

**Palabras Subsecretaria de Telecomunicaciones**  
**Foro de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación para el Desarrollo Sostenible (05 de mayo)**

Dear Convenor, President of ECOSOC, Mr. Munir Akram

Dear Mr. Andrejs Pildegovičs, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Latvia to the United Nations,  
and

Dear Ambassador Mohammad Koba, Charge d'Affaires of the Indonesia Mission to the United Nations.

Dear speakers at this Forum,

Good Morning to all,

I am delighted to participate in this Forum, knowing that telecommunications in general, and specially telecom infrastructure is a key enabler for sustainable development.

Additionally, looking ahead to a post pandemic scenario the role of telecoms networks becomes even more significant.

One of the main goals of our Government is to promote the development and digital inclusion of our country, to achieve a leadership in the knowledge society, positioning ourselves as a business and human capital platform in the digital age. In this sense, information and communication technologies play a key tool. We consider as essential the encouragement and promotion of digital development both in the productive sectors and for quality of life of citizens. For this reason, from the beginning of this Government, a comprehensive telecommunications program was elaborated, which is called the "Digital Matrix" and is made up of three axes that are "rights of digital citizens", "investment and infrastructure" and "digital development".

To achieve these goals, we are developing the following projects:

1.- Deployment of 5G technology as a development tool for the digital revolution: we have worked hard to lead the development of 5G networks in our region, by being the first country to make spectrum available for 5G networks (1,800 MHz), which was allocated mostly to multinational telecom companies that show the position that Chile has in the telecommunications industry.

2.- "Asia – South America Digital Gateway", also known as "Humboldt Project": Chile is promoting the first Fiber Optic route to link South America with Asia. A feasibility study has been successfully concluded and we expect the project to enter an execution phase now. With these developments Chile's international bandwidth capacity will undergo a 40-fold increment; and,

3.- Development of a nation-wide strategy to strengthen Fiber Optic Networks: we are deploying more than 15 thousand kilometers of optical fiber, both terrestrial and submarine for high-capacity domestic networks. This

deployment will allow all localities to have access to a fiber optic connection, doubling the current backbone capacity of data transmission for those areas.

In a context marked by the pandemic, with economic slowdown and drop in investments throughout the region, the Chilean telecommunications sector is expected to support the national economic recovery effort. Telecoms will bring more than USD 3 billion in investments (new projects), the creation of more than 60 thousand new jobs, and developments in new industries, which will play an important role for the country's economic recovery in the coming years. In addition, various reports indicate that 5G will generate an economic impact of 1% of GDP by 2035, as long as we are innovative to work on creating value. This 5G digital infrastructure is what will allow Chile to compete in the 4.0 digital economy of artificial intelligence and the Internet of Things.

To sum up, the 5G public tender together with other initiatives such as the “Asia – South America Digital Gateway”, announcements of new data centers, and the deployment of national networks, will strengthen Chile's position on the new world economic map, in addition to positioning ourselves as a Digital Hub, letting us to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, established by the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.