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**Panel discussion on: The role of science, technology and innovation in  
building resilient communities, including through the contribution of citizen  
science**

Statement submitted by

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**STATEMENT**  
**by**  
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**other International Organizations in Geneva**

**"The role of science, technology and innovation in building resilient communities, including through the contribution of citizen science"**

**Commission on Science and Technology for Development**  
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**13 May 2019**

Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished Panelists,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset let me extend our appreciation for the excellent work of the two high level panels. We have heard interesting contributions and we look forward to continue to be part of such fruitful discussions in the future.

We are aware of the challenges and opportunities that the rapid technological developments present nowadays. Therefore investing a higher percentage of GDP for research and innovation is particularly important for achieving a stable economic growth and development and for insuring a tangible job creation. During the last years Bulgaria has incorporated ICT-related policy guidance in several national strategies like health strategy, public administration strategy and strategy for effective implementation of information and communication technologies in education and science.

The Strategy for the Development of Scientific Research in the Republic of Bulgaria aims at supporting and strengthening the links between science and education, business, state authorities and the society.

The Government of the Republic of Bulgaria actively supports the promotion of confidence and responsibility in all phases of the research process. Common efforts to build “an *eco* system” of new ideas and understanding will inevitably lead to increased socio-economic status.

The need to construct the right frame of financial instruments for the development of applied research, industry partnership, regulatory incentives and reforms that will ensure the success and sustainability of national scientific programs, scientific infrastructure, centers of excellence and programs for young scientists is another factor which attracts particular attention. Bulgaria strives to fully integrate and develop its national research infrastructures in partnership at international level.

At the end of 2018 the Government has approved additional measures and resources for the development of the National Scientific Programs such as "Information and Communication Technologies for a Single Digital Market in Science, Education and Security", "Low Carbon Energy for Transport and Welfare", "Healthy food for a strong bio-economy and quality of life", "E-Health in Bulgaria” etc.

We are proud to note also that Bulgaria ranks first in Europe by the number of women working in the information technology sector - 27% against 17.2% average for the EU. Among the scientists and engineers in my country 53% are women.

During the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU in 2018, Bulgaria launched the European Network of Women Leaders in the Digital Industry, which aims to provide better visibility to women – leaders in technology and the digital economy.

Last but not least in the framework of the development cooperation for 2019, Bulgaria is developing 42 projects in the Western Balkan countries and the Eastern Partnership at total cost of BGN 3.5 million, including projects aimed at improving the quality of education and protecting the rights of disabled

and disadvantaged children, providing support to overcome violence against women and girls in Yemen and humanitarian assistance in Syria.

Thank you for your attention!