

**UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
FOR DEVELOPMENT (CSTD), twenty-eighth session  
Geneva, 7-11 April 2025**

**Diversifying economies in a world of accelerated digitalization**

Statement by

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The Philippines

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**United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD)**  
Twenty-eighth Annual Session | 7-11 April 2025

**Panel on “Diversifying economies in a world of accelerated digitalization”**

(Monday) 7 April 2025 | 15:00-18:00 (Geneva time)

Room XIX, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

**PHILIPPINE STATEMENT**

To be delivered by

**LEAH J. BUENDIA, PH.D.**

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Department of Science and Technology  
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*Thank you, Madam Chair.*

*Excellencies, colleagues, distinguished panelists, good afternoon.*

We would like to thank the CSTD Secretariat and UNCTAD, for its work and effort in preparing the comprehensive report.

The Philippines, similar to the plight of other developing countries, also faces challenges in technology-led diversification and upgrading, specifically (i) in digital infrastructure due to limited connectivity and access to high-performance computing, (ii) in skills and education where there is a need for more professional experts to maximize the use and application of Industry 4.0 technologies, and lastly, (iii) in data security.

Nevertheless, we also see these as opportunities to further improve and harness the benefits of data, AI, and science, technology, and innovation in general. The Philippines has a publicly managed supercomputing facility called “COARE” or the Computing and Archiving Research Environment which provides High-Performance Computing, science cloud, and data archiving services to aid the science community in the country.

The Philippines further realizes that to optimize technological advancements, there needs to be capacity building programs that will upskill and reskill the Filipino workforce. Through initiatives like AI PINAS and Smarter Philippines through Data Analytics Research and Development, Training and Adoption (SPARTA), we have upskilled over 49,000 individuals in data science and AI, preparing the workforce for an AI-driven economy.

From 2018 to 2024, the country has also invested about 23 Million U.S. Dollars solely for AI R&D projects.

While education and capacity building are critical in this endeavor, we also believe that sufficient policy support could drive the nation forward. The Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028 emphasizes enhancing innovation and technological adoption across sectors. There is also a Philippine Innovation Act which aims to foster innovation as a vital component of national development and sustainable economic growth.

Under the Philippines' AI R&D Framework 2019-2029, the country focuses on four investment pillars which are in national infrastructure, talent development, research and data, and policies and stakeholders' engagement for the conduct of gap assessment. The Philippines has various initiatives that aim to provide AI as a service for government agencies, local industries, and researchers—democratizing access to AI infrastructure, resources, and expertise.

As we move forward, we value knowledge sharing through international cooperation. The CSTD is a great avenue for collective action. We must continue to put in place inclusive STI policies where all countries, especially the developing and least developed ones, reap the benefits of innovation. This is also where the multi-stakeholder Working Group on Data Governance established under this Commission would greatly help. Excellencies and colleagues, we hope we could further invest in our people, in our infrastructure, and in technical cooperation as we gear towards achieving sustainable development.

Thank you.

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Time limit: 3 minutes