Country Statement by the delegation of Republic of Azerbaijan
77th session of the Commission
26 to 29 April 2021

Madam Chair,
Madam Executive Secretary,
Dear delegates

First of all, allow me to congratulate you, Madam Chair, on your assumption as a chairperson of 77th session of commission, I am confident that under your leadership this session will be able to complete its proceedings successfully.

Madam Chair

The resent reports released by UNESCAP demonstrate that Asia-Pacific has emerged as the world’s fastest growing region over the past. On the other hand, dynamic development has been accompanied by rising inequality. Such trend has posed significant challenges to the international community in realizing SDG within set timeline.

Azerbaijan attach great importance to promoting cooperation with countries of ESCAP region and look forward to deepening integration with our existing partners. The Government of Azerbaijan has initiated a number of big projects in the fields of energy, transport and information and communication technologies which are aimed at strengthening existing economic ties in our region.

Located on strategic crossroads of East and West, Azerbaijan is open to potential new initiatives on expansion of inter-regional energy connectivity and bringing Central Asia closer to European energy architecture. Here I have to mention Baku-Tbilis-Jeyhan oil pipeline, Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum gas pipeline and Southern Gas-Corridor, which was, commissioned on 31 December 2020. Just to inform 3500 km long Southern Gas Corridor connecting 7 countries is one of the biggest energy infrastructure projects in the world.

Policy of diversification of economy is one of the important elements for every country, especially rich with oil and gas.

Being landlocked developing country, Azerbaijan participates actively in regional connectivity projects, such as East-West, North-South, North-West transportation corridors, becoming one of Eurasia’s main and reliable transportation and logistics hubs. Together with our partners, we connected Azerbaijan’s transport infrastructure with Lapis Lazuli transport corridor and created broad opportunities for multilateral cooperation in the area of transportation.

We are expanding our information transit capabilities. Agreements have been signed with Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan on fiber-optic cable that laying
along the bottom of Caspian Sea. These projects will give a serious impetus to the implementation of the Trans Eurasian Super Information Highway (TASIM) project, which will be launched from Frankfurt to Hongkong with the initiative of Azerbaijan in 2008.

The global COVID-19 pandemic adversely affects all countries of the world. No country is insured against it.

Azerbaijan took prompt and necessary measures to prevent the spread of coronavirus. During the pandemic, the priority for us is the protection of people's health and their social protection.

To ensure economic stability in Azerbaijan, solve the problems associated with employment, ensure macroeconomic and financial stability, a socioeconomic support package in the amount of more than $2 billion was adopted. The scale and complexity of this crisis demand a coordinated global response. It is also evident that no country, regardless of size or resources, can manage COVID-19 alone. Close partnership between countries is essential.

Azerbaijan was among the first countries to mobilize global efforts against COVID-19 pandemic.

We initiated the Summit of the Turkic Council in April 2020, the Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement in May 2020 and the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) at the level of the heads of state and government in December 2020.

Honoring its international responsibility, Azerbaijan has made voluntary contributions to the World Health Organization in the amount of 10 million US dollars. We have also provided direct humanitarian and financial assistance to more than 30 countries in their fight with the coronavirus.

In the conditions of the pandemic, it is important to maintain open trade between our countries and uninterruptedly carry out international cargo transportation. Azerbaijan, as a reliable transit and logistical center responsibly treating its role in the pandemic, provides unhindered transit traffic through its territory.

We are also committed to meeting SDGs and in order to harmonize national development policies with the 2030 Development Agenda, Coordination Council on Sustainable Development headed by Deputy Prime Minister was created in October 2016. At the political forum of the UN Economic and Social Council to be held in July 2021, Azerbaijan will present the third Voluntary National Report, thus becoming the first country in the region to submit such report for the third time.

Madam Chair

With the liberation of the occupied territories and trilateral statements by the leaders of Azerbaijan, Armenia and Russia, the work to unblock all the transport and communication links in the region is well underway. We are now working on the realization of “Zangazur transportation corridor”, which will be an
integral part of the East-West corridor connecting Asia and Europe through Azerbaijan. This corridor will allow Azerbaijan to strengthen its position as Eurasia’s transport and logistic hub. Opening of communications will be in the benefit of all regional countries and of course will bring new dynamic to regional cooperation.

In conclusion, we do believe that ESCAP will continue to play active role in promoting cooperation in the region to address existing challenges and coordinating joint efforts of its Member States for benefit of the region as a whole.

Thank you, Mr/Ms Chair