Concept Note of the High-level Meeting on International Cooperation on Artificial Intelligence

1. Background

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming industries, economies, and societies at an unprecedented pace, bringing immense opportunities for growth, innovation, and development, as well as potential risks and challenges. To ensure that AI contributes to sustainable development and inclusive growth, it is essential to encourage AI research and innovation, and build capacity in AI knowledge, skills, and ethical considerations in all countries especially those of the Global South.

In July 2024, the United Nations General Assembly unanimously adopted with 143 co-sponsors a China-led resolution on AI capacity-building (A/RES/78/311), which calls on the international community to step up cooperation on and investment in AI capacity-building and create a free, open, inclusive and non-discriminatory business environment for AI development. It also stresses the importance of supporting developing countries' effective, equitable and meaningful participation and representation in international processes and forums on AI governance.

Even though the benefits of AI remain high, recent developments indicate a growing concern about the AI divide between and within countries, due to the lack of talent and capabilities in developing countries. Zambia and China plan to co-host a side event on AI capacity-building cooperation during the 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. The event is to encourage member states and relevant stakeholders to collaborate in capacity-building relating to AI in particular in developing countries, and closing the digital divides and accelerating the positive contribution that AI can play in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals(SDGs).

2. Objectives

- **Objective 1:** To enhance the understanding of AI technologies and their implications among policymakers and regulators.

- **Objective 2:** To help build technical skills in AI development and implementation for professionals in the public and private sectors.

- **Objective 3:** To promote ethical AI practices by raising awareness and providing guidance on AI ethics.

- **Objective 4:** To facilitate the exchange of knowledge and best practices in AI through workshops, seminars, and collaborative networks.

3. **Target Audience**

- UN Member States delegates, government officials and policymakers, international organizations, academic and research institutions, private sector professionals and industry leaders.

4. **Guiding questions**

- How to increase technical proficiency in AI among professionals in developing countries, and also raise awareness and adoption of ethical AI practices across different sectors?

- How to strengthen practical cooperation on AI capacity-building especially in developing countries, and knowledge exchanges on AI-related issues among member states and relevant stakeholders?

- How to enhance capacity of policymakers to develop and implement AI strategies and regulations?

- What can be done to ensure the full and equal participation of developing countries in global AI cooperation and governance processes?