

Statement of Mr. Askar Mirsaidov, Counselor of the Permanent Mission of Uzbekistan to the UN Office and other International Organizations in Geneva

Dear Chairperson!

Ladies and Gentlemen!

It is a great honor for me to take part in the Sixth session of the Steering Committee of UNECE on Trade Capacity and Standards.

Uzbekistan supports the implementation of the UNECE study on Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to Trade (RPBT) in Uzbekistan. We are confident that this specific study, in addition to the many other activities carried out by UNECE and other development partners, will make a valuable contribution to Uzbekistan's reform and development efforts.

Dear Participants!

At the same time, the most important conditions for ensuring access to trade markets of the UNECE states and the safest movement of transit cargo is the formation of favorable conditions and the provision of mutual preferences, simplification of customs procedures and unification of transport standards, and the creation of associated roadside infrastructure.

Moreover, the lack of direct access of the Central Asian countries to seaports leads to an increase in the transport component in the final cost of goods on international sales markets, which in turn leads to a decrease in their competitiveness.

Today, over 90% of freight traffic in intercontinental trade between Asia and Europe is carried out by sea. Landlocked developing countries spend about 18% of their export earnings on transport fees, while other countries generally spend 9%. According to UNCTAD, for the Central Asian countries, transport costs in many cases reach up to 60% of the value of imported goods.

In this regard, we urge to support the initiative of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan to create a Regional Center for the Development of Transport and Communication Connectivity under the auspices of the United Nations, which has been put forward by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan during the 75th session of the UN General Assembly that would create a platform for discussion and prompt resolution of emerging issues that hinder the development of the transport sector and develop new initiatives.

We are convinced that within the framework of the work of the Regional Center we will be able to fully achieve the desired results in activating existing transport corridors and forming new ones, ensuring the deep integration of our region into UNECE region trade markets.

Thank you for your attention.