

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

**Lisbon, Portugal
6-7 November 2023**

Contribution by Tanzania

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

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

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.

i). What are the major contributions and risks of data in relation to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development ?

Contributions of Data: Data has huge contribution in making evidence-based decisions concerning social, economic and environment challenges. It helps to assess the performance of the country in achieving development agenda. Data helps in analyzing how much the indicators have been attained or how much more effort is required to achieve targets. Furthermore, data are useful in research, technology development and innovation, business and trade, sustainable agriculture, efficient use of food, water, energy management and energy efficiency etc

Data risks: Negligent and abusive use of data pose high-risk risk of violation of Intellectual Property Right (IPR) of innovations developed due to data sharing from innovation or research activities. Also, violation of data security, human rights and privacy if not properly governed.

ii). How can developing countries benefit from the data revolution while considering risks ?

Benefits Amidst Risks: Data revolution support development through provision of access of information from other countries and be able to use for improvement of their respective systems. For example, data can be used to research best practices or methodology of improving productivity, innovation, technology development. Furthermore, it saves resources as by avoiding reinventing the wheel.

iii).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?

Some of the relevant policies that Tanzania has are as follows:

1. National Research and Development (2010)

This policy emphasizes innovation and commercialization of research results which are key in bringing about economic growth while at the same time solving societal problems. The roles of R&D include; reviewing priorities from time to time so as to exploit indigenous knowledge and technology innovations, creative productions of sufficient levels and guarantees of intellectual ownership and right;

2. National Biotechnology Policy (2010)

This policy directs the establishment of Intellectual Property (IP) Rights on biotechnology inventions, innovations and services. The past decade has seen the establishment of a multitude of private investors and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) enterprises in Tanzania. However, most of these have indulged in importation of goods or industries that neither use locally available raw materials nor require research investments in Tanzania. This has denied collaboration with

public research institutions in the country with regard to technology development and commercialization of research results in the relevant sectors of the economy. Accordingly, a weak linkage exists between the public and private sectors. Any research innovation by the public sector with commercial value has thus been channeled to the government for commercialization. Encourage the private sector to invest and adopt scientific innovations from the public R&D institutions.

3. Science and Technology Policy 1996 (Under Review)

This policy directs that, in order to minimize technology dependence and for smooth and effective transfer of technology, emphasis should be laid on building and strengthening indigenous capacity in process and engineering design, spare parts and components manufacturing, standardization and quality control, packaging, technological information, technology transfer, contracts drafting and negotiation, including adaptation, Innovation, internalization and commercialization of technology. The liberalization policy has opened doors for technological competition between locally produced and imported products. Oftentimes imported products appear to be of better quality and cheaper than the indigenously developed products. Support must, therefore, be provided through fiscal and other measures for a limited period with the view to promoting innovation, inventions, and increase the use of indigenously developed technology and to enhance inhouse research and development in industry.

4. National Information and Communications Technology Policy 2016 (Under Review)

This policy has an objective to accelerate socio-economic development with potentials to transform Tanzania into ICT driven middle-income economy and society

5. Cybercrimes Act, 2015

Makes provisions for criminalizing offences related to computer systems and Information Communication Technologies; to provide for investigation, collection, and use of electronic evidence and for matters related therewith.

6. The Personal Data Protection Act, 2022

Objectives of the Act: To regulate the collection and processing of personal data; (b) ensure that the collection and processing of personal data of a data subject is guided

by the principles set out in this Act; (c) protect the privacy of individuals; (d) establish a legal and institutional mechanism to protect personal data; and (e) provide data subjects with rights and remedies to protect their personal data from collection and processing that is not in accordance with this Act.

7. The Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority Act, 2003

An Act to establish the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority for the purpose of regulation of telecommunications, broadcasting, postal services; to provide for allocation and management of radio spectrum, covering electronic technologies and other Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) applications and to provide for its operation in place of former authorities and for related matters.

8. Universal Communications Services Access Act, 2006

An Act to establish the Universal Communications Services Access Fund for enabling accessibility and participation by communication operators in the provision of communication services, with a view to promoting social, education and economic development of the rural and urban underserved areas.

9. The Access to Information Act 2016

An act to provide access to information, define scope of information which the public has the right to access, promoting transparency and accountability.

iv). 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?

CSTD should support and enhance the collaboration between countries in attaining data and sharing data for social and economic development. Should play a role of Guidance. Facilitate programmes which will increase and create conducive environment for countries to collaborate. Organizing regional or global discussion forums on ensuring common and conducive legal and regulatory frameworks, data governance in order to facilitate smooth cross border data sharing. Maintaining a unified global digital space, data protection for privacy and respect of human rights.

Contact person(s) responsible for projects / policies and international collaboration in this context in case of clarification is needed on the inputs are: Dr Alexander Mtawa (alexander.mtawa@moe.go.tz) and Tabitha Etutu (tabitha.etutu@moe.go.tz)

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 **31st August 2023**. We look forward to receiving your valuable inputs.

Sincere regards,
CSTD secretariat