Thank you Your Excellency,

Distinguished delegates and colleagues,

I am pleased to share with you today how ESCWA, is integrating the principles of UN 2.0 into our operational framework. This strategic alignment enhances our capacity to support Member States more effectively, leveraging forward-thinking culture, digital transformation, and innovative approaches like Artificial Intelligence.

We are committed to driving significant impact across our region, advancing sustainable development goals through the adoption of intelligent technologies.

To illustrate our progress and the tangible benefits of these initiatives, we have prepared a short video showcasing specific use cases of our work on AI.

SHOWING Video

Distinguished delegates and colleagues,

I hope the video has effectively demonstrated the practical applications of Artificial Intelligence in our work at ESCWA.

Further, I would like to highlight that the presenter in the video was not me in person, but my digital avatar. This use of AI in our communications is just another example of how we are embracing innovative technologies to enhance our engagement and operational efficiency.

By adopting such advanced technological tools, ESCWA aims to be at the forefront of digital transformation, supporting our Member States more dynamically and responsively.

Thank you for your attention and support as we continue our transformative endeavors to innovate for a sustainable future.

ESCWA Video Transcript

ECOSOC SPECIAL MEETING ON AI

We are at a pivotal moment where technology and policy intersect to create unprecedented opportunities for development, growth and SDG acceleration.

The initiatives I will share today are not just examples of innovation; they are testimonials to how targeted AI applications can drive significant advancements in our member states.

Let us delve into four specific AI-driven projects that ESCWA has pioneered, which showcase our commitment to utilizing cutting-edge technology to address the most pressing development challenges, enhance policymaking, and ultimately improve lives.

First, let's explore the AI Policy Assistant, Mustashar. A tool that functions as an intelligent Policy Advisor, one that's been trained on over two million UN publications from 19 different UN agencies. Mustashar allows policymakers to interact using natural language to gain precise, data-driven policy insights.
This tool is revolutionizing how we access and utilize information, empowering decision-makers by simplifying complex data and providing policy advice for effective policy formulation.

Next, we have a groundbreaking use case in optimizing domestic financing for the SDGs. By applying advanced AI to simulate and evaluate economic strategies, this tool focuses on maximizing the positive impacts on growth-related SDGs. It's about understanding the interplay between economic development and sustainability, providing insights that help tailor financial strategies to optimize both growth and sustainability outcomes.

Our third example is ISPAR. This tool uses AI and machine learning algorithms to help policy makers identify the most effective policy packages to improve their international rankings on various development indices. By simulating various policy scenarios and forecasting their potential impacts, ISPAR allows

for real-time strategy refinement, optimizing international index scores and enabling proactive, tailored policymaking.

Another pivotal innovation at ESCWA is the AI-powered Data & Policy Support Hub. This comprehensive one-stop shop leverages advanced technologies to consolidate and continuously update a wealth of data and policy tools, all contextualized to meet the specific needs of each member state. Within the Hub, each country-specific page displays an array of data collected not only from UN agencies but also from our international partners. It includes a variety of decision-support tools. This is crucial for ensuring improved economic and social outcomes that are in line with the SDGs.

These examples illustrate our commitment to harnessing technology for sustainable development. Through our platforms, we ensure that the solutions are not only robust and accessible but also meet the specific needs of our member states.

We are dedicated to leveraging AI not just as a tool, but as a catalyst for real-world change in achieving the SDGs.