**Speech by H.E. Dr. Amr S. Talaat / Minister of ICT in Egypt**

**At the Opening of the IDC CIO Summit 2021**

**Theme:** *Innovative Digital Strategies: Evolving to the Demands of a New Reality*

**June 14, 2021**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It gives me pleasure to participate in this year's version of the IDC CIO Summit of Egypt with a well-chosen theme and related discussions on "Innovative Digital Strategies" that do respond to the post - Covid new norm.

We also give innovative thinking due consideration as a main element in the "Digital Egypt" strategy, in a way that contributes to unleashing the economic impact in the benefit of all citizens while improving the quality of life for all.

The "Digital Egypt" strategy, has witnessed great developments through a number of innovative initiatives and projects that resulted in enhancing Egypt's position on the ICT industry map. The sector maintained the highest growth rate for the second year in a row by reaching 16% with 4.4% contribution to GDP. The volume of the sector's GDP increased from EGP 93.5 billion to EGP 107.7 billion, and digital exports rose from $3.6 billion to $4.1 billion in 2020.

**Today, I am indeed pleased to share with you the main highlights of the innovative approach adopted by the government – in close cooperation with the private sector – in its quest to achieve a digitally inclusive society that has the citizen at the core of its interest and concerted efforts.**

**Our efforts revolve around 3 interlinked mega projects running parallel within the Digital Egypt national vision**: The New Administrative Capital; the digital transformation and reform of government services across the country; and the digital by innovative design.

**The New Administrative Capital** is offering us and the citizenry a unique opportunity for a quantum leap in the reform of the governmental services and the transfer to a digital government. **Embedding digital in policy life cycle is being achieved.** The work processes of a number of government entities are reviewed, while connecting them through a central set of collaborative specialized applications and a special data center located at the NAC.

**The shift from traditional government to an e-government, then to a digital government is not a unilateral process, neither is it based on a preset model.** MCIT is the main entity in charge of the digital government and is working in close synergy with many other government agencies to connect giant data bases that are dispersed throughout the country. Already 75 national data bases have been linked together from different key governmental sectors. This step is considered a quantum leap to digital transformation on two axes: services provided to citizens and improvement of governmental performance. On the horizontal level, Port Said is our pilot of a legacy system migrating into a comprehensive digital government.

On the vertical level: we are working on our mega projects in re-engineering priority sectors such as agriculture, health, law enforcement and urban planning.

**The 'Digital Egypt' platform** has been launched to provide better and more effective access to a wide range of public services. The platform acts as a key driver for building a 360-degree citizen view, as well as a station for developing government services efficiently and more simply. 60 government services of the first phase have been launched on the platform. To secure digital inclusiveness, **we used an omnichannel approach, allowing different channels of delivery to co-exist** and assist delivery of public services in order to secure the same level of quality to all segments of the population. Our target is not to leave anyone behind.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

**A digital by design culture is being cultivated thoroughly**. In this spirit, we are harnessing emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence in the governmental decision- making process. In addition, the Ministry has a strong determination to create an environment conducive to innovation-based entrepreneurship. 'Creativa Innovation Hubs' is our lead project to achieve such a goal. Fifteen Hubs located in university campuses nationwide host trainings and capacity building programs, and acceleration and incubation activities for Egypt's budding startups. This full-fledged initiative aims to create unique opportunities to link our entrepreneurs with academia, industry and investors.

In the roadmap towards affording "Digitalization" in every aspect of life, we invest heavily in nurturing our local capacities and developing homegrown innovative solutions using emerging technologies. Our Applied Innovation Center collaborates with world-renowned academic and research institutions as well as global

Technology innovators to address challenges in the fields of agriculture, health, economic planning, infrastructure, smart cities, and Arabic language processing.

Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you for listening to the innovative aspects of "Digital Egypt" Strategy and I wish this distinguished forum fruitful deliberations.