Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) for the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4) Second Session, NY, 3-6 December, 2024

Mohammed Lotifi's on behalf of the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities, and the CS FfD Mechanism Intervention delivered at the Interactive Discussion 5: International Trade as an Engine for Development

5 December 2024

I am presenting on behalf of the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities and also represent the Civil Society FfD Mechanism.

The Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development is a crucial opportunity to strengthen science, technology, and innovation. We call for the following:

In closing the digital divide in support of financing for development, we must ensure gender and disability inclusion, specifically, inclusive digital infrastructure and accessible procurement for marginalized groups, especially persons with disabilities. International collaboration and initiatives on digital infrastructure financing should be inclusive, transparent, and publicly accountable.

We should invest in and deploy satellites and local network initiatives that provide safe and secure network coverage, including in hard to reach areas in support of the Global Digital Compact's commitment.

Education systems must ensure the right to education and provide free and open, accessible, inclusive, contextually relevant curricular and support high-quality digital education content. Governments must legislate and enforce effective regulatory measures for private sector providers to ensure the right to education and that education remains a public good.

In strengthening technology transfer, knowledge sharing and capacity strengthening, we must promote South-South sharing in STI, enable and support local innovations that respond to actual needs of people, utilize local capacities and sustainably use resources, and support development of endogenous technologies, particularly in developing countries and LDCs.

Ensure that new and emerging technologies do not lead to further depletion of resources and the destruction of the environment. Provide financing to local innovations including through direct access for communities to global and regional funds for STI and capacity building.

Enhance collaboration among the STI Forum and other international platforms, including the establishment of an inclusive, transparent, 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, including on marginalized groups such as persons with disabilities, the economy, the environment, and the climate.