

Scripts of Opening statement (unofficial translation)

Mr. Abdusamat Muminov, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Transport of Uzbekistan

26 January 2022 (virtual)

Distinguished Participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Madam Executive Secretary,

On behalf of the Minister of Transport of the Republic of Uzbekistan I would like to express my gratitude to UN ESCAP for inviting the Ministry to take part in the Dialogue and deliver a speech.

I would like to inform about activities of the Ministry. The transport connectivity has proven to be vital during the pandemic. Also, the pandemic forced us to work on further digitalization of the freight and passengers' transport to minimize human presence. We have successfully implemented several ICT projects in transport sector, including the cross-border e-clearance and processing of freight with Kazakhstan and then with Tajikistan. We plan to implement similar activities with the other neighboring countries.

In addition, we have introduced e-permits for freight transport to enter the territory of Uzbekistan with the number of e-permits growing up to 100 000 per year. It has not only prevented human contacts but also significantly speeded up the permits obtaining process and significantly reduced labor intensity. We plan to further practice e-permits and plan to work with our neighbouring countries on it.

We have also introduced the e-tender system through which companies are contracted for passenger transport services with a minimum exposure and higher safety standards. The bidding process itself became more safer by limiting human presence and significantly reduced corruption risks.

We would like to extend our desire in exploring the best world practices and cooperation on e-ticket purchase systems to further reduce human exposure to such emergencies as pandemics and create more comfortable conditions for our citizens in buying tickets and traveling.

We are also interested in establishing and developing improved logistic services for better suppliers and customers logistics linkages in terms of preserving customers' rights as well as reduced delivery time.

Uzbekistan is implementing a strategy "Digital Uzbekistan – 2030", including the project "One Million Programmers", which is successfully underway. Meanwhile, the number of internet users grew from 21 million to 30 million, the length of the fiber-optic internet reached 20 thousand km and the mobile internet coverage reached 95% of population, providing significant contribution to the digital transformation of the country.

Uzbekistan extends the interest in the improved transport connectivity and further digitalization of the sector and seeks for the joint opportunities and initiatives with UN ESCAP on establishment of the Regional Center for the Development of Transport and Connectivity in Central Asia. We also look forward for extended cooperation in transport connectivity with other sub-regions in the Asia and the Pacific.

Once again, I would like to extend our appreciation for inviting to the Dialogue.

Thank you!