

Talking Points
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Dear participants!

It's my great pleasure to welcome the participants of today's event and extend my gratitude to the ESCAP secretariat team for organizing such an important event on integration and the way forward.

The ESCAP secretariat supports systemic and institutional cooperation in the region. One of the ongoing joint projects with the Commission is the creation of the Center for Digital Solutions in Central Asia.

The very idea of the proposed Digital Solutions Center is to create a regional platform for important initiatives in the region.

Regional cooperation and partnership via Digital Solutions Center will make undeniable contribution to achieve Sustainable Development Goals.

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 financial institutions, investors, BigTech companies to the ICT industry.

Thanks to our commitment to full-scale digital reform, we have high e-government penetration, promising cloud and artificial intelligence architecture, as well as flourishing human capital basis.

We have already created the foundations for the functioning of a full-fledged digital government, with a focus on citizens and with an emphasis on data that is collected and properly processed.

Today, 90% of public services are available in electronic form. The level of satisfaction with e-services - 91.8%.

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

Since 1990th we have been creating an efficient model of the relationship with foreign countries and investors based on a stable and effective legal system and a predictable business environment which has affected on the growth of investments in the economy.

Our understanding is that an effective regulatory environment and sanctity of investment agreements play a key role in attracting foreign investment.

As of 2020, Kazakhstan has ratified more than 50 international treaties which guarantee adherence to the international investment protection principles.

Kazakhstan is one of the first countries in the region to declare its openness to foreign investments and its commitment to international investment protection standards by concluding international agreements with many "capital exporters", creating special economic zones, including Astana International Financial Center and "Astana Hub" – an IT technopark launched with favorable tax and visa regime, as well as other measures of state support for IT-entrepreneurs.

In addition, there is a variety of instruments aimed at supporting businesses in Kazakhstan.

- *subsidies, loans and express guarantees for start-ups and existing entrepreneurs;*
- *co-financing tools by "QazTechVentures" (jointly with American V-th Global Venture Fund, 500 Startups);*
- *export and import credit insurance, export trade financing, bank guarantee insurances;*
- *grants for startups, technological development of industries and technological development enterprises.*

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

I hope today's event will open promising areas of cooperation between our countries and organizations, especially pushing investors and finance institutions to take a lead in joint ventures.

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