

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

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Contribution by WIPO

**to the CSTD 2024-2025 priority theme on “Diversifying economies in a world of
accelerated digitalization”**

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PRIORITY THEME 1: Diversifying economies in a world of accelerated digitalization

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

To whom it may concern

The [27th CSTD annual session](#) selected “Diversifying economies in a world of accelerated digitalization” as one of the priority themes for its 28th session (2024-25 period). This theme directly addresses SDG 9 “Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation” at the 2030 Agenda.

Although the contribution of science, technology and innovation (STI) to the achievement of other sustainable development goals (SDGs) is discussed in every session of the CSTD, its role in upgrading and diversifying industrial capabilities and the linkages with industrial policies have not been specifically addressed for several years in the Commission. Economic diversification, including through the upgrading of industrial capabilities, is an essential component of economic development and a key area of SDG 9, which aims at enhancing scientific research and accelerating technological upgrade of industries through innovation, particularly in developing countries.

Under this priority theme the Commission could discuss challenges and opportunities brought about the rise of new digital technologies, as Artificial Intelligence, for industrial and innovation policies aiming at increasing productive capacities and diversifying the industrial structure toward higher value productions to benefit all while preserving cultural identity, including indigenous knowledge. The accelerating pace at which frontier technologies emerge and develop makes policymakers struggle to navigate and design responsive policies. Under this theme, the Commission can examine the challenges and opportunities specific to countries at different level of development, and what can least developed countries do to face the disproportionate challenges they face; work to identify best practices and inform inclusive policies for innovation and economic diversification; discuss how to leverage international cooperation to guarantee that uneven technological capabilities will not worsen inequality.

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 2024 in Geneva. In this context, we would like to solicit inputs from international organizations, UN entities and agencies, and regional commissions on this theme. We would be grateful if you could kindly answer the following questions based on your organization’s work at the global, regional, and/or national levels:

1. What are the specific challenges developing countries face to develop or adapt frontier technologies and AI?
 - Since 2019, WIPO has been working on identifying challenges developing countries face in relation to AI and other frontier technologies through WIPO Conversation, a global multi-stakeholder forum with almost 9,000 participants from 172 countries.
 - Issues discussed:
 - Policy measures in the field of IP to contribute to containing or reducing the technology gap in AI capacity
 - Cooperation mechanisms between countries of similar technological development in AI and IP.
 - Data inclusivity and access.
2. Can you provide successful examples of adoption or development of AI and other frontier technologies you contributed to?
 - To support both policymakers and innovators on the ground to leverage AI and IP, WIPO launched multiple projects by providing a mix of awareness raising, training and mentoring:
 - Intellectual Property (IP) and Artificial Intelligence (AI): Empowering AI Innovation in Latin America and the Caribbean: more than 700 participants trained from 26 countries.
 - Intellectual Property (IP) and Artificial Intelligence (AI): Agriculture 4.0 in ASEAN.
 - AI and IP Management Clinics in the Arab Region.
 - Developing resources to help innovators:
 - For example, Generative AI: Navigating Intellectual Property guide.

- Audience = everyone seeking to use GenAI as part of their organization and business.
 - Content = guidelines and checklists for assessing IP risks when using AI tools.
 - Developing toolkits and innovators:
 - For example, IP Policy Toolkit: Getting the innovation ecosystem ready for AI.
 - Audience = all Member States.
 - Content = practical actions to consider now, and in the future, to support local innovators and foster an environment conducive to AI innovation.
 - WIPO AI and ICT tools for IP Offices.
3. Can you provide examples of inclusive policies for innovation and economic diversification specifically tailored to diffusion of digital technologies and AI?
 - To provide policy guidance to its Member States in relation to digital technologies and AI, including digital inclusion, WIPO began the process of putting in place several global initiatives:
 - WIPO AI and IP Expert panel, a high-level group that will work on identifying the main priority touch points between AI and IP and prepare a report setting out recommendations regarding the identified priority topics.
 - A WIPO forum for technical, practical discussion on technical solutions for navigating the new regulatory requirements emerging in the AI space.
 4. Do you have examples policy instruments to favour the diffusion of frontier technologies in the economy targeting specific sectors?
 - Intellectual Property (IP) and Artificial Intelligence (AI): Empowering AI Innovation in Latin America and the Caribbean: training and capacity-building for more than 700 participants from 26 countries, including policymakers to help them establish policy instruments to favour the diffusion of frontier technologies and IP in their economies.
 5. Are you engaged in putting in place mechanisms to strengthen industrial capabilities through partnerships among different stakeholders (e.g., university-industry, or private-public)?
 - WIPO partnership with IP Offices to implement its capacity building projects on AI and IP and develop AI and ICT tools.
 - WIPO regularly engages in the UN, WSIS, IGF and WEF discussions.
 - ITU/WHO/WIPO Global Initiative on AI for Health where WIPO provides inputs on IP-related topics.
 6. How can international cooperation support the uptake of new technologies and the development of technological capabilities and ensure that industrial policies will benefit all and do not worsen inequality?
 - AI's promise will not automatically translate into economic growth and opportunity for all – it will take action by policymakers, the private sector and global community.
 - IP is a key in incentivizing AI innovation and driving it forward.
 - Capacity building and digitalization will propel technological progress.
 - Inclusion of data means digital inclusion.
 - Enable local language translation and improving local ecosystems.
 - Fair compensation for data.
 7. What can do the UN CSTD to support an economic transformation that enhances the productive capabilities of countries and foster an inclusive digital transformation?

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 **24 July 2024**. We look forward to receiving your valuable inputs.

Sincere regards,

CSTD secretariat