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Message of the distinguished Minister of Science, Research and Technology of the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Excellency Professor Mohammad Ali Zolfigol, on the occasion of the ICRANet–Isfahan Astronomy Meeting

In the Name of the Most High

Distinguished Scholars and Scientists,
Esteemed participants,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I feel proud and privileged to address this august gathering to those who have come together to recount some of the most intriguing and astonishing aspects of our Universe within the framework of what we have come to call astronomy, from the ancient times to the present. It is, therefore, quite befitting that the ICRANet–Isfahan Astronomy Meeting is being held in the ancient, beautiful, and historical city of Isfahan hosted by our colleagues at Isfahan University of Technology. We only regret that our distinguished guests are not here to be able to experience Isfahan in person. We, at the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology, consider the ICRANet–Isfahan Astronomy Meeting a significant event and hope that will mark the beginning of many research projects and collaborations both here and abroad.

My special thanks go to the Director of the International Centre for Relativistic Astrophysics Network, Professor Remo Ruffini, and his colleagues for converging on Isfahan. I trust that the ICRANet–Isfahan office at IUT will become an active hub that would serve to establish lasting links between Iranian astronomers and their new partners in the whole network. The Ministry of Science, Research, and Technology fully supports the scientific endeavors of ICRANet and Iranian astronomers.

I understand your scientific organizers have planned to have a glance at the history of ancient astronomy in Iran as well as the modern one practiced in Iranian universities and research centers. This is a very thoughtful provision and will allow you, scholars, to better assess the potentials of your colleagues for more extensive collaborative research and on a personal note, I assure you of the full support of the Ministry in this respect. In fact, in the past decade, it has been a deliberate and publicly announced policy of the Ministry to urge and support the universities administratively and financially to go international. I hope that your deliberations in this meeting will bear fruitful results leading to continued collaborations between Iran and ICRANet and especially between Iran and Italy, a country with which we have had deep historical ties well before its modern nationhood in the mid-nineteen century and with those people we share many cultural commonalities.

Finally, I am certain that you will join me in hoping that the future ICRANet–Isfahan meetings will take place face-to-face so that in addition to academic exchanges,

our guests will be able to feast their eyes on the wonderful architecture of the numerous monuments of this wonderful city.

Mohammad Ali Zolfigol,
Minister,
Science, Research and Technology,
Islamic Republic of Iran

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