

Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation, Fourth Session

30 August – 1 September 2022

Agenda 4: Fourth industrial revolution technologies for sustainable development

U.S.A. - Country statement

- The United States strongly supports responsible innovation that promotes economic growth. A truly successful digital age depends on vibrant competition and innovation that produces sustainable and inclusive development.
- Critical and emerging technologies have fueled economic growth, created new ways to express views and access information, enabled social progress, and have given people better tools to participate in public debate and determine their own futures.
- There is no better place or time than a forum on emerging technologies for development to renew a commitment to global cooperation, rooted in inclusivity, multi-stakeholder engagement, and respect for the international rule-based order.
- Our goal is clear: to build strong networks – of countries, companies, and universities, connected by shared values and a shared commitment to conduct science, to design and deploy technology for the benefit of all people, to strengthen open and interoperable systems, and to encourage freedom of thought and expression, which is at the heart of science, technology, and innovation, and of course, democratic values and principles.
- We applaud efforts to promote multi-stakeholder approaches to the development and responsible use of emerging technologies, including voluntary collaborations with private industry.
 - Examples of such collaboration include Google.org’s funding of ESCAP and Association of Pacific Rim Universities’ research projects in AI for Social Good, which has funded researchers at Australian National University and the National University of Singapore to assist Thailand with Poverty Alleviation and Medicine and Healthcare applications.
- Regional Technology Banks: The United States takes note of comments in the Secretariat Note regarding the “Fourth Industrial Revolution technologies for Sustainable Development” relating to intellectual property, including the statement that “new models of IP management and policies can help to enhance access to fourth industrial revolution technologies in developing countries” and that “it may be useful to explore the development of regional technology banks that can be repositories of technological breakthroughs and developments related to fourth industrial revolution technologies.”
- The effective protection of intellectual property is essential to innovation, entrepreneurship, and economic growth. Participation in “new models” of IP management, including exploration of “regional technology banks” should be done on a voluntary basis and on mutually agreed terms.