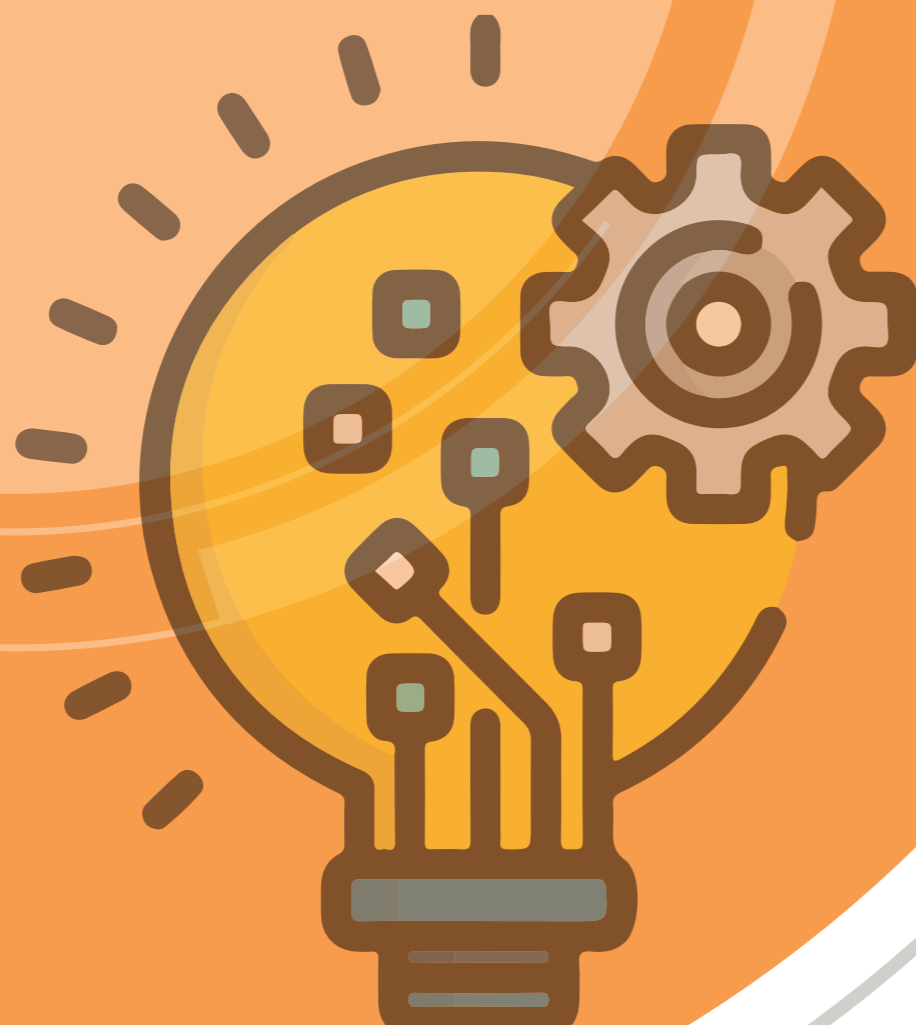
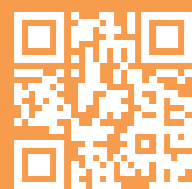




# TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION INDEX 2021

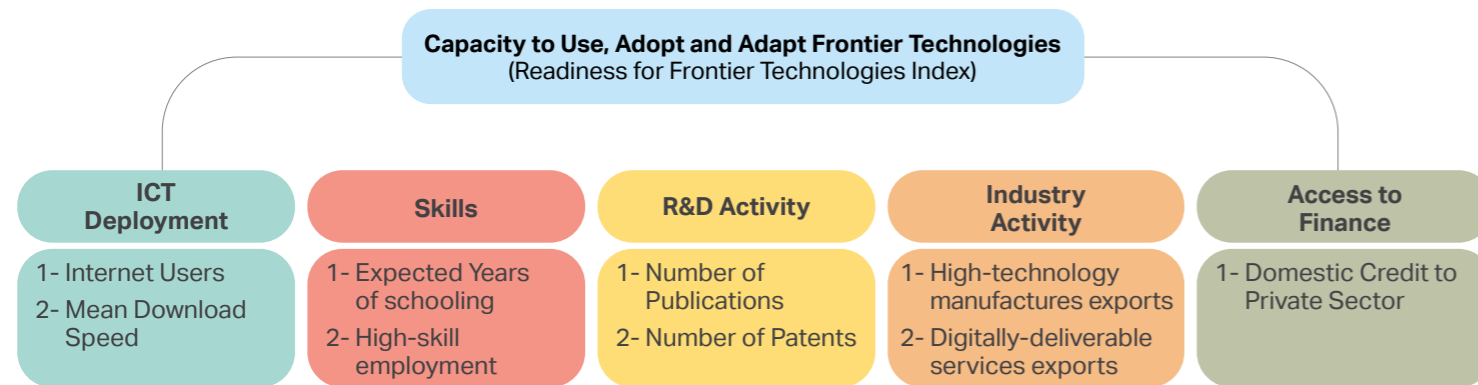
[kuwait.un.org](http://kuwait.un.org)



Recent developments in frontier technologies, including artificial intelligence, robotics and biotechnology, have shown tremendous potential for sustainable development. Yet, they also risk increasing inequalities by exacerbating and creating new digital divides between the technology haves and have-nots. The COVID-19 pandemic has further exposed this dichotomy. Technology has been a critical tool for addressing the spread of the disease, but not everyone has equal access to the benefits.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has published the report on results of the 2021 Readiness for Frontier Technological Index. The index comprises five building blocks: ICT deployment, skills, R&D activity, industry activity and access to finance.

# STRUCTURE OF THE INDEX



The index yielded results for 158 countries with the United States, Switzerland and the United Kingdom receiving the highest scores on a scale of 0 to 1. Based on their rankings, countries are placed within one of four 25-percentile score groups: low, lower-middle, upper-middle, and high values of the index.

According to the Index, Kuwait ranks 58<sup>th</sup> among 158 countries, and falls within the **Upper-middle group** of countries. Kuwait has the highest rank in “Access to finance” among other GCC countries. Kuwait also ranks high in ICT dimension. However, the country’s ranks in “Skills” and “R&D” dimensions, are relatively low.



## TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION INDEX 2021

# INDEX SCORE RANKING GCC COUNTRIES

Country	Total Score	Total Ranking	Score Group	ICT Ranking	Skills Ranking	R&D Ranking	Industry Ranking	Finance Ranking
United Arab Emirates	0.63	42	Upper-middle	34	57	38	44	38
Saudi Arabia	0.57	50	Upper-middle	56	41	26	129	69
Bahrain	0.54	56	Upper-middle	40	59	93	69	46
<b>Kuwait</b>	<b>0.53</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>Upper-middle</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>31</b>
Qatar	0.46	72	Upper-middle	42	100	57	137	42
Oman	0.45	74	Upper-middle	60	87	77	88	47