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**High-level segment on “Harnessing science, technology, and innovation to
accelerate progress on the SDGs and addressing COVID-19”**

Statement submitted by

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23rd Session of the UNCSTD

“High-level Segment on “Harnessing Science, Technology and Innovation to Accelerate Progress on the SDGs and Addressing Covid-19”

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H.E. Dr. Sorena Sattari, Iran’s Vice President for Science and Technology

10 June 2020

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to thank the UNCTAD and UNCSTD for organizing this high-level Segment. We are sincerely grateful to the global community of doctors, nurses and medical staff and their beloved families who have paid a big price during this pandemic by sacrificing their lives, health and happiness for the sake of a world free from the pandemic. Allow me also to express my heartfelt sadness on the loss of lives of many peoples across the world.

Dear Colleagues,

The COVID-19, as an international crisis, cannot be defeated without resorting to the joint efforts of all countries and international organizations in a spirit of multilateralism, cooperation and solidarity.

Science and technology is a solution for such global crisis. From the beginning of this pandemic, the *Islamic* Republic of Iran has taken various prevention, diagnosis, and treatment related actions. We already shared our experiences on combatting COVID 19 with the UNCSTD Secretariat, entitled

“The Role of science and technology in the management and treatment of Coronavirus. There are certainly similar valuable experiences by other countries on the role of STI in the time of crisis. I propose UNCSTD to publish all these success stories in a compiled format to be discussed by our experts in the upcoming meetings.

Mr. Chairman,

This virus not only threaten the life and wellbeing of the peoples across the globe, but also increases poverty, hunger and inequalities between and among countries, a negative blow to the achievement of sustainable development goals. To tackle this crisis, global response is needed and multilateral action is essential where STI is certainly fundamental.

Our experience, similar to others, signifies the importance of an external conducive environment in order to tackle such pandemic. Means of implementation is a vital factor, and developed countries are expected to fulfill their commitments on provision of financial resources, transfer of technology, and capacity building, without politicizing this process. The United Nations has a pivotal role in enhancing cooperation and partnership at the international and regional levels.

Mr. Chairman,

All countries have the right to access to what they need to avoid further transmission of COVID-19. However, the unilateral coercive measures (UCM) against several covid19 affected countries constitute a serious obstacle to the fulfilment of this fundamental right. While the entire world, including my own country, continues to grapple with the most devastating pandemic of the modern era and while most of the world is building bonds of solidarity to contain the pandemic, Iran is also fighting the US' economic and health terrorism.

The adverse consequences of such unilateral coercive measures are far-reaching and severe, especially those violating human rights, in particular the right to life. The call to put an end to these illegal sanctions by international

community, including UN member states, Secretary General, and High Commissioner for Human Rights is still disregarded by US administration.

Iran and other targeted countries have done their utmost efforts to save the lives of their people. However, there is a strong need to guarantee that in the future crises, global solidarity and friendship, rather than UCM, prevail the behavior of all countries and international community as a whole. We request UNCSTD, with the support of other relevant UN agencies, to prepare and present to its next session a study on the negative impacts of coercive measures on harnessing science, technology and innovation in addressing the crises, as well as for implementation of national sustainable development goals.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to conclude by assuring Iran's readiness to closely work with other countries at the regional and international levels with a view to contributing to global handling of this pandemic.

I thank you for your attention.