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**The Islamic Republic of Iran**

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**English**

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**In the Name of God**

*Your Excellencies, distinguished Ministers, and esteemed colleagues,*

It is a great honor to represent the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran at this important Conference. I sincerely thank the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan, in particular His Excellency Mr. Rashad Nabiyeu, and also Ms. Doreen Bogdan-Martin, Secretary-General of the ITU, and Mr. Zavazava, Director of ITU-D, for organizing this valuable event.

The theme of this conference reflects a fundamental human right. In the Islamic Republic of Iran, access to the digital space is structured to guarantee equal opportunities for all people and regions.

In terms of affordability, Iran has reduced the cost of a high-usage mobile Internet package to 0.3% and fixed broadband to 0.2% of per-capita GNI — placing our country among the most affordable in the world. With 166 mobile Internet subscriptions per 100 inhabitants and over 92% coverage of 3G and 4G/LTE, Iran ranks among the nations with the most extensive access networks. The rollout of 5G, as a driver of digital transformation, continues rapidly with over 2,400 active sites already in operation.

We view connectivity not only as access but as a foundation for scientific, economic, and social growth. In the 2024 Network Readiness Index, Iran ranked first worldwide for AI scientific publications. Our country also ranks 26th globally in international Internet bandwidth, 15th in telecom investment, and 9th in mobile broadband traffic.

Meaningful connectivity has also advanced digital equity: Iran is now among the best in narrowing the rural gap in digital services, indicating that digital and online services are almost equally accessible to rural and urban populations.

**Two key national programs** support these achievements:

- 1. The Digital Government Ecosystem**, providing public services through a unified national portal supported by intelligent agents;
- 2. The migration to fiber-optic networks**, now covering over 9 million households, creating a sustainable base for smart cities, digital health, and e-learning.

*Distinguished colleagues,*

These successes have been achieved despite military attacks on civilian telecom infrastructure during the recent 12-day imposed war, extensive cyberattacks, and coercive measures that restrict access to advanced technologies and financial networks. While we strongly condemn both forms of aggression, I am proud to announce that, thanks to resilient infrastructure and strong human capital, Iran has maintained communication stability and a vibrant digital ecosystem.

We are determined to achieve a 10% digital-economy share of GDP and stand ready for win-win cooperation with all nations to advance inclusive and sustainable digital development for all.

**Thank you for your attention.**