

Remarks by
H.E. Mr. Khusrav Noziri, ECO Secretary General
at the Opening Segment of the 3rd Ministerial Meeting on
Information and Communications Technologies (ICT)
Tehran, 13 July 2023

Excellency Eisa Zarepour, Honorable Minister of Information and Communications Technology of the Islamic Republic of Iran,
Honorable Ministers and Heads of Delegation,
Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, Distinguished Secretary General of D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation,
Mr. Liu Ziping, Distinguished Deputy Secretary General of Asia-Pacific Telecommunity,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am privileged to join you at the opening segment of our 3rd ECO Ministerial Meeting on ICT.

While felicitating the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the event, I thank all the distinguished delegations for ensuring their kind presence in this important ministerial interaction on ICT.

In recent years, particularly in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic, the role of ICT has considerably increased in the human landscape though it has been already making very substantial contribution in addressing our multiple needs and challenges.

The social media applications provide virtual fields to the global community, enabling the majority of people to promote their individual and collective businesses thereby encouraging and supporting the worldwide socioeconomic activities.

Today we witness new technologies and trends that appear to bear tremendous opportunities but at the same time equal challenges. The growing numbers of mobile applications and AI-based tools are influencing our societies both in positive and negative ways. With technological advancement, the capabilities of individual governments to lead, reorient, monitor and regulate them are shrinking and restrictive measures are being outdated due to new solutions and knowledge.

As the technological developments are gradually affecting the lifestyle, businesses, security and sustainability of the societies and provide them with great opportunities, new types of unknown challenges also emerge, especially concerning privacy of individuals and sovereignty of states.

To harness the potentials of the ever-increasing development of technologies and properly address the adverse effects, we need to enhance our cooperation particularly strong collaboration among the telecommunication regulators of the

ECO Member States through collective and institutionalized mechanisms and pursue our common objectives with single and united voice at the international fora.

Excellencies,

Sharing common borders, values and destiny, we have to remain united towards a better future in line with the aspirations of ECO leadership and the targets set forth in ECO Vision 2025.

I conclude my opening remarks with sincere appreciation to the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting this event of great significance.

Thank you.