

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

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

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

Statement submitted by

The Gambia

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**THE EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA TO THE SWISS CONFEDERATION AND THE  
PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE,  
WTO AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS IN GENEVA**

**THE GAMBIA INTERVENTION: PRIORITY THEME 1: – DATA FOR  
DEVELOPMENT - CSTD INTERSESSESIONAL PANEL, 6 TO 7 NOVEMBER 2023**

Thank you chair.

The Gambia congratulates UNCTAD and CSTD Secretariat for putting together the CSTD intersectional panel in Lisbon.

Our delegation also sincerely expresses our gratitude to Portugal the host, for the wonderful logistics put at our disposal.

The Gambia values timely availability and reporting of data in line with its government procedures and institutions. However, we are greatly concern about the funding challenges as well as the skills capacity gaps in data governance and ICT resources.

The Government of the Gambia has developed an open data strategy 2023-2026 to ensure available data within government are open, sharable and re-use by those who need it, more so to address the SDG and related issues. In addition, a data protection and privacy policy & strategy has been developed and adopted by the Government of The Gambia in 2019 spearheaded by the Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy and accompanied by a Data Protection & Privacy Bill will soon become law and the Information and Communication (IC) Act of 2009 has some strong provisions related to Data Protection & Privacy.

The Gambia can leverage data for better policymaking, identifying vulnerable populations, monitoring climate change crisis and tracking progress toward SDGs to ensure that no one is left behind.

The Gambia supports the call for international cooperation, south-south cooperation in favour of development countries and LDCs so that these countries can realise the crucial role of data



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in monitoring and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to address the associated risks including privacy concerns, data security, and unequal data access.

The Gambia supports the work of the CSTD and encourages them to increase technical assistance to build capacities of developing member states in data development and management including development of ICT systems, provide coordination support, ensure sectoral linkages are established.

The CSTD to continue in its facilitation role in aligning global efforts with national data strategies and the Global Digital Compact, ensuring that data for development is a central focus and given due consideration at national, regional and global levels, as well as knowledge sharing, best practices, and capacity-building for data-related issues and funding for STI is made available.

The Gambia sincerely commends the panellists for their insightful presentations and request them to share more insights on the kind of strategic policies which the developing countries can adopt to ensure accurate data collection, dissemination and utilization for our development objectives.

I Thank you