I welcome you to the UN regional ESCWA Technology Centre based in Amman. The Centre was proposed and developed between 2006 and 2010 through a long UN process. Then hosted based on an agreement with the Government of Jordan since August 2011 in the Royal Scientific Society - RSS. In brief, the governments of member states of ESCWA agreed to cooperate through a Board of Governors Headed by HRH Princess Sumaya bint El-Hasan in a regional integration and cooperation frame for common benefits in transferring and developing adequate technologies for their sustainable development.

KBE has been discussed over 20 years but still needs more than the concept of economic growth and wealth generation. Specifically: there is need for practical measurements, implementation schemes, and production plans “industrialization” like. KBE has been leapfrogging developing countries towards growth and prosperity as envisioned “knowledge mass production” can become the disruptive dual edge weapon in welfare states.

As we will see in the next 2 days, most countries of the region have been adopting between 2025 to 2030 transformation roadmaps towards KBE as near those days (of our kids and grandkids) over 70% of Arab population will qualify to enter the workforce and hence “The Opportunity” of “The Explosion” depends on what our generation has been doing !

While the initial focus in KBE was on ICT environment, nowadays we are building on that infrastructure to Knowledge Based Development KBD for the creation, application, and commercialization of Knowledge towards sustainable development and inclusive growth. Hence strengthening quality education, R&D, entrepreneurship networks, ICT infrastructure, seed capital, and IPR

I wish all of you a productive event and sustained knowledge networking throughout these 2 days.

Fouad Mrad, Executive Director of ESCWA Technology Centre (ETC)