Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour to speak on behalf of the Republic of Azerbaijan, one of the champion countries in Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs). We are proud to be the first country in the UNESCAP region and one of only five globally to present four VNRs at the High-Level Political Forum by 2024.

Each of Azerbaijan's VNRs reflects our journey of aligning global development goals with national priorities. From addressing poverty to promoting inclusive decision-making, our commitment has remained strong. We actively engage civil society, youth, the private sector, and international partners in shaping our development path.

In line with this commitment, the Government of Azerbaijan has launched several large-scale projects in the fields of energy, transport, and information and communication technologies. These initiatives aim to strengthen economic ties within our region. We strongly believe that no nation can succeed alone without regional and international cooperation. In this regard regional projects will narrow inequalities within the countries and of course between the countries. Moreover, economic stability at the national level is closely tied to predictable and cooperative relations beyond our borders. Our energy and transportation projects, therefore, are designed to foster broad-based regional and global collaboration that benefits all participating countries.

One of our key priorities is the rehabilitation and development of liberated territories. We view this not only as a national task but also as an opportunity to build peace and stimulate economic growth in the region.

Distinguished colleagues,

As the UN Secretary-General's report highlights, only 15–17% of the SDG targets are currently on track. A major reason is the lack of financing. Azerbaijan has responded by developing an Integrated National Financing Framework and SDG Investment Maps. We are pleased to report that over 82% of our national budget expenditures align with SDG targets, representing nearly 25% of our GDP in 2023.

We also appreciate the valuable support of UNESCAP through the "twinning" project. In this context, Azerbaijan was pleased to host colleagues from Lao PDR for a knowledge-sharing tour to improve VNR practices. We strongly believe such partnerships are essential for mutual learning and progress.

Finally, Azerbaijan remains deeply committed to sustainable development and welcomes continued collaboration with all our partners for a better and more resilient future.

Thank you.