Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Participants,

It is my honor to be part of this significant event and address such an distinguished audience.

Main idea of today’s meeting is building back from crises through regional cooperation, and we are truly standing at the very important momentum, when involvement of all nations for better future is required. Covid-19 pandemic represents enormous global challenge, when addressing of it is possible only with solidarity and close cooperation of all nations.

Georgia was no exception from global tendency, when pandemic has interrupted everyday life practically in all directions especially, the pandemic damaged positive and steady economic grow. Because of global economic slowdown our GDP growth rate dropped by 6% and foreign trade narrowed by 20% in 2020. Despite all, Georgia has approved and managed to start implementing anti-crisis economic plan for different sectors of economy, facilitating steady economic recovery and development.

During the last year, Georgia has managed to arrange and provide most public services online, facilitated online education, including introduction of TV lessons and supported online trade tools (e-commerce) almost for all goods.

Notwithstanding internal challenges caused by pandemic, Georgia is actively implementing international agenda. Due to its strategic location, as bridge between Europe and Asia, Georgia involved in close cooperation with Asia-Pacific region to facilitate greater broadband and transport connectivity, exchange of data, facilitation of movement of innovations and trade.

I would like to underline that during the Covid-19 crises transit borders of Georgia continued to provide all the services with a specially designed formula, facilitating smooth movement of goods by air, rail and road. In addition, for better protection the block chain system is widely used to ensure security of data, affordability and security of data exchange.

As we are witnessing, development of data driven (digital) economy, Georgia is ready to facilitate data movement between Europe and Asia through its territory as well and actively collaborates with a number of countries in the West and Asia to implement several multiregional important projects.

To provide more regional development and security globally, Georgia is actively participating in joint energy projects, when oil, gas and electricity is flowing through Georgia to international markets.

Given the existing situation, it is undeniable that the pandemic is a significant challenge to the SDGs. We strongly believe that despite the deteriorated situation, the SDGs will remain...
as one of the top priority in the political and economic agenda of Georgia, where implementation of SDG targets are essential and decisive for future development and welfare.

We call over the nations to be devoted to the SDG implementation process and make world better with our mutual devotion and action.

It should be underlined that new reality created some new opportunities as well and we have to use these new opportunities for the timely rehabilitation of the global economy.

Thank you for your attention and I wish you successful deliberations.