



**Statement of the Kingdom of Morocco
68th session of the TDB
Geneva, 23 June 2021
Item 5 : Technology and Innovation Report 2021**

**Madame President, (Ambassador Tarichi)
Mme Isabelle Durant, the Acting Secretary-General of UNCTAD,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,**

At the outset, my delegation wish to commend the Secretariat, particularly the team in charge of the report within the Division on Technology and Logistics, for the informative publication that has been made available to us.

We would like to thank Madame Shamika for presenting the report and our able panelists for their presentations.

Madame President;

Indeed, the Technology and Innovation Report 2021 entitled “catching technological waves Innovation with equity” examines the likelihood of frontier technologies widening existing inequalities and creating new ones. It also addresses the national and international policies, instruments and institutional reforms that are needed to create a more equal world of opportunity for all, leaving no one behind.

It urges all developing nations to prepare for a period of deep and rapid technological change that will profoundly affect markets and societies. All countries will need to pursue science, technology and innovation policies appropriate to their development stage and economic, social and environmental conditions.

Madame President;

The Technology and Innovative Report highlights several gaps/challenges, which I won't state here to avoid repetition. Thus, going forward, and in agreement, with the conclusions in this report, my delegation would like to add the following elements:

Frontier technology offers great opportunities for those ready to catch this technological wave. But many countries, especially the least developed countries, are unprepared to equitably use, adopt and adapt to the ongoing technological revolution. This could have serious implications for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Science, Technology and Innovation will play a pivotal role towards the realization of Agenda 2030 in this connection it is important to close the divide in technological capabilities between developed and developing countries to reap the potential benefits of frontier technologies.

To take full profit from the current technological revolution it is imperative to call for strengthened international cooperation to build innovation capacities in developing countries, facilitate technology transfer, increase women's participation in digital sectors, conduct technological assessments and promote an inclusive debate on the impact of this issue on sustainable development.

Developed countries that have advanced in this sector as well as the international community at large are encouraged to provide a platform for the promotion of technology transfer, capacity building, sharing of experiences and structural transformation policies that will propel countries in need to grow from not only being technology consumers but developers as well.

Madame President;

Let me turn to what Morocco is doing in this regard.

Two weeks ago, Morocco adopted a New Development Model that will reshape the way our nation conceptualizes plans for its own future. This New Development Model is a result of large-scale comprehensive national dialogue that aims to tackle contemporary and future challenges. Under the leadership of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, the creation of the New Development Model involved extensive, honest and frank engagement with various sectors of our society.

This New development model calls for modernizing the country's administration in terms of skills and methods and to leverage digital solutions to accelerate the change needed.

One of its conclusion is that digital technology is an essential driver of change and development and that Morocco can aim to be a digital Nation by 2025. Indeed, digital technology is likely to unlock energies, increase trust between the citizen and the State, curb corruption and promote economic, social and territorial inclusion.

In the context of South-South Cooperation, Morocco is open to a strong cooperation with countries particularly with LDCs wishing to take stock of the Moroccan experience in the frontier technology

Madame President;

In conclusion, I would like to end on commendable note by thanking UNCTAD for continuously providing a platform for policy dialogue, experience sharing and more importantly for the support extended to number of developing countries in the due course of conducting their respective STIP reviews, placing STI and its associated cross cutting nature at the center of their National Development Plans towards the realization of the Agenda 2030.

I thank you