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**High-level roundtable on “The role of science, technology and innovation in
supporting sustainable and resilient societies”**

Statement submitted by

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Monday, 14 May 2018

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DRAFT SPEECH

BY

RANA TANVEER HUSSAIN

Honorable Federal Minister for Science and Technology

in the high-level segment of the

“21st Session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD)”

(Monday, 14th May 2018)

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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- **Respected Heads of Delegations from CSTD Member Countries**
- **Ladies & Gentlemen!**

It gives me an immense pleasure to be here at the “21st Session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD)”. On behalf of the Government of Pakistan, I am extremely thankful to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTD) who provided us an opportunity to learn from the experiences of member countries in the field of Science, Technology and Innovation as well as to share our experiences with the member states. My sincere thanks to the organizers who extended us a very warm welcome and comfortable stay at Geneva.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

The world around us is changing at a pace that could not have been imagined a decade ago. Development of a nation is directly linked to its advancement in Science, Technology and Innovation.

It is the role of R&D that provides a platform for creativity and innovation to flourish an organization. The landscape of R&D expenditure is changing, R&D is largely funded by the government but now not only depends on Government funds but also try to get funds from new sources i.e., Non-governmental organizations and especially from foreign organizations. It is universal truth that research and development is a global effort which requires collaboration.

Today's session which is themed on "The role of Science, Technology and Innovation in supporting sustainable and resilient societies" would provide a strong platform to be remained focused for strengthening bilateral relations and identify ways to prioritize Science, Technology & Innovation as part of national development strategies. As a country positively pursuing women's empowerment, we are determined to ensure that girls are given the same choices as boys in science and technology. This has already borne fruit with, for example, more girls studying medicine than boys and thousands of girls every year graduating in IT.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

Pakistan has a vast and well-developed network of research & development institutions and facilities. Almost all significant areas of scientific research are being taken care of, ranging from oceanography to nano-technology. The

Ministry of Science & Technology is focusing on the optimal utilization of this elaborate research and development lattice with particular emphasis on commercialization of resultant products, technologies, processes and services. This can be deeply assisted by real technology sharing and transfer from the North to the South.

The Ministry as well as its attached R&D organizations have strengthened their industrial linkages with an aim to resolve their problems, developing new technologies & products, promoting innovation, commercialization and Intellectual Property (IP) culture in the country.

On the other hand, organizational linkages within the Ministry as well with other public sector counterparts are being enhanced with an aim to share human & material resources to meet the needs of the industries. Positive results have already started coming and several need based R&D projects have been identified in consultation with the local industry and are being presently carried out by the scientists/ technologists of R&D organizations of MoST.

Another area being given attention is the strengthening of trade-related services for Productivity, Quality and Innovation to our merchandise and exporters through standardization, accreditation and conformity assessment. Also keeping in mind the broad-based economic & trade activities of China-Pakistan

Economic Corridor (CPEC), a due importance is being given to produce technical & skilled manpower to supplement the industrial sector.

Furthermore, international relations are also being enhanced to promote the cooperation in the field of Science & Technology. Recently, Belarusian – Pakistani Centre for S&T Cooperation and China South Asia Technology Transfer Centre (CSTTC)- Sub Centre Pakistan have been established in PCSIR, Islamabad with an aim to assist the research organization, educational institutions and innovative industrial enterprises in expanding the business and academic relations and contracts in the field of scientific & technological research.

Pakistan is a society committed to science and technology. In addition to our world class technical universities, of course the CSTD is a critical area of our engagement. However, we are committed to moving on the international scene on many levels, whether it is steering COMSTECH (...) or our formal partnership with CERN.

Ladies & Gentlemen!

I have no hesitation in saying that there is no paucity of talent and capability in our country. It is now need of the time that we may build upon result-oriented linkages amongst member states in order to promote the Science, Technology and Innovation to take benefit from the experiences of developed member states.

In the end, I would again like to say my sincere thanks to United Nations Commission on Science & Technology for Development as well as the host country and I am also very hopeful that this session will give new directions to the member states for the promotion of Science, Technology & Innovation in the entire region.

Thank you.

Pakistan Zindabad

