Statement of the Department of Science and Technology of the Republic of the Philippines on the agenda, “Guidelines for inclusive technology and innovation policies for sustainable development” during the Third Session of the Committee on the Information and Communications Technology, and Innovation (CICTSTI3) held on 19-20 August 2020.

To be delivered by:

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Honorable Chair, Excellencies, distinguished participants, good day.

The Philippines recognize the importance of innovation in building a knowledge economy and has dedicated Chapter 14 of the Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022 for strategies on vigorously advancing STI.

In 2019, two landmark legislations, the Philippine Innovation Act and the Innovative Startup Act, were passed to adopt innovation as a vital component of the country’s inclusive development policies.

The Department of Science and Technology has been in the forefront in promoting inclusive STI policies in the Philippines.

We implement the Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program which provides Innovation Funds for MSMEs to adopt technological innovations.

We empower STI experts and innovators across the country by establishing Niche R&D Centers and implementing industry-academe collaborative R&D projects under the Science for Change Program.

We launched the Grassroots Innovation for Inclusive Development Program in 2019, made possible with support from UNESCAP, to make STI accessible to the disadvantaged and very poor sector.

We intensified priority actions towards realizing women’s economic empowerment through the Gender-Responsive Economic Actions for the Transformation of Women.

We created local multi-sectoral innovation networks thru the Regional Inclusive Innovation Centers.

We established Regional Research, Development and Innovation Committees that lobby local inclusive policies crafted as results of STI initiatives.

Excellencies, distinguished participants,

May I now highlight our recommendations.

1) Crafting of Guidelines on inclusive technology and innovation policies for sustainable development. This is relevant in providing guided approaches on the development, implementation, and evaluation of innovation policies that reflect the economic, social and environmental dimensions. Customizing the guidelines will address country-
specific conditions and capabilities, emphasizing the importance of multi-sectoral participation. We need to prioritize inclusive innovation and SDG issues based on local context and customize programs and budget, including rural infrastructures and connectivity.

2) Integrate grassroots innovation as constitutive component of the inclusive innovation framework of countries. This will pivot the development of dedicated vision, targets, strategies, and resources for grassroots innovations.

3) Highlight the important roles of the private sector through collaborative industry-academe or industry-government STI initiatives as well as the government and private financing institutions through inclusive financing schemes intended for eco-friendly, socially inclusive and other innovative enterprises and projects.

4) Create regional inclusive innovation networks and centers that will facilitate sharing and learning from experiences and success stories of inclusive innovation frameworks and strategies of different countries and innovation leaders.

5) Develop a good M&E tool that considers all stages of inclusive innovation process which may be in the form of a scorecard, to allow the evaluation of how these initiatives contribute towards the attainment of SDGs. Conducting an Innovation Survey will help provide information on areas where interventions are needed in terms of STI.

Excellencies, distinguished participants,

Thank you for your attention.