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**Matters related to the implementation of the Convention:
round-table discussions**

International cooperation to promote technology innovations and transfer for an inclusive future

Note by the Secretariat

The present note was prepared by the Secretariat, guided by the Bureau of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and in consultation with United Nations entities, representatives of civil society and other relevant stakeholders, to facilitate the round-table discussion on the theme “International cooperation to promote technology innovations and transfer for an inclusive future”. It begins with a brief introduction of the topic, continuing with a review of relevant international normative frameworks and initiatives concerning international cooperation to promote technology innovations and transfer for the inclusion of persons with disabilities. The note then provides an overview of existing challenges and gaps in this field, including in the areas of standardization and cooperation, monitoring and oversight mechanisms, regulatory frameworks and technological advancements. It concludes with the identification of areas of intervention to reinforce global cooperation and bridge the gap between policy and practice in order to ensure that technology development and transfer mechanisms are inclusive, ethical and accessible. The Secretariat hereby transmits the note, as approved by the Bureau of the Conference, to the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities at its seventeenth session.

* [CRPD/CSP/2024/1](#).



I. Introduction

1. The forthcoming Summit of the Future, to be held on 22 and 23 September 2024, will represent a pivotal opportunity to bolster cooperation on critical challenges and advance a revitalized multilateral framework poised to enhance the well-being of individuals. In view of this important event, the seventeenth session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities will engage States parties and other stakeholders in a round-table discussion focusing on the enhancement of international cooperation to promote technology innovations and transfer towards the social inclusion and empowerment of individuals with disabilities. In this context, the round-table discussion could explore various aspects of international transfer of technology with a disability-inclusive lens.

2. The round table presents an important opportunity to facilitate cross-sectoral discussions concerning international cooperation for disability rights and technology. It is aimed at highlighting crucial challenges and opportunities, sharing experiences and successful approaches and suggesting strategies to enhance international cooperation to advance disability rights within the realms of innovation and technology. The present document provides the background for the round-table discussions. It provides an overview of current international normative frameworks, mechanisms and initiatives, identifies key challenges and opportunities and explores strategies on the way forward to promote international cooperation to further advance disability rights in the sphere of innovation and technology.

3. Technological advancements have the power to significantly enhance inclusivity for, and the empowerment of, individuals with disabilities by providing access to essential services, improving communication and mobility and fostering greater participation in society. Assistive technologies, such as screen readers for persons with visual impairments and adaptive keyboards for individuals with mobility impairments, help individuals with disabilities to perform tasks that might otherwise be challenging or impossible. The proliferation of accessible forms of information and communications technology (ICT), such as education technology (known as “edtech”) tools and platforms, accessible websites and mobile applications, communication apps for individuals with hearing or speech impairments, telemedicine and smart city initiatives, has revolutionized the way in which people with disabilities access information and communicate with others.

4. Artificial intelligence is at the forefront of emerging technologies that are reshaping human interactions and has the potential to significantly enhance disability inclusion by providing innovative solutions to accessibility challenges across various domains. In one report, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development identified 142 examples of artificial intelligence-powered solutions that could support persons with disabilities in the labour market. Artificial intelligence is integral to these solutions, over 75 per cent of which are dependent on artificial intelligence technologies.¹ Artificial intelligence-driven technologies, such as smart home technologies and wearable devices, speech recognition and natural language processing, can be crucial in supporting access to resources that empower individuals with disabilities to live more independently and autonomously. Through appliances such as artificial intelligence-powered adaptive learning platforms and virtual assistants that help individuals with cognitive disabilities to manage their medication schedules and communicate with health-care providers, artificial intelligence can provide education and health-care solutions for individuals with disabilities. It can also be strategic in streamlining accessibility testing and compliance processes by

¹ Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Developing (OECD), “Using AI to support people with disability in the labour market”, OECD Artificial Intelligence Papers No. 7, November 2023.

automating the evaluation of digital content and applications: artificial intelligence-driven tools can scan websites, mobile apps and other digital content to identify accessibility issues and offer recommendations for remediation. This helps developers and content creators in ensuring that their products are accessible to individuals with disabilities from the design phase to technology upgrades.

5. Successful transfers of these technologies to various countries require collaboration between Governments, international organizations, academic institutions and industry stakeholders to ensure that innovations are adapted to local contexts and address the specific needs of diverse populations. The complex nature and ethical implications associated with artificial intelligence technology underscore the need for collaboration among numerous stakeholders across international, regional and national levels and sectors. Enhancing global cooperation and solidarity, including through multilateralism, is essential for enabling equitable access to artificial intelligence technologies and tackling the challenges that they pose to the diversity and interconnectedness of cultures and ethical frameworks, as highlighted by the report by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) entitled *Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence*. This collaborative approach is crucial for mitigating the potential misuse of artificial intelligence while unlocking its full potential, in particular in the realm of development, and ensuring that national artificial intelligence strategies adhere to ethical principles.

II. Current status: international normative frameworks and initiatives

6. The existing international cooperation frameworks and initiatives highlight a consistent approach to enhancing technology innovation and transfer for the inclusion of persons with disabilities. They reflect a broad consensus on the importance of technology transfer in addressing global challenges such as climate change, public health and sustainable development. These initiatives are crucial for fostering innovation, supporting sustainable development and ensuring equitable access to technology across different regions of the world. They also emphasize the need for collaborative efforts, capacity-building and the equitable distribution of technology and knowledge to ensure that all countries can benefit from technological advancements. These efforts align with the commitment of the United Nations to empower populations in vulnerable situations through the responsible use of science, technology and innovation, ensuring that no one is left behind in the pursuit of sustainable development and shared prosperity. Within the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Sustainable Development Goal 17 on partnerships for the Goals promotes international and multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources to support the achievement of the Goals and therefore the inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities (target 17.16). Other Goals address more specific aspects. Goal 3 promotes access to assistive devices and technologies (target 3.8) and international cooperation (target 3.b), while Goal 4 stresses inclusive education through technology (target 4.a). Goal 9 promotes international technology transfer (target 9.a) and accessibility enhancements (target 9.c). In addition, Goal 10 targets equal access to resources, including technological advancements, for persons with disabilities (target 10.2) and encourages international development assistance and financial flows (target 10.b).

7. In the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, adopted in 2006, alongside other international normative frameworks, underscores the imperative of leveraging science, technology and innovation to empower persons with disabilities. In article 32 of the Convention, the

significance of international cooperation in enhancing access to, and the sharing of, accessible and assistive technologies is emphasized. This provision contains calls for collaborative efforts in research, the exchange of knowledge and the provision of technical and economic assistance to facilitate technology transfer. Furthermore, in article 9 States parties are mandated to ensure accessibility to the physical environment, transportation, information, communications technologies and systems for persons with disabilities, promoting their full and equal participation in society.

8. In the political declaration of the high-level meeting on universal health coverage, held in 2023, entitled “Universal health coverage: expanding our ambition for health and well-being in a post-COVID world”, the fundamental importance of universal health coverage, inclusive of access to assistive technology, was recognized across all the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda.

9. The political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, endorsed by the General Assembly in September 2023 in its resolution [78/1](#), contained a commitment to building capacities for inclusive participation in the digital economy and strong partnerships to bring technological innovations to all countries (see para. 38 (e) of the resolution). In addition, paragraph 38 (q) of the resolution included a commitment to increasing funding for Sustainable Development Goal-related research and innovation and building capacity in all regions to contribute to and benefit from such research. The political declaration also served to call attention to the need to increase the use of science and scientific evidence in policymaking, take action to enhance the ability of developing countries to benefit from science, technology and innovation and address the major structural impediments to accessing new and emerging technologies, including by scaling up the use of open science, affordable and open-source technology and research and development through, among other things, strengthened partnerships. With reference to artificial intelligence, it was also agreed that action should be taken to better realize its benefits and address its challenges.

10. In its resolutions 76.6 of 2023, 71.8 of 2018, 70.13 of 2017, 69.3 of 2016, 67.7 of 2014 and 66.4 of 2013, the World Health Assembly called on States members of the World Health Organization (WHO) to improve access to assistive technology for people in need. In particular, in the *Global Report on Assistive Technology*,² developed jointly in response to resolution 71.8, WHO and the United Nations Children’s Fund set out 10 recommendations for improving access to assistive technology, which in turn supports the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, including universal health coverage, and alignment with the Convention. In the tenth recommendation they affirmed that international cooperation to support efforts to improve access to assistive technology was essential to reducing inequality and progressively achieving universal access to assistive technology. They stated that access to assistive technology should be an integral part of international cooperation and must involve Governments, international or regional organizations, the private sector, civil society and user organizations. Areas such as research, policies, regulations, fair pricing, market shaping, product development, technology transfer, manufacturing, procurement, supply, service provision and human resources are outlined as areas for international cooperation.

11. Other frameworks provide principles and guidance that address the coordinated actions of Governments, organizations and stakeholders in ensuring that technology and innovation are accessible and inclusive for persons with disabilities. The World Summit on the Information Society emphasized the critical role of ICTs in global development. The Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda for the Information

² World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), *Global Report on Assistive Technology* (2022).

Society highlight the need to promote access to ICTs for all, including persons with disabilities, in order to foster inclusive societies; and the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions of 2005, while focused primarily on cultural diversity, serves also to acknowledge the importance of digital inclusion and the need for equitable access to cultural, educational and scientific resources, indirectly supporting the cause of technology transfer for disability inclusion. The challenge of access to information for people with visual impairments is specifically addressed in the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled of 2013, setting a precedent for considering disability rights in the context of intellectual property and technology transfer. The Connect 2020 Agenda for Global Telecommunication/ICT Development of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is aimed at an inclusive information society and contains targets for increasing access to ICTs and reducing the digital divide, with specific attention to persons with disabilities.

12. The call for international cooperation among different stakeholders to enhance access to technologies is referenced by the General Assembly in its resolutions [70/125](#) on the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society and [71/256](#), also known as the New Urban Agenda, and by ITU in its resolution 70 of 2022 on telecommunication and ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities and in articles 1 and 12 of the International Telecommunication Regulations of 2012. In resolution [77/150](#) on ICTs for sustainable development, the Assembly reaffirmed the commitment to bridging the digital divide between and within countries through an evolving understanding of accessibility for individuals with disabilities. The issue of standardization (ITU resolutions 18 and 44) and the promotion of financial cooperation to enhance access to technology for persons with disabilities are addressed in major international frameworks such as General Assembly resolution [69/313](#) on financing for development, also known as the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. Other frameworks, although not specific to individuals with disabilities, could be used to facilitate the free circulation of technologies related to the needs of persons with disabilities. In the UNESCO Agreement on the Importation of Educational, Scientific and Cultural Materials, also known as the Florence Agreement, for example, ratifiers are committed to not imposing customs duties on certain imported educational materials and scientific instruments and apparatus.

13. Beyond the normative framework, several international mechanisms and initiatives provide tools to foster international cooperation to ensure that technology and innovation are accessible, inclusive and beneficial for all individuals, regardless of their abilities. The Global Cooperation on Assistive Technology, a WHO initiative, seeks to improve access to assistive technologies for individuals with disabilities, in particular in low- and middle-income countries, by strengthening partnerships, promoting innovation and building capacity to address the unmet need for assistive devices worldwide. It includes over 2,500 members from 135 countries. The Global Initiative for Inclusive Information and Communication Technologies (G3ict) and the Global Disability Innovation Hub foster collaboration and knowledge exchange to address accessibility challenges. G3ict works to facilitate the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by promoting accessible and assistive technologies and engages with Governments, industry leaders and advocacy groups to develop policies, standards and strategies for the deployment of accessible ICT solutions worldwide. Global Innovation Exchange is an online platform that connects innovators, entrepreneurs and organizations working on solutions for individuals with disabilities. Through collaboration and knowledge-sharing, the platform facilitates the transfer of innovative technologies and practices across borders, helping to address logistical barriers and promote inclusive innovation worldwide. The African Union-European Union Innovation Agenda, adopted in 2023,

is aimed at enhancing innovative capacities among European and African researchers by fostering a sustainable research and innovation cooperation model. It addresses disability inclusion by promoting relevant research and ensuring empowerment and entrepreneurship opportunities for individuals with disabilities throughout research and innovation processes. Specific international projects are aimed at promoting accessibility to various forms of publications to individuals with disabilities. The World Intellectual Property Organization Books Consortium (ABC), for example, seeks to increase the availability of books in accessible formats for individuals with print disabilities and facilitates international cooperation among publishers, libraries and organizations representing persons with disabilities to ensure the timely exchange of accessible content across borders. Furthermore, the ITU Accessible Digital Office Document project is aimed at enhancing the accessibility of digital documents for individuals with disabilities. By developing technical guidelines and training materials, the initiative helps Governments and organizations to improve the accessibility of their digital content, thus facilitating the exchange of information across borders. The Global Action on Disability Network, established in 2015, is a platform for stakeholders, including donor countries, United Nations entities and foundations, to address efforts to foster disability inclusion.

14. International funding mechanisms and investment initiatives have been developed to support research into and the development and implementation of accessible technology solutions. The United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities multi-partner trust fund brings together 10 United Nations entities, Member States, organizations of persons with disabilities and civil society to implement the Convention and disability-inclusive Sustainable Development Goals through joint programming, capacity-building and knowledge-sharing. It has supported 93 joint United Nations programmes in 80 countries across the five regions, reaching over 200 million persons with disabilities.³ Funding from international development banks and donor agencies supports projects focused on technology transfer and innovation for persons with disabilities in developing countries. For example, an Inter-American Development Bank initiative entitled “A World of Solutions: Innovations for People with Disabilities” sought to develop new technologies to improve the quality of life of people with disabilities and their inclusion in the educational system and the labour market in Latin America. The United Nations Population Fund accessibility innovation challenge, AccessAbility, showcased innovative solutions that have the potential to improve access to sexual and reproductive health services for persons with disabilities.

15. Several tools have been developed to promote the global standardization of technologies. These include the ITU model ICT accessibility policy report, which is intended to help national policymakers and regulators in developing ICT accessibility policy frameworks, and the ICT Opportunity for a Disability-Inclusive Development Framework of 2013, an action-oriented report resulting from the collaboration of several institutions, including G3ict, ITU, UNESCO and Microsoft, that includes a proposal of indicators for measuring progress.⁴

16. Initiatives aimed at building partnerships, knowledge-sharing and capacity-building include the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, launched with the 2030 Agenda, which enables collaboration and partnerships among various stakeholders by exchanging information, experiences, best practices and policy guidance and comprises an annual forum, an inter-agency task team and an online platform. The ITU Accessible Americas events in Brazil in 2014, Colombia in 2015 and Mexico in

³ See https://unprpd.org/the_international_telecommunication_union_joins_the_un_partnership.

⁴ Other reports include the report by the International Telecommunication Union and the Global Initiative for Inclusive Information and Communication Technologies, entitled *Making Mobile Phones and Services Accessible for Persons with Disabilities* (2012).

2016 on the theme “Information and communication for all” served to unite stakeholders, raise awareness, offer training, share best practices and monitor progress, and have become crucial forums in Latin America for addressing ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities. The We Decide programme, implemented by the United Nations Population Fund and intended to strengthen disability-inclusive protection and response to gender-based violence, has recently started to promote technological innovations in the advancement of sexual and reproductive health and rights.

17. Specific actions are meant to hold coalitions accountable and promote interconnectedness between disability rights advocacy and ICT. The Internet Governance Forum, for instance, recognizes coalitions such as the Dynamic Coalition on Accessibility and Disability and the Youth Coalition on Internet Governance. The former has provided specific contributions to the global digital compact. Dynamic coalitions are open, multi-stakeholder and community-driven groups dedicated to an Internet governance issue or set of issues and engage with each other, fostering cross-coalition conversations.

III. Challenges and gaps relating to international cooperation towards the promotion of technology innovations and transfer for the inclusion of individuals with disabilities

18. Despite the great potential of technologies, there are still multifaceted barriers impeding technology transfer. The technological and digital divide, compounded by other forms of discrimination, such as socioeconomic status, gender and age, further marginalizes individuals and communities with limited access to technological and digital resources and infrastructure, aggravating inequalities. According to WHO, more than 2.5 billion people globally need one or more assistive technologies, yet most are denied access, in particular in low- and middle-income countries, where access can be as low as 3 per cent.⁵ The United Nations Youth Office contribution to the global digital compact shows that many young people do not have the opportunity to learn comprehensive digital literacy through their education system, in particular the ability to address misinformation, data protection, privacy and well-being in online spaces. This gap especially has an impact on young people who are often left behind, such as those with disabilities, and affects their contribution to technology development. It also affects them in terms of benefiting from digital opportunities.

19. International cooperation can play a key role in addressing this issue, by leveraging the power of technology to overcome the digital and technological divide. In the context of United Nations efforts to promote technology transfer and innovation for disability inclusion, there is a gap between the establishment of international agreements and their effective translation into national policies and practices. This discrepancy can be attributed to various challenges, including governance issues, regulatory inconsistencies and the rapid pace of technological advancements. At the core of governance and implementation challenges is the lack of clarity and enforcement in governance mechanisms. This deficiency leads to inconsistent implementation strategies across regions, impeding the intended impact of international agreements on enhancing accessibility for individuals with disabilities. The disparity in accessibility standards and the divergent regulatory frameworks across countries further complicate the landscape, hindering seamless international cooperation.

⁵ WHO and UNICEF, *Global Report on Assistive Technology*.

Standardization and cooperation

20. The development of accessible technology design and implementation standards by international bodies such as the International Organization for Standardization and ITU is crucial for promoting the interoperability of assistive technologies. Initiatives like the ITU Joint Coordination Activity on Accessibility and Human Factors play a pivotal role in fostering awareness and cooperation on ICT accessibility within the framework of standardization, highlighting the need for ongoing efforts to keep pace with technological evolution.

Monitoring and oversight mechanisms

21. Effective monitoring mechanisms are vital for overseeing the progress of technology transfer and innovation initiatives for persons with disabilities. However, existing oversight frameworks often prove to be inadequate, leading to limited accountability and a widening gap between policy intentions and real-world outcomes. For example, oversight of technology fragmentation across different agencies and organizations can lead to gaps in monitoring and coordination, and their focus on short-term outcomes can fail to track the long-term impact and relevance of technology initiatives. Periodic reviews and reporting, as mandated under the Convention and other agreements, are essential for assessing policy effectiveness and identifying areas for improvement.

Regulatory frameworks and technological advancements

22. A significant barrier to the effective integration of innovative solutions for individuals with disabilities is the lag in regulatory frameworks relative to technological advancements. The absence of up-to-date regulations that cater to the specific needs and challenges faced by persons with disabilities hampers the adoption and utilization of new assistive technologies and innovations. For example, legal frameworks governing intellectual property rights can impede technology transfer by restricting the dissemination and use of proprietary technologies. A way forward could be represented by open-source technologies, which can facilitate technology transfer and innovation without the barriers posed by intellectual property rights.

23. Furthermore, while artificial intelligence-led technologies can represent a revolutionary opportunity for the inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities, ethical challenges risk exacerbating existing disparities and barriers to their inclusion and as such need to be addressed by regulatory frameworks. Challenges include potential biases in artificial intelligence algorithms that may exacerbate inequalities, inadequate data privacy safeguards risking the exposure of sensitive information and concerns about artificial intelligence-driven decision-making undermining personal autonomy. In addition, there is a risk of perpetuating stigmatization if artificial intelligence solutions are not designed with inclusivity and dignity in mind. Ethical frameworks must prioritize these concerns, fostering artificial intelligence development that empowers individuals with disabilities, respects their rights and promotes societal inclusion while mitigating potential harm.

IV. The way forward

24. As discussed, technology presents a vast potential to improve the lives of persons with disabilities and contribute to the implementation of the Convention. International cooperation can play a key role in overcoming the lack of access to technologies by addressing the causes at the root of accessibility. In this process, maintaining a holistic and participatory approach in advancing the rights of persons with disabilities and ensuring that technology development and transfer mechanisms

are inclusive, ethical and accessible are crucial means to achieving a more equitable society. To reinforce global cooperation and bridge the gap between policy and practice, the United Nations and its Member States, along with relevant stakeholders, are encouraged to focus on the following areas:

(a) Developing and enforcing inclusive policies and regulatory frameworks. This includes adopting international standards and developing national regulations that specifically address the challenges faced by persons with disabilities in accessing and using technologies. The process involves empowering persons with disabilities through active participation and leadership and ensuring that persons with disabilities are not only included (through mechanisms such as advisory councils or mandatory representation in technology development committees) but also empowered to take active leadership roles in all stages of technology innovation and transfer processes. This aligns with the emphasis in the Convention on participatory decision-making and ensures that the insights and experiences of persons with disabilities directly inform policies, programmes and technologies from inception to implementation. For example, in the case of deaf persons, their use of national sign language should be on an equal footing with other languages to access information and communicate in society. Furthermore, since discussions and work on assistive technologies have been focused mainly on persons with physical disabilities, more involvement, research and work should be done on assistive technologies for persons with psychosocial disabilities. Particular attention should be given to individuals who suffer from multiple or aggravated forms of discrimination. It is crucial to update the regulatory frameworks to align them with rapid technological advancements, such as artificial intelligence, ensuring that new solutions are accessible and meet the needs of persons with disabilities;

(b) Enhancing clarity and enforceability in governance mechanisms to ensure the effective implementation of international agreements at the national level. This would require international initiatives that also pay particular attention to capacity-building and knowledge transfer for inclusive innovation, building the capacities of developing countries not only in accessing but also in creating and adapting technologies to meet local needs. These include investing in digital literacy for persons with disabilities to ensure that they engage with technology in ways that protect their personal well-being and privacy, as well as addressing social and gender norms within communities and families that prevent persons with disabilities from using technology, in order to ensure safe and equitable access. International initiatives should also pay attention to the development and adoption of universally accepted accessibility standards to facilitate seamless international cooperation and technology transfer. This would include adopting and promoting universal design and accessibility principles in national standards, legislation and guidelines to ensure that technologies, environments and services are accessible and usable by all people, including persons with disabilities, from their inception. This approach should be promoted for public and private sector development projects, aligning with article 9 of the Convention to enable persons with disabilities to live independently and participate fully in all aspects of life. Attention should also be paid to improving the collection of disaggregated data to assess progress, identify gaps and ensure accountability and continuous improvement in technology access and utilization. Specific technologies or methodologies to enhance data collection and monitoring, such as blockchain for transparency or artificial intelligence for data analysis, can provide a valuable contribution in the process. This will also involve establishing international data-sharing mechanisms, capacity-building initiatives for national statistical offices and partnerships with disability organizations to ensure that data collection methodologies are inclusive. There should also be a focus on encouraging inclusiveness in innovation and design with regard to the diverse needs of persons

with disabilities and promoting inclusiveness in the scaling-up and diffusion of new technologies through multi-stakeholder cooperation;

(c) Mobilizing funding, investment and financing mechanisms in technology initiatives aimed at addressing the needs of persons with disabilities. Multilateral development agencies, bilateral donors, philanthropic organizations and private sector entities can pool resources to support research, innovation and infrastructure development projects that promote digital inclusion and accessibility for persons with disabilities in low- and middle-income countries. This includes increased investment in and the development of affordable technologies for persons with disabilities to ensure the affordability and accessibility of technologies. It is also important to implement policies and programmes that reduce economic barriers to accessing necessary assistive devices and services, ensuring that technologies are affordable and accessible for persons with disabilities, in accordance with the call for affordable technologies contained in the Convention. Particular attention should be paid to the importance of transparent and accountable mechanisms for the allocation and utilization of these funds;

(d) Incorporating ethical considerations in the use of artificial intelligence and technology. The role of artificial intelligence and other evolving technologies in advancing the rights of persons with disabilities and fostering an inclusive, accessible and sustainable society is multifaceted and significant. These technologies offer unprecedented opportunities to overcome traditional barriers, enhance personal autonomy and ensure that persons with disabilities can participate fully in all aspects of society. At the same time, as recognized, for example, in the UNESCO report entitled *Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence*, it is fundamental and urgent to develop and enforce ethical guidelines for the development and deployment of artificial intelligence and other technologies that prioritize privacy, autonomy and non-discrimination. There should also be a focus on ensuring that these technologies are designed in ways that do not reinforce biases or create new forms of exclusion for persons with disabilities, in line with the Convention and other international normative frameworks. By centring the role of artificial intelligence and other evolving technologies around these objectives, stakeholders can ensure that technological advancements contribute positively to the lives of persons with disabilities, driving progress towards a more inclusive, accessible and equitable society.

V. Guiding questions

25. The following guiding questions may be used for the round-table discussion:

(a) How can international frameworks better address the intersectional challenges faced by groups in vulnerable situations, including women, refugees, children or older persons with disabilities?

(b) What are the obstacles encountered and scalable practices that demonstrate successful international cooperation in transferring technology to empower persons with disabilities?

(c) What are good practices or experiences to promote multi-stakeholder cooperation that have effectively been used to tackle ethical concerns in artificial intelligence, such as bias, privacy or transparency, regarding disability rights?

(d) What strategies can international actors employ to ensure technology access, sustainability and adaptability for persons with disabilities amid conflicts and natural disasters?