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**The role of science, technology, and innovation in advancing sustainable,  
inclusive, science-and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda for  
Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for leaving  
no one behind**

Statement by

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## **Speech by the Deputy of STI Policy and Development, Vice Presidency of Science, Technology, and Knowledge-Based Economy**

### **Honorable Ministers, Distinguished Representatives, and Esteemed Colleagues,**

It is a great honor to be part of this ministerial roundtable to discuss the role of science, technology, and innovation in achieving sustainable and inclusive development. As we move closer to 2030, we must harness the power of science and technology to advance the Sustainable Development Goals, including gender equality, economic growth, and global cooperation. In Iran we're committed to utilizing advanced technologies and innovation to achieve a more equitable society and a thriving knowledge-based economy.

The evolution of Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) policies in Iran can be summarized in two distinct phases. Initially, from 1990 to 2010, the focus was on expanding higher education, increasing academic publications, and supporting emerging technologies. This led to a rise in scientific output and the establishment of science and technology parks. From 2010 onward, Iran's STI policies shifted towards fostering a knowledge-based economy. The Law on Support for Knowledge-based Institutions (2011) facilitated the growth of university spin-offs and startups, supported by the Iran National Innovation Fund (INIF). Recent measures, including the 2022 Law of Transformation of Knowledge-based Production, reflect a broader transition agenda towards an innovation ecosystem approach, where knowledge-based firms and startups play a pivotal role in addressing national and industrial challenges, including sustainable and inclusive development.

Today, more than 10,000 knowledge-based firms create value in Iran, with a fair share of women at the executive level, in playing an instrumental role in job creation, technological advancements, sustainable development, and economic diversification. Over the past five years, Iran's exports of knowledge-based products have increased by more than \$500 million, and we have achieved remarkable progress science and technology development in advanced areas such as nanotechnology, biotechnology, and artificial intelligence. Women have played an influential role in these advancements, making up over 50% of students in basic sciences and engineering disciplines in Iranian universities.

Science and technology contribute not only to economic development but also to improving quality of life and resource management. For instance, smart agricultural systems have increased water efficiency by 30% in arid regions. Additionally, Iran is at the forefront of medical technology

development, with several advanced drugs and medical equipment now being produced domestically.

One of the challenges of many developing nations, notably Iran, is ensuring that technological advancements benefit all segments of society in a sustainable manner. To address this, Iran has implemented programs to enhance digital literacy and empower women and rural communities. Currently, more than 90% of villages in Iran have access to high-speed internet, enabling digital entrepreneurship and expanding economic opportunities in underprivileged areas.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen**

Achieving sustainable development requires strong international collaboration. Iran strongly desire to strengthen global cooperation in science and technology through knowledge exchange, technology transfer, and joint research & innovation initiatives. We actively participate in multilateral frameworks of the CSTD to enhance scientific collaboration and capacity-building efforts.

Iran proposes the establishment of regional innovation hubs that facilitate cross-border research and development focused on innovation in achieving sustainable and inclusive development by leveraging STI solutions. These hubs can focus on areas such as renewable energy, health technologies, and digital transformation to ensure that all CSTD member states equitably benefit from technological advancements.

Furthermore, Iran supports initiatives that promote open access to scientific data and research. Increasing transparency in scientific data sharing can lead to cross-border collaborations and the development of more effective solutions to mitigate global challenges. We also emphasize the need for greater investment in STI capacity-building, particularly in developing economies, to bridge the digital divide and empower marginalized communities with technological skills.

Iran stands ready to collaborate with the global community to harness STI for sustainable and inclusive development. We sincerely ask all CSTD member states to engage in joint research programs, technology exchange initiatives, and policy dialogues to accelerate progress toward sustainable development and SDGs. Our commitment to inclusive innovation ensures that scientific and technological advancements benefit all, creating a fairer and more sustainable world. By strengthening international cooperation, promoting evidence-based policymaking, and

ensuring that innovation serves humanity's broader aspirations, we can build a future where STI solutions ensure that no one is left behind.

Thank you.