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ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (CSTD)**

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

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**Statement of the Ministry of Industry and Technology of the  
Republic of Türkiye-Theme 1 “Data for Development”  
(06.11.2023)**

**Mr. Vice Chair,**

**Distinguished Delegates,**

I would like to thank the Secretariat and the Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education of Portugal for organizing and hosting this excellent meeting.

We are all aware of the inevitable and rapid nature of digital transformation.

In rapidly changing world, the importance of data in driving progress and development cannot be ignored.

Data empowers us to better understand our world, identify problems, and create effective solutions. In the context of development, data can be a game-changer.

The SDGs are one of the most significant global initiatives where data plays a pivotal role. These 17 goals, with 169 associated targets, aim to address global challenges. Data is at the heart of tracking progress toward these goals.

To achieve the SDGs and broader and inclusive development objectives, we need accurate, timely, and relevant data. This data

can be collected through a variety of sources. However, collecting data is just the first step. It must be properly analyzed and interpreted to yield insights that inform policies and actions.

Data empowers policymakers, NGOs, and businesses to make informed decisions. It allows us to allocate resources more efficiently, identify areas that need attention, and measure the impact of interventions.

While the potential of data for development is immense, it's not without its challenges. Privacy concerns, data security, and the risk of bias in data collection and analysis are important issues that must be addressed. As we utilize data for development, it's crucial to do so ethically and responsibly. To minimize such risks, I believe, we need international, multi-stakeholder, and nuanced efforts.

Thank you.