

Talking Points: Welcoming Remarks
Excellency Mr Bagdad Batyrbekovich Mussin, Minister
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Your **Excellency Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana**,

Excellences, Distinguished Guests, Dear participants!

First of all, I want to express my gratitude to the ESCAP secretariat for organizing an important dialogue on enhancing regional cooperation and partnership.

We highly appreciate the cooperation with the ESCAP secretariat, especially within the framework of the Memorandum of Agreement between the Ministry of Digital Development and Aerospace Industry and ESCAP signed on April last year.

Kazakhstan is constantly working on the issue of increasing the investment attractiveness of its ICT sector. In this regard, the government has set the task of attracting global technology companies to its ICT industry.

In addition, today, within the framework of the national project "Technological breakthrough through digitalization, science and innovation", we enhance certain measures to develop the big data industry, introduce elements of artificial intelligence, 5G, digitalize public services and digitally transform industrial facilities.

An effective innovation infrastructure plays an important role in increasing investment attractiveness. In 2018 the "Astana Hub" – an IT Technopark has been launched with favorable tax and visa regime, as well as other measures of state support for IT-entrepreneurs.

For years, we have been creating the foundations for the functioning of a digital government, with a focus on citizens and with an emphasis on data that is collected and properly processed.

Our country is pursuing a policy based on the concept of a "hearing state" and focused on creating value for each member of our society.

Today, electronic documents are being actively introduced in almost all sectors of economy, public services and functions of government agencies are being optimized on a systemic basis.

Today, about 90% of public services are available in electronic form. The level of satisfaction with e-services received independently through the e-government portal is 91.8%.

In 2020, Kazakhstan ranked 29th among 193 countries in the UN e-Government Development Index, moving up 10 positions.

Nevertheless, the digital transformation is currently underway in order to transform the public service sector further and to create opportunities for the development of new types of business.

We have institutions which focus on developing innovative clusters and supporting IT companies, such as AO Holding Zerde, Astana Hub, Qazinnovations, Qazindustry and others.

We are open to share our practices and propose needed platforms to share successful cases with our colleagues in the region.

And our Ministry ready to cooperate with our colleagues to get their experience and successful solutions and cases.

We support the idea of the regional Digital Center for Central Asia and believe that it will create a unique platform for important initiatives in the region.

Therefore, strengthening institutional capacities through analytical and policy related work of the proposed Digital Solutions Center for Sustainable Development under the auspices of UN ESCAP will play an essential role in preparing basis for the digital transformation in the region.

Our understanding is that the exchange of experiences in certain areas of ICT between counties and their businesses is of crucial for promoting bilateral cooperation and development of the region.

Again, I would like to express my gratitude for the opportunity to have a speech at today's dialogue!

I thank you all for your attention and wish successful work to all participants.