Dear colleagues,

I want to express my sincere gratitude to all of you for these topics and discussions that we have raised today.

If there are any remained questions you are welcome to ask them now. (pause)

This hybrid event concludes several years of our collaboration on trade facilitation and capacity-building efforts in the Kyrgyz Republic.

Allow me once again to express my sincere appreciation to:

- **International Trade Centre** for sustain cooperation and being our co-organizer in this event. We appreciate our mutual contribution in wide-ranging projects all around the world.
- **Resident Coordinator Office of the UN in the Kyrgyz Republic** for being our partner in this project, for support and for working together towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.
- **the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Ministry of Economy and Commerce, the National Trade Facilitation Council and Kyrgyz Economic University named after Musa Ryskulbekov as well as the Center of Competence on Trade Facilitation.** It was your hard work that helped us to achieve excellent results and accomplish all our goals.

I also want to thank the consultants, experts from public and private sector, and colleagues from the international organizations who contributed to this project.

(pause)

Looking back, we can see a great path that we passed with many deliberations and achievements on this way. Since 2017 UNECE has been a steady partner of the Kyrgyz Republic to support in trade facilitation.

Later, being a part of UNECE’s broader efforts to support countries in their post-COVID recovery, as detailed in the UNECE Action Framework, this UNECE project supported the Kyrgyz Republic to address the challenges arising from the
pandemic, supporting much needed efforts to spur a rapid and sustainable economic recovery.

Further thanks to our cooperation we:
- elaborated the National Trade Facilitation Roadmap,
- conducted Business Process Analysis studies for export of textile products and import of pharmaceutical products,
- developed a Trade Information Portal,
- established the Centre of Competence
- and created a virtual training course on trade facilitation.

Worth mentioning that all these outputs are based on recommendations, e-business standards and guidelines developed by the UN Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT), and resources from other international organizations, and give particular attention to local practices, regulations and private sector needs.

(pause)

During our 38th UN/CEFACT Forum started on Monday we speak a lot about improvement the ability of business, trade and administrative organizations, from developed, developing and transition economies, to exchange products and relevant services effectively.

- Our focus today is facilitating national and international transactions through the simplification and harmonization of processes, procedures, and information flows; thus, contributing to the growth of global commerce.

We absolutely support the NTFC’s aspirations, as Mr. Aidarbek mentioned, in simplifying trade and other administrative procedures in the Central Asian region, with particular importance to the digitalization of customs administration of cross-border movement of goods, as well as the development of cooperation between the National Committees for Trade Facilitation of the Central Asian countries, aimed at simplifying trade, transit and customs procedures and removing barriers.

It’s worth to mention that the “digital” angle that was mentioned is crucial nowadays and well aligned with the topic our member States chose for the UNECE’s upcoming 70th Commission session, scheduled for April 2023.

- The topic is “Digital and green transformations for sustainable development in the UNECE region”. We sustain this trend and invite you all to further activities in this sphere and to join our event next year.
I must say that I am truly encouraged by our joint contribution to the sustainable and long-term impact extending trade facilitation capacity-building from the Kyrgyz Republic to the subregion. And Central Asia, is an important sub-region for UNECE.

Let me reiterate that UNECE has been a long-standing partner of the Kyrgyz Republic. And while we conclude our work on delivering trade facilitation courses today, I am confident that there will be more opportunities for our future cooperation.

- Possible examples may include other workstreams, such as innovation, public-private-partnerships, agricultural quality standards and the circular economy transition.

- Taking UNECE’s work on PPPs, let me flag that the combination of infrastructure and logistics improvements, can help reduce border delays. Together with harmonized standards across countries – our work on UN/CEFACT – this could have a significant positive impact on Central Asian economies.

- Taking UNECE’s work on sustainability, and the circular economy transition, I am delighted to flag to you the “Principles for Sustainable Trade”, that the SPECA countries, that’s countries, member of the United Nations Special Programme for Economies in Central Asia, including the Kyrgyz Republic, have adopted in 2019.

(pause)

In closing, I would like to express my appreciation to all the participants of today’s event for joining us both physically and virtually.

And, I would like to acknowledge the hard work, excellent teamwork, combined effort over the past years and dedication of the UNECE staff who made these deliverables possible and strengthened the relationship between UNECE, the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic and the development partners.

With this, I wish you successful deliberations and I look forward to opportunities to collaborate in the future.

Thank you.