

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

**The role of science, technology, and innovation in advancing sustainable,  
inclusive, science-and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda for  
Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for leaving  
no one behind**

Statement by

H.E. Ms. Nilsa Sandra Miquidade  
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Communications and Digital Transformation  
Mozambique

DISCLAIMER: The views presented here are the contributors' and do not necessarily reflect the views and position of the United Nations or the UN Trade and Development.



**Republic of Mozambique**  
**Ministry of Communications and Digital Transformation**  
**(MCTD)**  
**Office of the Minister**

**INTERVENTION NOTES BY THE HONORABLE PERMANENT  
SECRETARY OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND  
DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION**

**ENG. NILSA SANDRA MIQUIDADE**

**ON THE OCCASION OF PARTICIPATION IN THE ROUND TABLE OF THE 28TH  
UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR  
DEVELOPMENT (CSTD)**

**Location:** Swiss Confederation, City of Geneva

**Geneva, April 2025**

**Excellencies;**

**Distinguished Dignitaries;**

**Ladies and Gentlemen.**

1. It is with great honor that Mozambique participates in this round table, represented by me, Nilsa Sandra Miquidade, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Communications and Digital Transformation (MCTD), one of the new ministerial portfolios created in this 2025-2029 governance cycle;
2. Mozambique's participation in this Round Table of the 28th United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) is of special importance, at a time when the world faces geopolitical, technological and economic challenges that have a direct impact on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, that is, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
3. Mozambique has invested significantly in promoting Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) as catalysts for sustainable development. Our National Science, Technology and

Innovation Policy and Strategy highlights Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) as a transversal axis to solve social and economic challenges. We are currently preparing the National Digital Transformation Strategy and the National Artificial Intelligence Strategy, which will leverage emerging technologies to boost education, health, agriculture, energy, tourism, mitigation of the effects of climate change, among others;

4. To ensure that the digital dimension is duly integrated into national strategic planning, the Ministry of Communications and Digital Transformation (MCTD) has been working to include digital technologies as fundamental elements in programmatic governance instruments, such as in the ongoing process of reviewing ENDE 2025-2044 (National Development Strategy 2025-2044) and in the approval of the Government's Five-Year Program for 2025-2029. This integration aims to maximize the impact of digital solutions in the daily lives of our society, especially in education, health and natural resource management, among other priority areas for economic and social development.

## **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

5. Mozambique has demonstrated a significant commitment to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The country has aligned the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with its national economic and social management instruments, integrating them into national plans and policies to ensure effective implementation;
6. In this order, in 2020, Mozambique presented its first Voluntary National Review (VNR), highlighting progress in several areas:
  - **Health and Education:** Improvements in health and education indicators have been recorded, including reduced malnutrition and increased literacy rates; and
  - **Poverty Reduction:** Policies have been implemented to reduce poverty and social inequalities, although significant challenges remain;
7. However, the country faces considerable challenges that affect the implementation of the SDGs, such as:

- **Climate Vulnerability:** Extreme climate events have negatively impacted sustainable development;
- **COVID-19 pandemic:** The pandemic has further weakened the already fragile health system and increased the proportion of people in poverty due to health expenditures; and
- **Armed Conflicts:** Armed attacks in some provinces of the country have disrupted the normal implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

8. To accelerate progress towards the 2030 SDGs, Mozambique has invested in:

- **Natural Resource Exploration:** Structural projects, such as oil and gas exploration in the Rovuma Basin, aim to boost sustainable economic growth;
- **Modernization of Agriculture:** Efforts to increase agricultural productivity and consolidate family farming are underway; and
- **Industrialization:** Initiatives to foster entrepreneurship and create jobs for young people, improving the business environment to attract investment.

## **Excellencies,**

9. Continued collaboration between the Government, civil society, the private sector and international partners is essential to overcome challenges and ensure that Mozambique advances in a sustainable and inclusive manner in implementing the 2030 Agenda;
10. As an image, in our country, the National Company of Science and Technology Parks, a Public Company (ENPCT,EP), has played a vital role in promoting innovation and digital entrepreneurship. Science and Technology Parks have served as centers of excellence for the development of digital solutions applied to agriculture, energy and tourism, as well as for the training of young entrepreneurs and technology startups;
11. Mozambique currently aims to increase its investment in Research and Development (R&D) from the current 0.3% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to at least 1% of GDP, as set by the African Union in 2007. In doing so, Mozambique aims to increase its national scientific and technological strength;

12. This strength can, in turn, lead to the production of innovative products and services, with the potential to grow and strengthen the national economy. Furthermore, Mozambique's objective is based on the premise that it is widely accepted that R&D capacity alone can lead to the diffusion of knowledge, the absorption of technology, and the transfer of skills and knowledge necessary for accelerated growth and development;
13. As a recommendation, Mozambique calls for strengthening international cooperation to promote digital inclusion and equitable access to emerging technologies. We also propose that the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) continue to support initiatives that encourage evidence-based policymaking and the creation of strategic partnerships to scale up the impact of STI solutions in achieving SDGs 5 (**Gender Equality**), 8 (**Decent Work and Economic Growth**) and 17 (**Partnerships and Means of Implementation**);
14. In closing, we reaffirm our commitment to using STI to transform Mozambique into a digitally inclusive and



innovative country, capable of generating sustainable solutions to global challenges.;

15. Thank you very much for your attention.

**Maputo, April 7, 2025**