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Artemisa Montes, OMEC-México/LATINDADD on behalf of the CS FfD Mechanism Intervention delivered at the Science, technology, innovation and capacity building segment

Thank you Chair, I speak on behalf of the OMEC-México/LATINDADD, and the CS FfD Mechanism.

In para 58, we highlight that the full potential of STI is constrained by persistent inequality in skills, innovation and technology access, particularly for women, youth and marginalised communities, and more so across the urban-rural divide, further underscoring the role of inadequate global digital cooperation in impeding the development and use of technologies such as fintech, femtech, and production technologies. We also call attention to the exacerbation by unregulated technological advances of race and gender inequality, including the gender-digital divide and technology facilitated gender-based violence and hindering inclusivity for people with disabilities. We reiterate the role of coordinated national and international governance in enabling context-appropriate digital industrialization pathways, and encouraging public digital innovation, including that which prioritises gender-responsive approaches, and addresses the specific needs of women and girls in all their diversities. All of this will enable harnessing the full potential of digital technology in achieving financial inclusion, financial health, and bridging the digital divide for marginalized groups, particularly women, youth, persons with disabilities, and senior citizens.

Technological advances for sustainable development

In para 59, we call for a rights-enabling, and participatory STI policy and enhancing national innovation systems for inclusive and equitable outcomes. Public scrutiny and oversight of technology and fundamental rights impact assessments must be incorporated into policy frameworks, with strengthened regulation to ensure achieving sustainable development and fulfilment of human rights. Further, we call for digital inclusion to be reflected in public procurement, particularly concerning the compliance with standards of digital inclusion of persons with disabilities.

- In 59a and e., We call for all potential technological innovations to be rights-respecting and centre maximising public value along with achieving and sustainable development goals as their objective;
- As regards governance,This section has no reference to the democratic deficit in the global governance of STI. It is largely reduced to the idea of riding on the wave of the data and AI revolution, a puzzling move in the current context that demands a holistic, coordinated response to the twin digital and climate transition. This is why we propose in

59 to include the following language:j., we reiterate the call to establish an intergovernmental, inclusive, transparent and participatory global mechanism at the UN for the evaluation of new and emerging technologies, inter alia artificial intelligence, and their actual and potential impacts on society, economy, environment and the climate, including an assessment of the major obstacles that hamper international diffusion of technologies for the SDGs, especially green technologies;

- In line with this, in 59g., with regards to increased cooperation in the STI ecosystem, we recommend adding digital public infrastructure, and accessible and open-source technology, education,research and development that ensures access to countries in need with appropriate guardrails for eliminating harm and maximising benefit sharing;
- Further, in 59b., we call for competition laws to be strengthened and adapted to the data and AI governance as well, to enable a human rights-oriented, fair, accessible and inclusive environment for innovation and technological development, and deepened international cooperation between authorities, including tax, and data protection authorities and other data and AI governance bodies;
- In 59c., as regards further agreements on technology transfer, we recommend the non-market route, for inclusive and equitable innovation, and knowledge and benefit sharing to democratize the benefits of innovation
- In 59f., we welcome the promotion of equitable access to AI infrastructural capabilities and call for establishing a regulatory ecosystem that promotes human rights-respecting, safe, secure, inclusive, accessible and trustworthy AI systems;

Digital divides

In para 60, the Zero Draft rightly identifies the impact of the lack of essential digital infrastructure on digital divides, and in addition to gender, we recommend adding markers of race and disability shaping digital divides as well. We also reiterate that, evidentially, wherever the profit incentive does not work, such as in rural, remote settings, the market will not close the access gap. This is why we call for the addition and reinforcement in the text of the crucial need for reassessing appropriate governance frameworks for scaling up public investment in order to effectively bridge intersectional digital divides and achieve universal, affordable and meaningful connectivity, along with creating enabling environments for complementary connectivity solutions.

- To that end, in para 60a., we specifically call for building capacities for infrastructural design and governance to realise inclusive digital public infrastructure;
- And in para 60c., invite countries to include projects on good practices in ethical and rights-respecting digital innovation at the SDG Investment Fair.

Digital technology for financial inclusion and financial health

In para 61., in order to effectively realise the full potential of fintech, we recommend adding that technology access, financial and digital literacy skills, infrastructure and regulatory frameworks be made available for all, particularly marginalized groups, such as persons with disabilities, and that transnational corporations are effectively held accountable for individual and collective harm stemming from business practices in cross-border fintech value chains, in accordance with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

- In para 61a., we strongly reiterate that any attempts to create enabling domestic environments for development of digital financial services are based on human rights due diligence requirements, and accountability and reparation mechanisms to effectively manage the opportunities and risks of new technologies;

- In 61b., we reiterate the crucial addition of persons with disabilities in the identified segments of society for digital literacy programs, for such programs to be rights based and mainstreamed into adult literacy and life-long learning education initiatives as well;
- In para 61c., we highlight the need to preserve/avoid erosion of public banking infrastructure when considering exchange of knowledge, experiences and expertise on policy and regulatory frameworks at the FfD Forum;

In para 61d., in addition for AI governance principles to be safe, equitable and inclusive, urge that all principles uphold transparency and accountability, which also helps recognize and take measures to combat the ways that AI can replicate inherent biases, especially towards women and other marginalized groups.