

**Speaking points of Mr. Ahliddin Nuriddinzoda - Deputy Minister of
Economic Development and Trade of the Republic of Tajikistan during
the SPECA Ministerial Event
(17 April 2023, 11:20 – 12:20)**

Distinguished ministers,

Ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to express my gratitude to the Republic of Azerbaijan, UNECE and all SPECA member-states for fruitful cooperation with the aim of economic development in the region.

Our cooperation in SPECA is very important, as its activities are carried out by increasing the transparency of cross-border regulations, eliminating regulatory and procedural barriers, and strengthening the capacity of businesses in terms of compliance with trade formalities and standards and by improving cross-border e-commerce.

The Government of the Republic of Tajikistan pays special attention to trade facilitation and considers this area to be one of the priorities.

With the aim of implementation of trade facilitation reforms, Republic of Tajikistan has accomplished a number of achievements, including:

- Establishment of the Coordination Committee on Facilitation of Trade Procedures, which stands as a platform to cope with the issues and barriers faced by the private sector;
- Launch of the Tajikistan Trade Portal, which contains 61 step-by-step descriptions of export, import and transit procedures, which is equivalent to more than 2000 product lines and is being updated on daily basis;
- Launch of the Single Window System, which provides the circulation of paper-based documents on export, import and transit clearance, the application and issuance of permits and certificates, as well as the exchange of information between the authorized agencies in electronic format.

- Introduction of Authorized Economic Operators (AEO), which provides the entrepreneurs the right to use the customs preferences after fulfillment of a number of terms;
- Successfully conducting the first Trade Policy Review of the Republic of Tajikistan in the WTO in December 2021. During this event the economic situation and the achievements in the Multilateral Trading System for the period of 8 years of membership of Tajikistan in the WTO were presented and more than 150 questions from the WTO members were replied;
- Taking necessary steps to finalize the accession process to the EU's GSP+ System, which provides tariff preferences for export of more than 6000 domestic product lines to the EU member-states markets;
- Active participation in the number of regional projects, including the ITC's "Ready4Trade Central Asia" and "GTEX", UNDP's "Aid for Trade", USAID's "Trade Central Asia Activity", GIZ's "Trade Facilitation in Central Asia" and others;
- Acceded to the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade Facilitation in Asia and the Pacific; and others.

In addition, Republic of Tajikistan realizing the importance of digital transformation, takes appropriate measures to improve the legislative and institutional framework in order to use global trends to achieve sustainable development of the country and improve the living standards of citizens.

In this regard, a number of legal documents were adopted that create the institutional framework for the development of the digital economy in Tajikistan. Among them, strategic documents such as the Concept of the Digital Economy of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Mid-Term Program for the Digital Economy Development for 2021-2025 should be noted. In addition, such documents indisputably include the Concept of Forming an E-Government, the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan on Digital Signature, the Strategy for the Development of Artificial Intelligence in the Republic of Tajikistan.

Most recently, the Parliament of the country adopted the Law on E-Commerce. This document establishes public relations in the field of e-commerce aimed at protecting the rights and legitimate interests of citizens

and economic entities, and ensures the smooth implementation of transactions through e-commerce.

Subsequently, we consider improving digital public services, developing the national economy, transparency, simplifying procedures, training qualified specialists in the field of ICT, attracting modern technologies and, in general, improving the standard of living of the population as the main goals of developing the digital economy in the Republic of Tajikistan.

Regarding the diversification of transit routes, I'd like to stress out the point that in past Tajikistan had a strategic goal of breaking the communication deadlock which has been achieved by undertaking a number of measures, such as construction of roads, bridges, tunnels and reconstruction of transport facilities. Thus, I'd highly encourage our trading partners to use this opportunity of utilizing Tajik transport roads as a transit corridor.

Furthermore, I'd like to emphasize, that the process of promoting a green economy is a logical continuation of sustainable development, but unlike the latter, it reflects the relationship between elements of economic growth and environmental sustainability. The Green Economy Initiative is based on three main principles: using market mechanisms to achieve sustainable development, preserving natural capital at the national and international levels and generating employment through the creation of green jobs.

Republic of Tajikistan, based on the experience of developed countries, supports the implementation of the principles of the green economy. In this process, the development of an appropriate legal framework through the adoption of a number of new regulations, as well as the adoption of strategies and programs in general, will create a favorable basis for the introduction of a green economy and ensure the development of the country and the ecological balance.

Taking this into account, Republic of Tajikistan adopted the "Strategy on green economy development in the Republic of Tajikistan for the period of 2023-2037", which aims at provision of prosperity for all within the ecological limits of the planet. It follows all of the principles, that draw on

important precedents in international policy, and can guide economic reform in diverse contexts.

With the transition to green economy, Tajikistan can become a world leader in the use of renewable energy sources, as well as a major exporter of electricity in the region, a producer of electricity from other renewable energy sources (solar, wind, etc.), become an exporter of environmentally friendly (organic) agricultural products and one of the countries with the lowest levels of carbon emissions and developed eco-tourism.

In this regard, the green economy transition is a process of sustainable development, social stability and environmental balance in the long term and ensuring the efficient use of natural resources. At the same time, the green economy is an economic activity associated with the production, distribution and consumption of goods and services, ensuring the well-being of people and the preservation of natural capital in the long term.

Republic of Tajikistan emphasize and note the importance of SPECA for the development of mutually beneficial cooperation.

I believe that creation of the SPECA Fund is a very big step. With the aim of facilitation of activities and support for the innovative measures, Republic of Tajikistan always noted its readiness to support such initiatives.

I'd also like to note that Republic of Tajikistan chairs the SPECA Working Group on Trade and we support the idea of discussing in details the topics that are under review today within the framework of the mentioned working group.

Dear colleagues!

The Government of Tajikistan is committed to take necessary steps to expand economic partnership with SPECA countries and in its international relations Tajikistan will continue to pursue the policy of "open doors" and constantly make efforts for the cooperation directed to trade facilitation by strengthening sustainable and inclusive development in the region.

Thank You!