

**Delegation from the Republic of Haiti**  
***Position Paper for the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization***

The topics before the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization are: Artificial Intelligence and the Rule of Law; and Strengthening Partnerships on Science, Technology, and Innovation for Sustainable Development. The Delegation of Haiti recognizes the urgent nature of both topics in both regional and international contexts and looks forward to collaborating with our fellow Member States in the upcoming conference.

**I. Artificial Intelligence and the Rule of Law**

The rapid innovation of Artificial Intelligence (AI) has alerted the world of what is poised to be a very useful technology in the near future. Despite risks to global power and the rule of law, few measures have been taken to effectively ensure the safe implementation of AI systems. Haiti recognizes that basic freedoms outlined in the 1948 *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (UDHR) have been on the periphery of the development of AI and strongly believes that the ideas in the 2021 *Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* set a precedent for the safe implementation of AI systems into human society.

The Delegation of Haiti strives to address the challenges and risks presented by developing AI technologies, and has reaffirmed its commitment to upholding the rule of law by joining the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence, an organization seeking to promote the responsible development and use of AI. The *Montreal Declaration for Responsible AI* highlights the necessity of diversity inclusion, respect for autonomy, and promoting the well-being of all sentient beings. One significant and successful method of creating capability with trust in AI systems has been the 2020 establishment of the SURGE Data Hub (SDH), which provides valuable human-centered data to be used by AI. The SDH has already improved data collection, enhanced data analysis, facilitated data sharing, and supported policy decisions, such as in Costa Rica, where the SDH supported its government in developing a monitoring and evaluation framework for its national COVID-19 response. Adhering to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 (peace, justice, and strong institutions) Haiti has also established a national AI strategy, aiming to harness the potential of AI while mitigating its potential risks and includes initiatives to improve AI education and promote ethical AI practices. Haiti believes that there is a need to address the digital divide, so that Least Developed Countries (LDCs) also have access to the benefits of AI, while not being unequally subjected to its risks. The United Nations has drafted several initiatives and bodies such as the Global Pulse Lab Network and the Global Centre for Digital Cooperation to foster the development and responsible use of AI. The international community has also adopted non-binding principles such as the G20 AI Principles, which promote the development and use of AI in a manner that respects human rights and the rule of law. Additionally, various international organizations have published guidelines and best practices for the responsible development and deployment of AI, such as the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) AI Principles and the European Union's *White Paper on Artificial Intelligence*.

The Delegation of Haiti urges Member States to develop guidelines and ethical principles for the development of AI, raise awareness among policy makers, and support research while encouraging international cooperation and providing technical assistance to governments through effective, complementary, and multilateral initiatives. International initiatives like the Global Judges Initiative are essential to improving judicial systems, particularly those in developing countries. Haiti recommends expanding access to justice through the use and careful implementation of AI, and enhancing transparency in their AI systems. Haiti also urges the international community to adopt the SDH to strengthen and integrate existing and new AI systems and to regulate AI in sensitive sectors while increasing transparency. These efforts aim to ensure that the development and use of AI align with international human rights norms and the rule of law, and to prevent potential negative impacts of AI on society. The Delegation of Haiti is dedicated to ensuring that the development of AI follows the rule of law and looks forward to working alongside Member States on upholding these fundamental rights in the global community.

## **II. Strengthening Partnerships on Science, Technology, and Innovation for Sustainable Development**

The digital divide gap exacerbates pre-existing inequalities and continually excludes marginalized communities that make up 3.7 billion people globally, with a large portion of that being women in developing countries. The Republic of Haiti stresses the importance of the international community to commit to developing partnerships that foster science, technology, and innovation (STI) for the advancement of SDG goals. Haiti believes that the strengthening of international cooperation, partnerships, and improved access to STI can bridge the gap between marginalized populations and ensure everyone has the resources and capabilities to achieve sustainable development.

Given the alarming rate that the technology sector is transforming, leaving marginalized populations and developing countries behind in achieving sustainable development needs to be addressed. Haiti recognizes the efforts of the international community in signing General Assembly (GA) resolution 72/242 *Impact of Rapid Technological Change on the Achievement of the 2017 Sustainable Development Goals*, which acknowledges the potential of technology to promote SDGs and the need to ensure technological advancements are made accessible to all countries. Haiti also reaffirms the commitments of The Forum of the Countries of Latin American and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development for holding their fourth meeting, *Building Forward Better: Action to strengthen the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, which has already improved access to technology through the mobilization of resources and enhancement of social protection. Used as a platform for the exchange of innovative approaches, the regional progression of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was analyzed and the harnessing of technology to advance SDGs was discussed. Haiti believes that, in regard to SDG 17 (partnerships for the goals), the enhancement of North-South and South-South cooperation to access science, technology, and innovation is increasingly necessary. Haiti also recognizes the efforts of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) in its 2022 report *Innovation Science, and Technology Sector Framework Document*, which outlined a strategic approach for incorporating STI into Latin America and the Caribbean. Addressing concerns surrounding the SDGs is necessary, and the Republic of Haiti has been a member state to the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) to promote regional cooperation since its establishment in 1994. The 2022-2028 Plan of Action of the ACS outlines a framework for strengthening institutions and regional governance, promoting innovation, and supporting technological development. The unification of the Greater Caribbean to build strategic partnerships, mobilize resources, and ensure that STI services are available are also supported in the plan of action. The 2007 report from CARICOM *Regional Policy Framework for Science, Technology, and Innovation*, provides key strategies to promote the development of STI, foster innovation, and transfer knowledge and skills. The establishment of partnerships and regional cooperation is provided in the framework, to facilitate the exchange of resources and knowledge.

With inclusivity and resiliency in mind, the Republic of Haiti believes that the international community can achieve the SDGs with cooperation and partnerships in STI's. Haiti encourages Member States to enhance and implement digital literacy programs and offer specialized training and courses in STI fields. In addition to this, Haiti firmly believes that Member States should help build digital literacy with younger generations and ensure school systems have the capacity and resources to instill new curriculum, especially in rapidly developing technological sectors. Since digital literacy is prominent in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Haiti strongly urges Member States to encourage their youth to pursue a career in STI fields, an effort that has proven to help enhance digital literacy. By expanding educational partnerships with local education systems such as universities and other higher education institutions, Member States can increase their digital inclusion. The Republic of Haiti also firmly encourages Member States to improve access to technology by promoting and investing in digital infrastructure and providing widespread access to high-speed internet networks. The partnership amongst local and regional Internet Service Providers can provide communities with free access to Wi-Fi and digital devices in public spaces. This partnership can also be improved to expand access to internet infrastructure in the most remote and rural areas. The Republic of Haiti is resolute in working alongside other Member States in strengthening partnerships to achieve a sustainably developed future through science, technology, and innovation.