meeting to be held in the second half of October 2023 in Portugal. In this context, we would like to solicit inputs from the CSTD member States on this theme. We would be grateful if you could kindly answer the following questions based on your experience in your country or region.

1. What are the major contributions and risks of data in relation to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?
   Data-driven decisions making.
2. How can developing countries benefit from the data revolution while considering risks?
   By embarking on the process that involves collecting, analyzing, and interpreting data to gain insights and make informed decisions based on data.
3. What national and international policies and support measures can help address the challenges of the developing countries in the area of data relevant for sustainable development, including scientific and research purposes, data quality, data capabilities and data governance, while taking into account the multiple dimensions of data?
   Burundi STI Policy and its implementation framework.
   Regional EAC STI Policy and Strategy
4. In your country's view, what role could CSTD play in respect of data for development, including in the context of the Global Digital Compact?
   Close collaboration with the National Commission for STI (www.cnsti.bi) and the National Statistical Agency (ISTEEBU)

Please indicate contact person(s) responsible for projects/policies and international collaboration in this context in case we need clarification on the inputs.

Please send your responses and any further inputs on the theme to the CSTD secretariat (stdev@unctad.org) by **15 August 2023**. We look forward to receiving your valuable inputs.

Sincere regards,

CSTD secretariat