

**Statement by H.E. Masooma Khawari, Minister of Communications and
Information Technology of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan at the Sixth
Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the
Sustainable Development Goals**

4 – 5 May 2021

Greetings from Afghanistan,

Dear all, I would like to thank United Nations and especially Department of Economic and Social Affairs for taking the initiative to gather the international community with regards to the ongoing development in the area of science and innovation.

Technology can certainly play a vital role in the achievement of the United Nations sustainable development goals and the international community has a united agreement towards it.

Afghanistan's Ministry of Communication & IT is also committed in this endeavor and has already started initiatives to reach our designated goals.

With the beginning of covid-19 pandemic till now, ICT sector played a vital role to help in continuation of our daily life, activities and also focused on major agendas to execute. It is worth to be mentioned that in Afghanistan we witnessed notable developments in the ICT sector that assisted us to fight this global disease.

Covid-19 pandemic highlighted the role of ICT in establishing a platform for the governments, institutions, international organizations, civil society, private sector and other entities to jointly work to end this phenomenon in a virtual environment.

The science and innovation summit is a great opportunity, where ICT leaders, policy makers, regulators, and enterprises across the world gets united in order to resolve the existing challenges that the ICT sector is facing and to discuss the viable solutions.

For these efforts, the Ministry of Communication and IT is committed to take all the required steps in the ICT Sector which can help fulfill the National goals of Afghanistan towards the financial sustainability.

We, at the Ministry are focusing on optimization of our resources, collaborations with local and international partners, creating enabling environment for better growth of private sector and promoting digital literacy in Afghanistan.

This will help build a better platform to stimulate activities in the areas of Science and innovation and also attain our relative sustainable development goals.

With the hope of a better and sustainable WORLD for our future generations!!

THANK YOU