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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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"Harnessing science, technology, and innovation to accelerate progress on the SDGs and addressing COVID-19"

- Just as we entered the **decade of action to deliver on the 2030 Agenda** for Sustainable Development, we came across a challenge that has forced the world to a hard stop.

- The COVID-19 pandemic, has put to the test not only our capability to respond to the health emergency, but also to adapt and address other pressing sustainable development concerns that are deepening as a result of the pandemic, such as inequality, poverty and gender disparities.

- As this global emergency evolved, we witnessed how it began to **affect** supply chains threatening food security. Moreover, as more people were sent home, our digital infrastructure began to feel the pressure to fulfill the shift in demand. With billions of people relying on the internet for work, healthcare, education and shopping, access to digital services has become key, leaving those with connectivity issues behind.

- This chain effect is the best example on why, **we must pursue the achievement of the 2030 agenda as a whole**. We need to harness technology in order to accelerate the progress on achieving the SDGs in conjunction and mitigate the effects of COVID 19 with the use of science, technology and innovation. We will also need the best available science to develop a vaccine and medicines in order to halt contagion and curve the number of deaths.

- The **increased level of digitalization** has given us positive examples of how harnessing frontier technologies can make the difference but it has also revealed a darker side of technology, such as the selling of private personal data, the increase of cybercrimes and online scams, and the widening of inequalities.

- Governments have a special **responsibility, to analyze in depth the impacts of the development, implementation, and regulation of technologies**, to maximize benefits and reduce risks.

- But this is not a task that we can do alone. The participation of other actors - **scientists, technology experts, the private sector and civil society -** is essential. Since the UN is at the heart of international cooperation, the Organization is the ideal place to deal with the impact of accelerated technological change and digitalization.

- We are convinced that the only way to mitigate the negative effects of emerging technologies and accelerate the fulfillment of the SDGs is to **generate adequate strategies and policies**. We must also include ethical and inclusive regulatory frameworks.

- Roadmaps such as the one developed at **the High Level Panel on Digital Cooperation** convened by the Secretary General of the United Nations, help us create a space for discussion where we can present proposals to strengthen cooperation in the digital space.

- **Mexico has joined as champion of recommendations 1C and 1D**, of the Panel Report, related to digital inclusion and metrics of general ideas, aimed at promoting a digital future with a vision of an information society focused on people, and development-oriented.

- A **vision of digital innovation** where everyone can create, access, use and share information and knowledge, allowing people and communities to reach their full potential to promote their sustainable development and improve their quality of life, giving voice to all and allowing a better use of exponential technological change, ensuring that no one is left behind.