Dear Mrs. Executive Secretary of ESCAP

Ladies, and gentlemen!

I am glad for opportunity to speak at today's session.

The COVID-19 pandemic and its devastating socio-economic consequences have tested the resilience of global governance and international institutions, and it has accelerated recognition of the role of health systems while highlighting inequalities in access to health care and infrastructure across regions and countries.

The unprecedented effects of the pandemic are severely damaging development gains, undermining the livelihoods of people, especially the poorest and most vulnerable, and contributing to unemployment.

Combating the pandemic and its negative consequences requires determined, concerted and inclusive efforts of the international community, with the UN system playing a central role.

In this regard, we commend the initiative of ESCAP to organize this event.

There is a high degree of solidarity, unity and cohesion in the region of the SCO in addressing the emerging problems and a readiness to provide effective mutual support.

The Moscow Declaration of last year's SCO Summit emphasized the need to further strengthen international cooperation in addressing the global political and socio-economic consequences of the pandemic.

At the same time, the member-states emphasized the importance to promote an open world economy based on the principles and rules of the World
Trade Organization, oppose unilateral protectionist actions that undermine the multilateral trading system and threaten the global economy.

Now, engagement of the regional organization in Asia on issues of regional stability and economic development makes a tangible contribution to the full implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Agenda.

That’s why to address the global political and socio-economic consequences of the pandemic and achieve Sustainable Development Goals in the Asia-Pacific region, we express our readiness to develop trilateral cooperation in the SCO-ESCAP-ASEAN format.

Thank you for your attention!