

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

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Contribution by Zambia

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

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1. Specific challenges Zambia faces in developing or adapting frontier technologies and AI:

1. Limited infrastructure (reliable electricity, internet connectivity)
2. Shortage of skilled professionals in AI and related fields
3. Inadequate funding for research and development
4. Lack of awareness and understanding of AI's potential benefits
5. Data scarcity and quality issues

2. Successful examples of AI and other frontier technologies uptake in Zambia:

1. Mobile money platforms for financial inclusion
2. AI-powered agricultural advisory services
3. Drones for medical supply delivery in remote areas

3. Inclusive policies for innovation and economic diversification tailored to digital technologies and AI:

1. National AI Policy (Strategy) in development
2. Digital transformation strategy
3. Initiatives to promote digital skills training

4. Policy instruments favoring frontier technology diffusion in the economy and targeting specific sectors:

1. Tax incentives for technology adoption
2. Regulatory sandboxes for AI experimentation
3. Public-private partnerships to promote innovation

5. Mechanisms to strengthen industrial capabilities through partnerships:

1. University-industry collaborations on research projects
2. Private-public partnerships for technology transfer
3. Support for startup incubators and accelerators

6. How international cooperation can support the uptake of new technologies and development of technological capabilities:

1. Technology transfer and knowledge sharing
2. Financial and technical assistance
3. Capacity building programs for researchers and policymakers

7. What the UN CSTD can do to support an economic transformation that enhances Zambia's productive capabilities and fosters an inclusive digital transformation:

1. Provide a platform for knowledge exchange and best practices sharing
2. Facilitate partnerships between Zambian stakeholders and international organizations
3. Advocate for increased investment in Zambia's technology and innovation ecosystem

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