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## JOINT PRESS RELEASE – MTC, HUAWEI, AND NUST SIGNED A TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT

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**09 July 2022 – Windhoek** – Harnessing strategic partnership that will position Namibia fit as a digitally driven nation, MTC, NUST, and HUAWEI have entered into a tripartite cooperation agreement - a vehicle to promote research, innovation, technological and entrepreneurial excellence and internationalization.

Additionally, the cooperation will focus on professional development; curriculum co-development; student placement for research and in-service training; Student excursions and field attachments to promote professional development and capacity building; funding; Technology R&D and Co-Creation; E-Learning enabled by 4IR technologies; Service Delivery and Commercialization; Cybersecurity, Cloud computing & Data Warehousing.

NUST Vice Chancellor, Dr. Eroid Naomab expressed pride in the agreement reached, highlighting that the three entities will pull together resources to accelerate the objectives of the cooperation.

“We are proud to extend our partnership with MTC to Huawei, under the framework of Smart Campus Initiative (SCI). As partners, we are all committed to pool resources, expertise, and networks to improve competitiveness through trans-disciplinary research, co-creation and co-development, application and transfer of specialized knowledge and technology aligned with NUST’s signature programme. We are very fortunate to benefit through this partnership from the ICT Academy, a school-enterprise cooperation project that involves higher education institutions, to help build that talent ecosystem that meets industry requirements, providing high-quality candidates for industry development. NUST is dedicated to use technology responsibly in addressing the needs of this nation, through long-term sustainable solutions.”

At the event, MTC's Chief Human Capital, Corporate and Marketing Officer, Tim Ekandjo, emphasised the importance of 5G for the 4IR. "As we embrace and drive research and innovation, we are pleased that as a country, we have completed an impactful 4IR Conference that kick-starts Namibia's exciting journey on the 4th Industrial Revolution. It is important that a conducive policy framework is in place to stimulate participation rather than inhibiting it.

We must note that 5G is a fundamental platform for the 4th Industrial Revolution because it is not just another G on the path of mobile technology evolution. 5G combines greater data transfer speeds and heightened processing power to enable IoT connectivity on a massive scale. It will have a significant impact on every aspect of our digital lives. With 5G comes high data rates, reduced latency, energy savings, cost reductions and higher system changes.

Almost every country in Africa has embraced the 5G technology and enjoying its benefits. Sadly, we still have a moratorium on 5G in Namibia and it is rather unfortunate that a country that has always been first in rolling out such technologies has now become the last due to conspiracy theories that has never made sense in the first place. We are thus asking the leadership to lift the moratorium on 5G and allow its citizens to enjoy the benefits of the technology like the rest of the world. We cannot talk about 4IR in the absence of 5G."

Huawei's Managing Director, David Yu – "One of our roles in this collaboration is not only to educate the students but also to train the staff. When teachers are digitally literate and trained to use ICT tools and platforms, it leads to a higher order thinking skills, providing creative options for students to express their understandings, and leave students better prepared to deal with ongoing technological change in society and the workplace. We hope for a long lasting relationship between NUST, MTC and Huawei. As giants in the industry, may we only continue to make positive contributions to the ICT industry."

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**Authored by: Corporate Affairs Department**