Distinguished Chairperson,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is an honour and pleasure for me to brief the outcomes of the 16th Session of the Governing Council of the APCTT.

The 16th Session was held in virtual mode on 2nd and 3rd December 2020 and hosted by the Ministry of Science and Technology of the People’s Republic of China. It was attended by all 11 GC member States as well as by observers.

With reference to the substantive work of the Centre, the Council satisfied and expressed appreciations to the excellent results and outcomes achieved by the Centre.

Despite major challenges imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Centre delivered & contributed to 7 demand-driven capacity building events in collaboration with 27 partner institutions. The Centre’s capacity building activities enhanced knowledge and skills of 720 policymakers and participants.

As a decision, the Council requested APCTT to continue providing highly useful demand-driven capacity-building activities on areas such as identification, transfer, adaptation and adoption of technologies.

The Council adopted the proposed programme of work of the Centre for 2021. It requested the Centre to consider the proposals presented by the council members as well as other organizations during the session.

The Council also requested the Centre to organize annual international conference at the occasion of the Governing Council session.

With reference to the review of the administrative and financial status of the Centre, the Council expressed appreciation to the Government of India for its decision to increase its annual voluntary financial contributions for institutional support to the Centre. In addition, the Council invited member States to consider the following:

- to provide voluntary financial contributions to the Centre at the level recommended in the report of the independent external evaluator prepared in 2018;
- to finance new technical cooperation projects or to provide in-kind support to the Centre;
- to contribute national experts to work at the Centre on a non-reimbursable-loan basis

As for the venue of the seventeenth session of the Governing Council session, the Council welcomed with appreciation the offer, made by the Government of India, to host it around November or December in 2021.

Thank you.