



UNCTAD Statement at the occasion of the Member States and Stakeholders Briefing on the 2025 STI Forum

3 March 2025 in CR2 at UNHQ NY

Co–chairs of the 2025 STI Forum Permanent Representatives of Morocco and Finland,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

As the co–convener of the UN Inter–agency Task Team on STI for the SDGs (IATT), alongside DESA, UNCTAD is committed to ensuring a successful organization and outcome of the forthcoming STI Forum.

This year is particularly significant as we mark the 10th anniversary of the STI Forum, which has provided a critical space for discussion, networking, and knowledge exchange.

This year also aligns with several other key milestones, including the WSIS+20 review and the first year of implementation of the Global Digital Compact.

These anniversaries, which reflect both new and existing processes, illustrate the increasingly important role of science, technology and innovation in shaping our world and our global development agenda.

For decades, technology transfer has been a catalyst for economic transformation, trade expansion, and investment growth, ensuring that technological advancements benefit all nations rather than a select few. History offers countless examples of technology serving as a driver for growth, helping lift millions out of poverty.

Today, more than ever, we need technology to reach those who need it most. However, existing technology transfer mechanisms are simply not working as they should.

This underscores the urgent need for complementary, dedicated policy spaces that can support long-term decision-making on technology transfer.

We should consider that this is a complex agenda that requires multidimensional action and should look to advance our agenda by aligning and leveraging existing efforts.

For example, the FFD4 offers an important opportunity to overcome some of the barriers that developing countries face in accessing technology and the inconsistency that we see between the importance of technology as a driver of development and the means allocated to it in international development funding.

At UNCTAD, we are placing technology and the digital economy at the center of our upcoming Ministerial Conference to be held in October. The Commission on Science and Technology for Development that UNCTAD supports also continues to be a central piece of finding consensus on solutions to put STI to the service of development.

All in all, it is paramount that discussions move beyond short-term exchanges of ideas and toward concrete, long-term policy actions in a coordinated manner and as a matter of priority.

We must also elevate technology as a core pillar of global economic governance. Technology is no longer just an enabler—it is a defining factor in shaping trade, investment, and industrial policies.

As we commemorate a decade of this forum, let us push for tangible policy frameworks that ensure technology delivers on its promise. UNCTAD remains ready to work alongside all stakeholders to advance this agenda and foster a future where a breakthrough in one part of the world is a breakthrough for all—technology must be shared, not siloed.

I thank you.