



Honorable Chairman of the Conference,

Ladies and Gentlemen, Honorable Ministers and Heads of Delegations,

Your Excellency the Secretary General of the International Telecommunication Union,

Honorable Participants,

It is my pleasure to talk to you today in this international forum. At the outset, allow me to congratulate the Government of Romania for the outstanding hosting and organization of this conference, which is of special importance and pivotal significance.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Egypt is keen to be effectively involved in the activities of the ITU through the positive contribution of the Egyptian experts since its accession to the ITU in 1876 and then to the ITU Council in 1973.

The Egyptian Government has developed a strategy to build Digital Egypt; the strategy revolves around several pivots that aim to achieve digital transformation, build capacities, support digital innovation, provide a robust and secure digital infrastructure and prepare the supporting legislative and regulatory framework for the development of the ICT industry.

Egypt has succeeded in doubling the average fixed Internet speed eight times to rank first in Africa in the average Internet speed. It embarked, as part of Decent Life project, on delivering high-speed Internet services to about fifty-eight million citizens in three and a half million homes in about five thousand Egyptian villages. This is in addition to connecting more than twenty thousand buildings within the project to network government buildings with the fiber-optic cables.

We are working on a plan to establish sixteen smart cities and establish the Knowledge City as a technological edifice to support innovation and attract investments. Egypt sets its sights on building the human being as a basic foundation for achieving a Digital Egypt; the number of trainees has increased fifty-six times, and the training budget has multiplied twenty-six times in just four years.

The tireless efforts made by the state to build Digital Egypt had a positive impact on the ICT sector, which remains the highest growing among all the sectors of the state for four consecutive years, with a growth rate of more than 16.3%. In addition, our digital exports have also increased at an annual growth rate of about 10%.

Honorable participants,

Egypt has always supported the activities of the ITU, as it hosts the Arab Regional Office; Egypt also hosted the World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC) in 2019, and will host the Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR) in 2023, in which we look forward to your active participation.

Egypt always aspires to continue to place climate change issues among the priorities of the ITU. In this context, I have the honor to invite you to take part in the 27<sup>th</sup> session of the Climate Change Conference (COP27), which will be hosted in Sharm El Sheikh.

I wish you a great success for the conference and fruitful deliberations.

Thank you!