Dear participants,
Ladies and gentlemen!

On behalf of the Azerbaijani delegation, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the UNESCAP for an arrangement of this meeting. I strongly believe that this meeting will be a great platform for the representatives of Member States to discuss important issues, exchange best practices and achievements of their countries.

Today, the ICT sector has become one of the fastest-growing sectors in Azerbaijan and we are attaching high priority to the development of this sector. The Government is the leading force of digital transformation in the country. Relevant National Strategies and State Programs have been adopted for this purpose.

Nowadays the most advanced technologies as 4G and LTE are applied in totally private mobile telecommunication segment. More than 80% of the country population is internet users, 75% of them use broadband internet. Mobile penetration in Azerbaijan reaches 110%. The construction of high-speed broadband internet infrastructure based on a high-speed fiber-optic network covering the country, and a "home optics" project is underway. Transition to the digital TV broadcasting has been completed.

E-government projects are being implemented successfully. Currently, about 500 e-government services are offered on the “E-government” portal on the principle of “one-window”.

In 2018, the Government Cloud (G-Cloud) Concept has been approved in Azerbaijan and a Transition Plan has been prepared for the gradual deployment of government information systems and resources in the Government Cloud. Information systems and resources of government agencies are transferred to the TIER III level Data Center, which forms the basis of the Government Cloud.

The space industry in Azerbaijan is successfully developing and our country is one of the limited numbers of members of the world space club. At present, Azerbaijan has 3 satellites, including 2 telecommunications satellites and 1 satellite for remote observation of earth. We provide satellite services to many countries around the world.

Special attention is also paid to cyber security. Based on international experience, the “Information Security and Cyber Security Strategy of the Republic of Azerbaijan” project has been prepared and is at the stage of approval.

Innovation Agency was established under the Ministry to accelerate innovative development. The agency is tasked with the establishment of a dynamic innovative system in our country to serve to transform ideas into products and to bring the market, to assist local businesses in acquiring modern technology and technology solutions and to organize their transfer.

In our country, steps are being taken to develop new technologies, such as “Internet of Things”, Blockchain, Big Data, Artificial Intelligence, which is important for the development of the field and the use of modern solutions and technologies.

We are expanding our information transit capabilities. Today Azerbaijan is a country where the main and alternative routes of the EPEG (Europe-Persia Express Gateway), a fiber-optic line stretching from Frankfurt to Oman. In addition, agreements have been signed
with Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan on fiber-optic cable that laying along the bottom of Caspian Sea. These projects will give a serious impetus to the implementation of the Trans Eurasian Super Information Highway (TASIM) project, which will be launched from Frankfurt to Hongkong with the initiative of Azerbaijan in 2008. The implementation of these projects will turn Azerbaijan into an information transit and service hub and will create a surface fiber-optic highway between the East and the West. These achievements are indicated in annual reports of different international organizations and the development of ICT sector in Azerbaijan is highly estimated.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Dear colleagues.

I would love to share with you some other information that may be interesting to you. During the World Economic Forum in Davos in January this year, President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev and President of the World Economic Forum Borge Brende signed a Protocol of Intent to establish a regional center of the Forum for the Fourth Industrial Revolution in Azerbaijan. I would like to note that such centers are created in a very limited number of countries and their main purpose is to fulfill the challenges and opportunities that the Fourth Industrial Revolution causes.

I must note that the measures taken in Azerbaijan to use ICT in the fight against the pandemic are fully consistent with international practice. First of all, the sustainability of the telecommunications infrastructure has been increased, bringing it into line with growing demand. Telecommunications operators, mobile operators, and Internet service providers have switched to shifted and online working mode to protect their staff from infection while improving the quality of services. New information systems have been created by government agencies, and the services needed in the pandemic period have been introduced on the basis of existing systems. Along with the special websites, a mobile application has been created to educate and inform the population. This mobile application is also used as an Information Notification System for Citizens and as a tracking system for infected people.

Thank you for your attention.