ADDRESS
by the representative of the Republic of Uzbekistan at the 4th session of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development
(Bangkok, 29-31 March, 2017)

Dear Madam Executive Secretary,
Dear Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies Ministers,
Dear Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me first of all join the previous speakers and express a sincere gratitude to the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand and ESCAP for organizing this event and hospitality extended to its participants. I would also like to congratulate the Chairman and members of his team on their election.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to note that on March 2, 2017, we marked the significant date of cooperation between Uzbekistan and the United Nations - the 25th anniversary of our country's membership in the United Nations as its full member. And on July 31 this year it will be 25 years since Uzbekistan joined ESCAP.

Turning to the main topic of the agenda of our event, I would like to emphasize that sustainable development of the countries of Asia and the Pacific is a key element in the agenda of the UN system, including ESCAP. Uzbekistan has been actively participating in the activities of ESCAP, which, along with other UN regional commissions, has an important role to play in promoting the Agenda for Sustainable Development for the period up to 2030, which includes 17 global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 tasks in this vast region. The Agenda was adopted in September 2015 by heads of state of the Organization's member-countries, including Uzbekistan,
The global goals and objectives for sustainable development are comprehensive, indivisible and ensure the balance of all three components of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental, supported in turn by the tasks of effective governance and the rule of law. New goals ensure sustained and inclusive economic growth, social development, and environmental protection.

In this regard, Uzbekistan supported the resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly on the SDG with a recommendation to all member-states to develop national programs as soon as possible with objectives covering all aspects of the implementation of this Agenda for Sustainable Development.

We welcome and fully support the measures taken on a global scale to effectively implement the SDG. To this end, Uzbekistan has set itself the task to carry out a systematic and targeted work to adapt the SDG to the country's conditions by developing a national sustainable development agenda with national goals, targets and indicators to track progress in the SDG implementation, and develop on their basis a program for the implementation of national SDG.

With this purpose, on February 15, 2016, a corresponding the Government of Uzbekistan issued a decree that defines the establishment of the Coordination Council for the development and implementation of measures to adapt the UN Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the establishment of the six thematic working groups on the development and implementation of measures to adapt the UN Sustainable Development Goals in such areas as economic well-being, social protection, healthcare, education, the environment and good governance.

In addition, at the national level, large-scale work is being carried out in the country to drastically increase the effectiveness of undergoing reforms and create the conditions for ensuring a comprehensive and accelerated renewal of the state and society.
To this end, on February 7, 2017, the President of Uzbekistan approved the Strategy of Action for five priority directions of development of the Republic of Uzbekistan for the years 2017-2021, which is based on the conceptual issues of socio-political, socio-economic, cultural and humanitarian transformation of the country.

These five priority areas of development include:

1) improvement of state and public construction;
2) ensuring the rule of law and further reforming the judicial and legal system;
3) further development and liberalization of the economy;
4) development of the social sphere;
5) ensuring security, interethnic harmony and religious tolerance, pursuing a balanced and constructive foreign policy.

In this regard, I would like to emphasize the concurrence of the key provisions of our Strategy of Action with the global Sustainable Development Goals. In particular, the program measures implemented in the framework of the Strategy on improving the state and public construction, liberalization of the economy, development of the social sphere ensure the comprehensive implementation of the SDG.

All of this creates a solid foundation for a fruitful cooperation between Uzbekistan and the UN, including ESCAP.

Thank you for your attention.