



MIKTA Statement for the 7th Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals

(5-6 May 2022, New York)

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

MIKTA countries acknowledge that science, technology and innovation can help to realize the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) including Sustainable Development Goals 4 on quality education, 5 on gender equality, 14 on life below water, 15 on life on land, and 17 on partnerships for the Goals and promotes health, education, food security, decent jobs and other areas of development.

We also emphasize the importance of further strengthening the alignment between STI and SDGs as well as utilizing STI in a manner relevant to specific national and local situations and needs.

MIKTA countries recognize that the COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the rapid technological change, the digital transition and a shift towards digital business models. We further recognize the contribution of digitalization to development - while acknowledging that digitalization can amplify pre-existing inequalities in and between countries, as well as the gender digital divide and its negative impacts on job creation, social protection and equality.

It is clear that we need to accelerate concerted efforts to close the digital divide, achieve universal and meaningful digital connectivity for all by 2030, to support and promote the digital inclusion of disadvantaged and marginalized groups and communities, including women and girls. We must work together to build an open, free and secure digital world.

We note the central role of Governments, with substantial contribution from all relevant stakeholders including the private sector, civil society, academia and research institutions, in creating and supporting an enabling environment at all levels, to nurture science, innovation, entrepreneurship; and to ensure that STI is driven by considerations of inclusiveness and sustainability.

We emphasize the importance of international cooperation, including South-South, North-South, and triangular collaboration, and supporting countries in building their national capacity for STI and research networks across borders, institutions, and disciplines.

MIKTA countries consider this unique platform to be of paramount importance as it serves to convene governments and different stakeholders to raise global awareness on

the importance of STI in the implementation of the SDGs by taking into consideration the aspirational targets 2030 to help prioritize interventions, monitor progress, evaluate policy effectiveness, and galvanize efforts around achieving universal and meaningful connectivity by the end of the decade. This is critical in order to address the factors contributing to the current digital divide and to explore existing mechanisms and potential innovations to develop STI which can address emerging challenges.

We are committed to ensuring full and equal access to and participation in science, technology and innovation for women of all ages, as well as to target science, technology and innovation strategies to address women's empowerment and inequalities, with a view to achieving SDG5. Education plays a central role, in particular women in STEM is critical to addressing inequalities.

Science-based innovation is the pathway to achieving SDG 14.

We call for strengthened international and regional cooperation to support developing countries in strengthening science, technology and innovation, including by financing investment in information and communications technology infrastructure. To this end, we underline the urgent need to provide adequate and sufficient financing for the Technology Facilitation Mechanism and to the UN Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries to achieve the goals of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, as well as the Doha Programme of Action.

We emphasize the importance of enhancing the science, technology and innovation programmes of the relevant entities of the United Nations system in a coordinated, coherent and collaborative manner with a view to achieving all Sustainable Development Goals.

MIKTA countries are strong supporters of the rules-based international system, global good governance, and the promotion and protection of human rights.

We reaffirm our commitment to promoting the use of science, technology and innovation in facilitating efforts to advance the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In doing so, we seek to address the multidimensional crisis that is compounded by climate change, rising geopolitical tensions, supply chain and production disruptions, as well as increased poverty, global food and energy insecurity.

Thank you.