Statement by the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)
81st Session of UNESCAP
Current and emerging policy issues for inclusive and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific

Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Republic of Uzbekistan at the 81st session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

Current and emerging policy issues that are crucial for achieving inclusive and sustainable development across our region. This important dialogue offers us the opportunity to reaffirm our shared commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, while also addressing the complex challenges that continue to evolve in the dynamic landscape of Asia and the Pacific.

Distinguished colleagues,

Uzbekistan remains steadfast in its commitment to building a peaceful, just, and inclusive society. We recognize that sustainable development cannot be achieved without robust measures to address organized crime, illicit financial flows, and drug trafficking — transnational threats that undermine our collective progress, security, and prosperity.

In this context, I would like to draw your attention to a significant step taken by Uzbekistan to combat these challenges. In accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the approval of the National Strategy for Combating Drug Addiction and Drug Crime for 2024–2028, the Department for Combating Economic Crimes under the General Prosecutor's Office of Uzbekistan has been tasked with a critical mission. This includes the development of a methodology for assessing the volume of incoming and outgoing illicit financial flows related to drug trafficking.

Furthermore, this work is aligned with our national commitments to the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly indicator 16.4.1, which measures the total volume of illicit financial flows. In support of this endeavor, a resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Uzbekistan has emphasized the

importance of advancing our national capacity to monitor and assess such financial flows comprehensively.

Mr. Chair,

We are encouraged by the international efforts already underway in this domain. In October 2020, UNODC, UNCTAD, and ESCAP jointly released a Conceptual Framework for the Statistical Measurement of Illicit Financial Flows, a document which provides valuable guidance for countries working to track and reduce illicit flows. This methodology has been tested in countries such as Mexico, Peru, the Maldives, and Bangladesh. Preliminary preparations are now underway to initiate similar testing in the Central Asian region, including Uzbekistan.

In this regard, the Government of Uzbekistan requests the support of ESCAP and relevant UN agencies to provide technical assistance and capacity-building support for developing and piloting this methodology within our country. We believe that close cooperation in this area will significantly contribute to regional security, financial transparency, and our broader sustainable development objectives.

Colleagues,

As we look to the future, we must remain resolute in addressing the root causes of illicit financial flows and drug-related crime — through inclusive policies, strengthened regional cooperation, and data-driven strategies. Uzbekistan stands ready to collaborate with all ESCAP member states and development partners to ensure a region free from the economic and social harms of illicit activities.

Let us work together to create a future where prosperity, justice, and sustainability are accessible to all.

Thank you for your attention.

Mr. Fakhriddin Sultanov,
Consul-General of Uzbekistan to the Kingdom of Thailand,
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the UN ESCAP.