Fourth Ministerial Conference on Transport
Ministerial Roundtable “Accelerating transformative action in transport for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals”
16 December 2021
Mr. Jasurbek Choriyev, Deputy Minister of Transport of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Thank you Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana for your question,
Dear Heads of Delegations, distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, allow me, on behalf of the Ministry of Transport of the Republic of Uzbekistan, sincerely welcome all participants and shortly inform about the work done.

The development of regional transport and transit potential is one of the most important factors of sustainable economic growth. Realizing this, we pay great attention to the modernization of the transport, transit and logistics sector, ensuring the broad integration of the region into the international network of transport communications in order to ensure access to maritime communications.

We are interested in forming a developed network of transport corridors of regional importance.

In this direction, active work is being carried out on the formation of the Uzbekistan–Kyrgyzstan–China and Mazar-I–Sharif–Kabul–Peshawar railways, which will link Europe and Asian countries.

It should be noted that already today, on the route "Andijan – Osh – Irkeshtam – Kashgar", automobile cargo transportation is carried out.

Measures are being taken to develop the transport corridor "Kazakhstan - Uzbekistan - Turkmenistan - Iran - Oman - India", which is the shortest route to the ports of the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf.

Dear colleagues,
In recent years, the States of Central Asia and the South Caucasus have achieved great success in the modernization and development of basic transport infrastructure - the construction of highways and railways and airports, logistics centers, sea and dry ports.

But we all know that it is not enough and today we have to pay more attention to:

1. Open existing but locked routes;
2. Work on speed of custom checks by Digitalization of existing procedures by integration of E-permit, E-cmr, E-Tir and others;
3. Cooperate on decrease of tariffs and physical and political barriers on routes;
4. Also to save our nature, we have to work on decrease of CO2 pollution.

**In this regard, and as a solution for such cooperation and answer to the above mentioned question** we call for support for the initiative of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan to create a Regional center for the development of transport and Communication Interconnectedness under the auspices of the United Nations, which will form a platform for discussing and promptly resolving the problematic issues that hinder the development of the transport and communication sector and developing new initiatives.

The Center will be a body operating under the auspices of the United Nations, empowered to address issues of integration cooperation and the formulation of a unified transport policy in the Central Asian region.

The strategic goal of the center will be to ensure sustainable transport connectivity within the region (a single transport system), as well as the integration of Central Asia into global transport and transit corridors.

For detailed information, with your consent I can tell all the key objectives of the abovementioned Center for integration.

**Key objectives of the Center:**
Goal 1. Ensure unhindered transportation of passengers and cargo, including transit, between the Central Asian States.

Goal 2. Realize the transport and transit potential of the region through the improvement of existing and the formation of new international transport corridors.

Goal 3. Minimize the negative impact of the transport system on the environment.

Goal 4. Introduce advanced innovative technologies into the transport system of Central Asia.

Goal 5. Ensure transport security in Central Asia.

**Main principles of the Center's activity are:**

1. Mutual interest of all members of the Center;
2. Observance of the principle of equality in the conduction of the Center's activities;
3. Mutual respect;
4. Transparency;
5. Balance of national and regional interests;
6. Effective use of best practices, close cooperation with international institutions;
7. Focus on the overall result;
8. Conducting the Center's activities mainly with digital document management;
9. Resource efficiency;
10. Focus on systematic work in the Central Asian region.

We are convinced that within the framework of the work of the Regional Center, we will be able to fully achieve the desired results on the activation of existing transport corridors and the formation of new ones, ensuring the deep integration of our region into the international transport system, which will undoubtedly meet the interests of all countries in the region.
Ultimately, the role of the Central Asian countries as a key transport and transit hub will increase and will make it possible to become the most important component in the formation of cargo flows along the North-South and West-East transport and transit corridors.

Additionally, the Uzbek side proposes to create a joint Working Group on the problems of international cargo transportation during a pandemic, consisting of representatives of the China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Uzbekistan and Korea under the auspices of ESCAP. 

*For information. The Russian Federation and Kazakhstan support this initiative.*

In conclusion, let me say that it gives me great pleasure to attend today's conference.

Taking this opportunity, let me wish all participants good health and productive dialogue.

I hope in next multilateral events we will meet in real, without videoconferencing!

**Thank you for your attention!**