

**SPEECH**

at the **78<sup>th</sup>** Session of the **United Nations** Economic and Social Commission for **Asia** and the **Pacific**

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 **78<sup>th</sup>** 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 **75<sup>th</sup>** 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 extent 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!**