

**Seventh Annual Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science,
Technology and Innovation for the SDGs
Statement by Robert Khachatryan
Minister of High-Tech Industry of the Republic of Armenia
05.05.2022**

Excellences,
Colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I am very pleased to participate in the seventh annual Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs.

I would like to take the opportunity and express my gratitude to the organizers of this forum, which is a unique platform for debate and discussion aimed at facilitating interactions and the establishment of networks and multi-stakeholder partnerships.

For the Government of Armenia, the development of high technologies is a top priority. To advance the high tech sector in the country the Government has established the Ministry of High-Tech Industry of Armenia, having the mission to promote the sectoral development and make Armenia an industrialized high-tech country. We are committed to pursuing the goals specified in the 2030 Agenda, and incorporate SDGs in our reform initiatives.

Innovation is crucial to Armenia's future success. It contributes not only to long-term economic growth, but also to addressing the social and environmental concerns that our country is facing. Science and technology development is an integral part of the innovation policy that our government and specifically, the Ministry of High-tech Industry have adopted. Our overarching objective is to see Armenia, in which high-value scientific and technological output is produced and consumed within the wider economy. In order to achieve this goal, we are committed to the ongoing investment in human capital, well-established science and business linkages, functioning networks and collaborations. These make the pillars of the policy that our Ministry is developing and implementing, and consequently, these are the areas, where we are looking for cooperation opportunities.

Achieving our common goals requires coordinated approach and mutual collaborations with national and international partners. In this respect, we highly value the various multilateral platforms, such as this forum, which strongly promotes innovation and creativity among people from different countries, sharing a crucial similarity: striving for knowledge.

In 2020, together with Finland and Tunisia Armenia was elected as one of the global leaders of the Technology and Innovation coalition in the framework of “Generation Equality” forum. In this regard, Ministry of High-Tech Industry of Armenia in conjunction with the partner countries carries out a series of activities directed to the protection of the human rights, increasing the role of women in the political and economic spheres as well as ensuring certain advancements in the fields of technologies and innovation. It is notable that the 40 percent of workforce in the Armenian IT sector are women. The role of high technologies and the demand for specialists in the field has increased significantly over the recent years. More and more people are interested in making a career in this sector.

The implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals will undoubtedly ensure equality, prosperity and peace for the people living across the globe. I am convinced, that through our joint efforts and diligence we can make the 2030 Agenda a reality.

I wish all of us a great meeting today and successful collaboration for the future!

Thank you.