The Permanent Mission
of the Kingdom of Morocco
to the United Nations

البعثة الدائمة
للمملكة المغربية لدى الأمم المتحـدة
نيويورك

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On behalf of the African Group

Preparatory Process of the Third International Conference on Financing for
Development
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Technology, innovation and capacity building

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Co-facilitators

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the African Group.

Science, Technology and Innovation are a multifunctional tools and enablers for achieving development goals. In Africa, particularly, achieving sustained growth, competitiveness and economic transformation will require investments in technologies and innovations in areas such as industrialization, agriculture, clean energy, education, health, water among others.

To develop and innovate, diffuse and adapt technologies for sustainable development, the following among other actions are needed.

At the national and regional levels:
- Mobilize resources for technical support in developing and implementing regional and national plans and priority programmes;
- Upgrade science laboratories and establish a world class STI infrastructure. This includes research facilities such as teaching labs, engineering labs, clinical trials and teaching hospitals, ICT infrastructure and equipment, innovation spaces, living labs, technology and prototyping centers etc;
- Establish a coordinated approach to creating the necessary critical mass of scientists, and computer engineers. The focus on human capacity development will be at both secondary and higher education levels (including TVETs) with the aim of popularizing science, technology, innovation and ICT research as potential career paths;

- Establish a Diaspora database, develop Intellectual networks, ensure mobilization through Virtual Participation and Create conditions to attract the intellectual Diasporas to Africa;
- Create new economic sectors, wider employment opportunities in the formal economy and commercialization of technologies with regional relevance and global potential;
- Development of National STI programmes by governments in consultation with all national and regional innovation stakeholders including public, private, education and research;
- Establish appropriate functional legal and regulatory systems that enable science, technology and innovation at the national and regional levels to promote the effective use of the IP systems as well as set intellectual property standards that reflect the needs of the African countries;
- Implement continental strategy like the AU Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa 2024 (STISA-2024), which places science, technology and innovation at the epicentre of Africa's social and economic development.

At the international level
- Address the crucial brain drain of African and encourage the establishment of appropriate mechanism, like diaspora network.
- Establish an innovation funds to support innovative enterprises in the early stages and during commercialization stage of the technology;
- Establish a facilitation mechanism to promote the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on concessional and preferential terms;
- Transfer appropriate technologies, to African countries, to build new industries at the national and regional level, such as the solar PV, and wind turbines;
- Establish an online platform to map existing technology facilitation initiatives, enhance international cooperation and promote networking and information sharing, knowledge transfer and technical assistance;
- Encourage north-south, south-south and triangular cooperation in sharing knowledge, skills, and expertise;
- As a matter of priority establish a Technology Bank for the LDCs;
- Ensure intellectual property regimes and the application of TRIPS flexibilities are fully consistent with sustainable development;
- Encourage United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes with technology-intensive mandates to further promote the development and diffusion of relevant technologies through their respective work programmes.

I thank you