Your Excellency

Under-Secretary-General

Armida Alisjahbana,

Distinguished Heads of State and Government,

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen!

It gives me an immense pleasure to participate at the 78th session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

Taking this opportunity, I would also like to express sincere congratulations to the leadership and members of the ESCAP with its 75th anniversary.

Uzbekistan defines ESCAP as one of the most inclusive intergovernmental platforms, enabling countries of the Asian-Pacific region to identify solutions of sustainable development challenges.

It is notable that for last several years we have intensified our cooperation within the framework of ESCAP.
We have adopted **three Road maps** to strengthen our multilateral partnership.

As a result of these **concrete** measures we were able to accelerate the process of implementing main objectives of **Sustainable Development Goals** in our country. We have **resumed** our participation in **SPECA** and **cochaired** the program last year.

We have also conducted a number of events under **ESCAP** on the regional level and joined “**Regional Space Application Programme for Sustainable Development**”.

**Dear colleagues!**

Current challenges taking place in the world, including **severe** consequences of the **climate change**, rising concerns of **food security**, growing level of **global poverty** require us to concentrate our efforts on the development of joint actions to address these important issues.

Since **2017** in the course of implementation a wide scale **reform strategy** of the **President** of **Uzbekistan** H.E. **Shavkat Mirziyoyev**, we have reshaped our vision towards **development** of our society.
The priorities and pillars of New Uzbekistan Development Strategy covering period from 2022 to 2026 to a great extend correlate with the sustainable development goals.

Esteemed participants!

In order to achieve SDGs in our cooperation with the countries of Asian-Pacific region, we propose to focus our partnership in the following priority areas.

First. Today we need to set a goal of creating favorable conditions for strengthening and increasing mutual trade between our countries.

It is important to intensify joint cooperation on removing existing trade barriers, simplification of technical regulations, digitalization of customs procedures to facilitate market access issues.

Uzbekistan closely works with ESCAP on signing the Framework Agreement on Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific.

Second. Due to new geopolitical risks as well as socio-economic consequences of pandemic, the role of food security has become more important than ever.
Uzbekistan supports recent initiative of adopting five Action Tracks, which were introduced during the first UN Food Systems Summit in 2021.

It is also important to support efforts of ESCAP’s Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization on promotion of sustainable agricultural initiatives for food security through technical cooperation, exchange of information and knowledge sharing.

Third. Transport connectivity is one of the major driving forces behind a sustainable growth.

We believe it is vital to diversify existing transport corridors, linking our region of Central Asia with the outer world.

In this context, we are confident that construction of Trans-afghan railway will help to fully utilize the transit potential of Central and South Asia, as well as significantly reduce time and cost of transporting goods between South Asia and Europe through Central Asia.

Fourth. Tourism has a great potential to contribute to all of the SDGs.
In Uzbekistan we were able to increase the flow of tourists by almost three times in the first quarter of this year and plan to restore pre-pandemic numbers by the end of 2022.

We are planning to ratify International Code for the Protection of Tourists within United Nations World Tourism Organization, and in this regard, we propose to launch new direct flights between our countries.

Dear colleges!

Uzbekistan will consistently continue to develop the broad-scale, open and practical partnership within the framework of ESCAP.

We are confident that implementation of all the initiatives proposed during this conference will further strengthen our mutually beneficial cooperation and contribute to achieving sustainable development goals by all our countries.

Thank you for your attention!