

Mr. chairman Ladies and Gentlemen

I am honored and grateful to appear before you today. Moreover, I would like to extend heartfelt thanks to the respectful authorities and organizers of the meeting, especially the government and people of Kazakhstan for their hospitality.

This meeting will definitely assist in the advancement of international cooperation among our countries and we are hoping to have the same meeting in our country and Tehran with your kind presence.

Although some sever and unjust sanctions had been imposed on our country I would say our great neighbors trust us to transport and transit goods and passengers through our territory for a long time.

since Iran deal has been implemented, it is expected to stabilize The Islamic Republic of Iran's relationship with other countries and expand bilateral and multilateral interactions. Our country declares its preparation for cooperation in all areas. In this regard, the cooperation of banks and financing institutions, leasing companies and dealers for the provision of wagons, locomotives, buses, ships, aircraft and airport equipment is welcome. I will receive any investors in these fields in the days of my stay in Almaty.

I believe that the role of International organization like UNescap would be more important than before in respect of management of economic cooperation in this region and would be more effective than it used to be. I ought to mention their attempts in respect of establishing Asia high way and trans Asia rail way as well as dry ports network.

Definitely unscap could help our countries and our people to share facilities and it helps us to use the all opportunities that have been provided already.

Ladies and Gentlemen

The Islamic Republic of Iran is located on the route of important transit corridors of Asia:

Including:

- North-South Corridor, which connects the ports of India to Russia.
- East-West Corridor which is reminiscent of the ancient Silk Road. The southern branches of this corridor passes through the territory of The Islamic Republic of Iran.
- Transport corridors intended by the ECO such as KTAI project or the railway of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Iran, which can connect China to Europe via the rail.

Currently, there are around 15 international transport services between China and Europe via Kazakhstan and Russia. Iran's route has a length of 8300 km and the average expenses of this route is approximately 9,500 dollars per container from China to Europe and vice versa.

If the railway connecting China to Central Asia is completed, Iran's route can be a route with high economic justification for transit goods in order to reduce the travel time to 18 days as well as decreasing around 1000 dollars per container. This route is also significance to China as well, for the following reasons:

- A)Improvement of transportation network in western regions and its economic growth,
- B) Access to central Europe and the Mediterranean countries,
- C)In addition, access to the Persian Gulf countries.

Our country intends to revive the Silk Road between Europe and Asia by rail and road which is regarded as a cause of more international cooperation.

The transport and transit infrastructures of The Islamic Republic of Iran have been much improved and is capable of responding to all customer needs. In this regard, I would like to inform you about some key items:

- A) The road network of The Islamic Republic of Iran is 220,000 km of which 16906 kilometers are freeways and highways. These freeways have been constructed in partnership with the private sector; according to the country's development programs, annually around \$ 3 billion of financial resources are required to build freeways..
- B) The rail lines of our country Iran is 14,000 km in length and approximately 8,000 km are under study and construction as well. The priority of transport investment is concerned with the railway domain that needs \$ 2 billion of annual financial resources.
- C) The Islamic Republic of Iran leads to the shores of the Caspian Sea in the north and to the Persian Gulf and Sea of Oman in the south where altogether 11 commercial ports provide their services.
- D) Iran plans to establish six dry ports in according to its sixth five-year development plan (2017-2022) Iran has conducted comprehensive studies regarding development of dry ports mashhad- Tabriz – the southeastern sistan-baluchestan province Tehran's Imam Khomeini International airport and Aprin train station on the outskirts of the capital city are potential sites where the dry ports may be established. Iran can sign agreement with the landlocked countries like Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Uzbekistan to give them access to free waters via dry ports established in Iran.

Ladies and Gentlemen

International transportation is an opportunity for better interaction with each other. The Islamic Republic of Iran intends to expand transit partnerships to all countries in the region. In all international transportation agreements, friendship and amity between members has been emphasized; therefore, the implementation of these agreements will

promote mutual respect and understanding between nations. Finally, I am extremely grateful to you all for your participation in this convention and paying attention to my words; once more I also thank the organizers of this convention and the government and people of Kazakhstan. Surely, this conference will have excellent results in the development of international relationships and the expansion of common interests around the world.