THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING/
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Speaker at the Ministerial Session

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HARNESSING SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR THE EFFECTIVE DELIVERY OF SUSTAINABLE, RESILIENT, AND INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS

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Honorable Chair and Distinguished Colleagues,

It is a great honor and privilege for me representing the government of Indonesia to participate in this global forum. We would like to extend our congratulations to the United Nations for hosting this important event: the *"Ninth Annual Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology, and Innovation for Sustainable Development".* We do appreciate the organizing committee for giving us the opportunity to share insights and strategies aimed at expediting progress of Science, Technology, and Innovation sector toward the SDGs. With the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development deadline drawing near, this forum holds significant value.

Reflecting on our experiences and our in-depth analyses, we definitely acknowledge that universities have played a pivotal role in supporting the SDGs achievements. The implementation of SDGs is also strengthened by the establishment of SDGs centers at universities throughout Indonesia. Currently, 50 SDGs Centers have been established from state and private universities. Universities and SDGs Centers' roles are to support and facilitate the implementation of SDGs at the national and regional levels. This shows the importance of collaboration of different platforms and the role of Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) to achieve SDGs, especially on the quality education (*the 4th goal in SDGs*) and Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure (*the 9th goal in SDGs*).

As we gather here today, I am proud to reaffirm Indonesia's steadfast commitment to advancing Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) for the betterment of our society and the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Our government has not only recognized the pivotal role of STI in driving progress but has also actively pursued policies to foster an environment conducive to research and innovation.

Currently, the Government of Indonesia has embarked on a comprehensive strategy to promote science-based policies aimed at realizing a digital, green, and blue economy. We firmly believe that embracing technological advancements and scientific research is imperative for sustainable development in the 21st century.

In line with this commitment, our government is on the effort to continuously increasing research funding in Indonesia while improving the spending quality. Through research endowment funds managed by Indonesia Endowment Fund for Education Agency (LPDP) and agencies such as the National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN) and various ministries and institutions, we have developed a research roadmap that integrates planning for annual research funding increments tailored to the evolving needs of research endeavors.

Furthermore, we have implemented fiscal incentives for research activities by companies, as stipulated in Government Regulation No. 128/PMK.010/2019. While these incentives are available to all eligible companies, we acknowledge the challenges related to bureaucratic hurdles in the evaluation process for tax reduction claims.

One of our key targets is to raise the proportion of gross expenditure on RnD to GDP from 0.28% in 2020 to 0.45% by 2029, as part of our intervention scenario. It is essential to note the global benchmarks at average 1,93% (2021) are set by countries such as Singapore at 2.16% (2020), Malaysia at 0.95% (2020), and Korea at 4.93% (2021), among others, which serve as references for our aspirations in research investment.

To achieve this target, gradual increments in research funding through universities' research centers, BRIN or relevant ministries are indispensable. Additionally, the enhanced implementation of fiscal incentives, as outlined in Government Regulation No. 128/PMK.010/2019, offering tax reductions of up to 300% for companies engaged in research and development activities, will play a crucial role.

We recognize ongoing challenges, particularly in the realms of human resources, infrastructure, and funding. Addressing these hurdles demands joint efforts from both the public and private sectors, along with collaboration with international partners.

Our current data reveals approximately 320,000 lecturers and 9 million students, alongside roughly 8,000 researchers. These statistics carry significant weight in advancing scientific research, knowledge dissemination, technological innovation, and entrepreneurial endeavors within higher education. The key challenge lies in effectively harnessing these resources to generate science, technology, and innovation that have tangible impacts on communities, industries, and the environment.

As for infrastructure, optimizing research facilities remains a persistent challenge. This entails minimizing redundant procurement and promoting shared facilities among stakeholders. Moreover, efficiently managing existing infrastructure, reducing wait times, and strategically procuring essential infrastructure based on usage data are critical considerations.

As for funding, the most recent data, indicating that over 80% of research and development expenditure comes from the government, underscores the necessity for heightened efforts to encourage greater private sector investment in research and development.

We have also issued the world's first publicly offered sovereign Blue Bond as well as Asia's first SDGs bond and implemented the Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF). Furthermore, building upon our initiative during Indonesia's G20 Presidency in 2022, we are fostering the implementation of Blended Finance and initiating the discussion for the establishment of the Global Blended Finance Alliance (GBFA).

There have also been many good practices at regional level, for example, IPB University has developed the one village one CEO program. This program is designed to assign students to carry out community empowerment at targeted villages. Moreover, the Sepuluh Nopember Institute of Technology (ITS) utilizes solar power plants to be used for pest control, onion dryers, and clean water supply. On the other hand, the National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN) in partnership with some Indonesian universities has significantly contributed to achieving SDGs through Research and Development (R&D) activities and innovations.

With six years left towards the 2030 Agenda, we would like to share our ideas in accelerating the achievement of SDGs targets, which include some measures as the followings:

1) Facilitating cross learning and cooperation in STI among countries;
2) Providing capacity building for development, implementation, and leveraging of STI;

3) Initiating strategies to increase funding and financing on R&D as a fundamental aspect of STI; and
4) Developing a sustainable STI ecosystem that involves multi-stakeholders (Government, universities and research centers, industries, and communities)
5) Ensuring meaningful participation and involvement of all communities and groups in STI development, including SDGs centres.

I would like to conclude this statement by saying the SDG's tagline: **"No One Left Behind"** has been manifested strongly by the strong collective efforts. Now, it is the time for us – as the global community – to accelerate the progress of the 4th and 9th SDGs Goals by investing more in STI development.

Thank you

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