

## **MIKTA Statement: Science, Technology and Innovation Summit**

I have the honour to submit this statement on behalf of MIKTA countries – Mexico, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Turkey and Australia – on the occasion of the Sixth Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals (STI Forum).

MIKTA countries are committed to accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, including the Technology Facilitation Mechanism mandated by these landmark documents.

As we speak, many of us at the UN in New York and around the world are being vaccinated against COVID-19. In 2020, the world realized that not all heroes wear capes: they wear stethoscopes, use microscopes, and design innovative systems to enable remote access to scientific and medical expertise and healthcare services. Advancements and collaboration in science, technology and innovation are critical to effective global COVID-19 response and recovery, and our future prevention, detection and resilience to pandemics and other health threats.

COVID-19 has also demonstrated the need for cross-disciplinary cooperation and collaboration in our increasingly interconnected world. To prevent, detect and respond to a health threat requires collaboration and coordination between a wide range of disciplines, from epidemiology to economics. We are pleased the STI Forum has become a magnet for multidisciplinary cooperation.

We are also pleased that this year's STI Forum will discuss a number of cross cutting themes such as the impacts of rapid technological change on the SDGs, capacity building, STI roadmaps, facilitating the sharing of relevant knowledge and technologies, as well as the importance of creating an enabling environment for the creative industries through the development of digital technology, innovative and digital economy.

MIKTA countries are strong supporters of the rules-based international system, global good governance, and the promotion and protection of human rights. The achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls is central to establishing institutional norms that support equal participation of women throughout all stages of the decision making process – and a core priority for MIKTA. Digital technologies offer opportunities to accelerate the realization of the 2030 Agenda, including Sustainable Development Goal 5, 'Gender Equality'. But new technologies also pose challenges, which we must address collectively. We must ensure safe and affordable connectivity and digital access for all, bolstering efforts to bridge the various digital divides, including the gender digital divide.

This is particularly important as we aim to build back better from COVID: we emphasize the importance of long-term investments in green and digital transformations and an inclusive economic recovery and sustainable development. We acknowledge that it is important to unlock the full potential of digitalization to enhance resilience and promote inclusivity by ensuring access to technology and skills development.

The international community needs to continue mobilizing support for the developing countries in strengthening science, technology and innovation. Additionally, International and multi-stakeholder cooperation should develop local capacities through, among others, policy learning, knowledge sharing, capacity building, technological development and transfer, as well as enhancing digital literacy and skills.

MIKTA will continue upholding multilateralism and working towards a sustainable, inclusive and resilient economic recovery and full implementation of the 2030 Agenda.