Dear EGM meeting participants and SPECA WG on ITSD delegates!

- I would like to express my gratitude for the honor of welcoming all participants at this event. I hope that today's event will contribute to further cooperation.
- First, let me briefly outline the digital transformation work in Kazakhstan.
- Our active transition to a digital society includes such important areas as the development of high-quality IT infrastructure and human capital, the digitalization of economic sectors and the creation of innovative ecosystems.
- In the last 2 years, the Kazakh economy has shown a high level of digital sustainability through digital solutions in all areas of activity (state, business and population).
- Despite all the challenges, we have created effective work to improve the availability and quality of digital infrastructure.
- Proof of this is the positive level of Kazakhstan in the world rankings.

In particular, we are ranked 11th – in the UN rating of the development of online services, 29th – in the e-government development index and 31st – in terms of cybersecurity.

We are actively developing the digital agenda of the conception “hearing state” by developing new systems and expanding communication channels with citizens and businesses to simplify interaction with public services.

- As a result, already about 95 % of public services have been automated and converted into electronic format. Now we are on the way to 100% digitalization of services.

  Over the past year, 52 million services were provided through Egov, and for the 1st quarter of this year, 11.7 million, and through Egov mobile 19.1 and 4.8 million services, respectively.

  Automation of public services has made it possible to optimize the process of obtaining them not only in the country, but also abroad.

  - In 11 embassies of Kazakhstan, a pilot project was launched to issue an electronic digital signature and 191 EDS were issued for 2021, more than 2 times, from 80 to 30 days, the period for issuing passports through embassies was reduced, the issuance of IIN and EDS to non-residents began for foreign investors, so that they can participate in our country's online auctions.

  - In order to increase the investment attractiveness of Kazakhstan Providing advice to citizens on the provision of public services carried out by the Unified Contact Center, which provided 24 million consultations, and the waiting time for an operator's response is 20 seconds, the percentage of dialing is 96.4%.

  - I would especially like to draw your attention to the “Digital Documents” project. So the electronic form of documents used in everyday
life has an official status (today, 18 types of digital documents have already been implemented, which have been used more than 48 million times).

- However, this is only available in Kazakhstan and our citizens still use paper documents abroad (visa, passport, PCR result, education documents, etc.).
  - But it should be noted that the digitization carried out in the region by one state does not lead to the digital development of all ESCAP member countries.

- We need to seriously think about the interstate integration of information systems. Of course, taking into account all the requirements for information security and non-proliferation of state data. This should be our main goal: to make the interaction between our citizens, businesses and governments simpler and more people-centered.
  - This make life of the population in our countries easily and create row benefits for various sectors of the economy (tourism, medicine, trade, education, etc.).

- We can rely on the UN-led digitalization initiative, the active development of which contributes to the global community to achieve the principles of equality and justice. And realize specified we can together by uniting our efforts in this direction.
  - Thus, in order to overcome the digital divide and to contribute effective cooperation in the field of digital technologies, ESCAP attaches great importance to the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (AP-IS). This will strengthen interstate politics and increase the availability of broadband Internet by expanding the Internet infrastructure in the region.

- In this regard, on April 20, 2021, within the framework of the Memorandum of Cooperation between MDDIAI and ESCAP, we laid the foundation for accelerating the process of transformation of Central Asia.
  - And based on the results of researches by the SPECA Working Group, we reached an agreement to establish a sub-regional specialized organization in Almaty - Center Digital Solutions for sustainable Development (CDS).

3 solutions were identified on the status of the SDC and its creation.

- **Option 1 - the most preferable - CDS as a new regional institution of UNESCAP** (requires the consent of the UN member countries with documentary consolidation, financed from extrabudgetary resources, which, as a rule, are fully provided by the Government of the host country, but financial contributions from other donor governments are not excluded).

- **Option 2 - CDS as a legally independent subregional organization under the auspices of ESCAP** (priority to the landlocked countries of Central Asia and Mongolia, and cooperate with UN organizations through Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) between the Center and relevant UN entities. The host country will be responsible for mobilizing resources for the rapid delivery of services by the Center with the support of ESCAP and the system UN, as provided in the MoU).

- **Option 3 - least preferred – CDS as a sub-regional organization based in Kazakhstan and associated with UN SPECA** (a tripartite memorandum of understanding between the Centre, ESCAP and ECE providing for further working methods, and also the Host Government will be responsible for mobilizing the necessary financial resources with support from ESCAP and ECE).

- For implementation this initiatives on the creation of the CDS we developed Draft Roadmap. And we would like to jointly discuss and approve in next month.
In sum, I ask ESCAP countries and the SPECA Working group to support Kazakh initiative on creation of the CDS.

And we, in turn, are ready to actively cooperate with you and provide all the necessary infrastructure and resources (office space at the UN premises in Almaty and specialists).

In conclusion, I take this opportunity to inform you about the Digital Bridge planned in September in the capital of Kazakhstan. It’s an annual international event attended by representatives from the governments of foreign countries, international experts and the global IT community. We will be glad to see you at this event.

Thank you for your attention!