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**The role of science, technology, and innovation in reinforcing the 2030 Agenda  
and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of  
sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions**

Statement by

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**Speech: H.E. Mr Mehdi Elyasi, Secretary-General of the Knowledge-based Technologies and Products Council of the Vice-Presidency for Science and Technology**

**Islamic Republic of Iran**

at

**the Ministerial Roundtable**

On “The role of science, technology, and innovation in reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions: Contribution of the Commission to the 2024 theme of the Economic and Social Council and the High-level Political Forum on sustainable development and the implementation of its 2023 Ministerial Declaration”

Monday, 15 April 2024, 12:00-13:00 (Geneva time)

**Distinguished Member of the Commission,**

**Dear colleagues,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Technological advancements hold immense<sup>1</sup> potential to alleviate<sup>2</sup> poverty and mitigate<sup>3</sup> the effects of climate change. It is imperative that we urgently explore and adopt these solutions effectively. Today, I am honored to highlight the Islamic Republic of Iran’s experiences in this regard.

Firstly, our commitment to water security is evident through initiatives such as deep well drilling<sup>4</sup> and investments in water desalination technologies, particularly in the water-stressed regions of Eastern Iran. Access to clean and reliable water sources is indispensable<sup>5</sup> for agriculture, food production, immigration control, and income generation in marginalized<sup>6</sup> regions. By employing

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<sup>1</sup> Extremely large or great, especially in scale or degree.

<sup>2</sup> Make (suffering, deficiency, or a problem) less severe.

<sup>3</sup> make (something bad) less severe, serious, or painful.

<sup>5</sup> Absolutely necessary

<sup>4</sup> منابع آبی ژرف

<sup>6</sup> کم‌ترب‌خوردار

such innovative solutions, we empower communities to thrive<sup>1</sup> even in the harshest environments.

Secondly, our commitment to inclusive growth knows no bounds. Iran has prioritized inclusive growth through the establishment of science and technology parks, innovation centers, and accelerators, especially in rural and remote areas. These centers provide crucial support for region-specific technological development, nurturing local talent, and fostering collaboration. By unlocking the potential of individuals and underprivileged<sup>2</sup> communities, we drive sustainable development and poverty eradication.

Thirdly, in the heartlands<sup>3</sup> of rural Iran, we have unleashed the power of partnership through initiatives such as “Abad Iran”. Meaning “Prosperous Iran”, the initiative aims at propelling<sup>4</sup> the nation forward and fostering prosperity by addressing challenges in underserved rural areas, creating sustainable employment opportunities, and enhancing the value chains of indigenous<sup>5</sup> capacities in less developed regions. It also showcases the power of collaboration between knowledge-based firms and local communities in construction and infrastructural projects in rural areas. By harnessing<sup>6</sup> the capabilities of knowledge-based enterprises, creative innovators, and other actors in the innovation and technology ecosystem, this initiative not only promotes sustainability but also generates quality jobs, breaking the cycle of poverty in these regions.

Lastly, we emphasize the mechanization of agriculture and support for indigenous small businesses in villages as essential components of our poverty alleviation strategies. By utilizing machinery and technologies developed by knowledge-based firms, we enhance productivity, create jobs, and improve rural livelihoods, empowering communities to achieve sustainable prosperity.

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<sup>1</sup> Prosper; flourish

<sup>2</sup> کمتر برخوردار؛ فقیر

<sup>3</sup> The central or most important part of a country, area, or field of activity.

<sup>4</sup> Drive or push something forwards

<sup>5</sup> Originating or occurring naturally in a particular place; native. بومی

<sup>6</sup> Control and make use of

**Dear colleagues,**

At this stage, I must underscore<sup>1</sup> the detrimental<sup>2</sup> impact of unilateral coercive<sup>3</sup> measures on the utilization of science, technology, and innovation (STI) for sustainable development. These measures impede nations' access to essential STI resources and technologies critical for advancing towards SDGs 1, 2, 13, and 16. By stifling<sup>4</sup> innovation and exacerbating<sup>5</sup> inequalities, these coercive actions hinder efforts to alleviate poverty, eradicate hunger, combat climate change, and promote peace and justice. Iran emphasizes the urgent need for international cooperation to mitigate the adverse effects of these measures, ensuring equitable access to STI resources and fostering an environment conducive<sup>6</sup> to innovation and resilience on a global scale.

**Mr. Chairman,**

In conclusion, I'd like to highlight the need for the expansion of South-South Cooperation as a complement, rather than a substitute, to North-South Cooperation. Especially in light of the severe challenges faced by the world, enhancing cooperation between developed and developing countries is of high importance. We believe that global problems require global solutions, and thus, cooperation between the North and the South is more critical than ever. In this regard, I propose consideration for an international conference on Science, Technology, and Innovation focusing on technology transfer, seeking ways and means to support cooperation in which Iran is ready to play an active and meaningful role.

**Thank you.**

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<sup>1</sup> Emphasize

<sup>2</sup> Cause harm

<sup>3</sup> Relating to or using force or threats. اجباری

<sup>4</sup> Prevent or constrain (an activity or idea).

<sup>5</sup> Make (a problem, bad situation, or negative feeling) worse

<sup>6</sup> Making a certain situation or outcome likely or possible. مساعد