

**Country Statement by H.E. Mr. Askar Zhambakin, Vice-Minister of Digital development, innovations and aerospace industry of the Republic of Kazakhstan on the Occasion of the UNESCAP 79<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission  
May 15, 2023**

Madam Chairperson, distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen!

I would like to begin by expressing my gratitude to the member countries for electing Kazakhstan as the Vice-Chairman of the UN ESCAP 79 session. This is a testament to the high confidence that member countries have in our country, and we are committed to serving this session with utmost dedication and professionalism.

The Asia-Pacific region is home of the world's fastest-growing economies, and its dynamism has been a significant contributor to global economic growth. However, the region also faces significant challenges, such as poverty, inequality, climate change, and natural disasters. These challenges require collective efforts and subregional cooperation to address them effectively.

We believe that digital transformation is a key driver of sustainable development and economic growth, and that subregional cooperation is essential to ensuring that no one is left behind in the digital age. In this regard, we are proud to be a Co-Chair of the APIS WG 3 on Digital data and a Vice-Chair of APIS WG 1 on Connectivity for all.

We are pleased to announce our commitment to establish the UN Digital Solutions Center for Sustainable Development, which will serve as a hub for providing practical digital solutions in Central Asia and beyond. We believe that this center will play a critical role in promoting digital cooperation and inclusion, and we look forward to working with all member countries to make it a success.

In line with this commitment, we are also excited to host the UN ESCAP Digital Ministerial Conference in Kazakhstan in October 2024, which will focus on digital inclusion and transformation to accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and regional technology initiatives, including the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway initiative. We believe that this conference will provide a platform for member countries to exchange best practices, discuss challenges and opportunities, and explore new ways to leverage digital technologies for the benefit of all.

In conclusion, Madam Chairperson, the initiatives outlined above represent significant opportunities for strengthening subregional cooperation and promoting sustainable development and digital transformation in the Asia-Pacific region. We look forward to working together with all stakeholders towards achieving these goals and unlocking the region's full potential.

Thank you.