

**My dear colleagues, sons and daughters of the ICT community,**

It is my pleasure to send you my warm congratulations on the occasions of the New Year, the celebration of the birth of Prophet Mohamed and Christmas, hoping for prosperity and safety for our beloved Egypt.

In this occasion, there is a need to review last year achievements in order to receive a new year with determination and hard work, and renew our promise to support the sector towards development. This is attained t by positive participation and bearing responsibility to continue with what we started, in line with the 2018 strategic plan of the ICT sector; a plan we all took part in promoting it through sincere performance.

We all know we live in a world that only recognizes the language of modern technology, and since we bear the ICT sector responsibility, we had to develop a strategy with set priorities. Our objective is to move towards Egypt digital society and introduce various technological solutions capable of contributing to developing the state's apparatuses, meeting citizens' needs, attracting investment and providing job opportunities for youth. The project has been adopted by Egypt Al-Sisi.

Last year was marked by astounding achievements, the most important of which was the strategic role of the ICT sector in the new Suez Canal project. This is in addition to launching the broadband strategy to enhance the efficiency of the internet infrastructure, link the state's apparatuses and improve the quality of services provided to citizens.

We have also gone a long way in implementing the road map to develop the ICT sector. Executive actions were settled to execute the unified license to advance the telecom market. Procedures are almost finalized to create a national entity that allows investment and develops the telecommunications infrastructure, which is the key factor to develop telecom services. this is in addition to what we have achieved in the Egyptian National Post Organization (ENPO) where post offices were automated to develop financial and societal services, especially for pensioners.

Since the power of the ICT sector relies on youth, we have paid close attention to training and qualifying human calibers, encouraging innovation and entrepreneurship in the field of ICT and supporting micro and small enterprises.

In line with attaining social justice, we have finished preparing strategic business plans to create six new technological parks in governorates, and we have laid the foundation for the first investment technology park in South Egypt (the new Smart Village in Asyut) to provide job opportunities for youth and develop investments across Egypt.

Moreover, main bases were set for partnership of the private sector, civil society organizations and global investments to expand in projects, promote electronics industry and surge growth rates of the sector, which in turn is reflected on the increase in the Gross National Product (GNP).

We have also paid close attention to providing a strong legislative environment to keep pace with the needs of the ICT sector. Proposals were finalized to amend a number of telecommunications laws, e-signature and public-private partnership in infrastructure projects. This is in addition to concluding proposals for the freedom of information law.

Furthermore, we remained committed to empowering people with disabilities by introducing technology solutions that help them integrate into the community, in line with the deep belief of our national responsibility towards them.

At the end, I would like to pay tribute to all leaders and personnel of MCIT, its affiliates and ICT companies for all their exerted efforts and the teamwork spirit which have set the rules of excellence within the sector through organizational work in an environment of mutual relations.

I'm sure our high aspirations will be the catalyst and inspiration for working harder to pursue a new year of achievements, maintain our position in global markets and achieve the sector's goals of progress, economic growth and prosperity.

With best wishes for further progress and success,

**Atef Helmy**

**The Minister of Communications and Information Technology**