Your Excellency chairman Jabbarov,

Your Excellency Executive Secretary Algayerova,

Dear Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentleman,

It gives me an immense pleasure to participate at the ministerial meeting of the SPECA member states.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to express sincere congratulations to the leadership and members of the SPECA with its 25th anniversary.

We also express our gratitude to Azerbaijan for promoting and strengthening main principles of sustainable development during their chairmanship.

Current challenges taking place in the world, including supply chains disruption, severe consequences of the climate change, rising concerns of food security, growing
level of global poverty require us to concentrate our efforts on the development of joint actions to address these important issues.

That is why I believe that today’s event is more relevant than ever.

Dear participant of the event,

Uzbekistan defines SPECA as an inclusive intergovernmental platform, enabling countries of the region to identify solutions of sustainable development challenges.

Over the recent years, our country has intensified its cooperation with the United Nations through diverse platforms, including SPECA.

We have resumed our participation (2019-2020) in SPECA and cochaired the program in Tashkent in 2021.

We have adopted three Road maps to strengthen our multilateral partnership.

As a result of these measures, we were able to accelerate the process of implementing main objectives of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
Dear participants!

Our region has always served as a bridge connecting Europe, Asia and Africa.

There is a strong bond between our states. I can say with confidence, that there are no countries in the world that are as close as we in traditions, customs and values. We are not just neighbors – we are relatives and friends living together in a great region.

Over the last several years, trade turnover between Uzbekistan and SPECA participating-states has doubled ($9.2 billion).

Since 2017, joint ventures with companies of SPECA member countries in Uzbekistan increased five times (total 2212).

Overall SPECA member states have a colossal trade and economic potential, with rich natural and human resources, and an advantageous geographical location.

To realize the potential of our region through the lens of SDG’s goals we propose to focus our partnership in the following priority areas.

First. Today we need to set a goal of creating favorable conditions for strengthening and increasing mutual trade.
According to our estimations, due to customer market of more than 127 (one hundred and twenty-seven) million people as well as proper utilization of our countries’ competitive advantages, it is possible to increase the total trade turnover at least two times by 2025.

It is important to intensify joint cooperation on removing existing trade barriers, simplification of technical regulations, digitalization of customs and border crossing procedures.

Second. Due to new geopolitical risks as well as socio-economic consequences of pandemic, the role of food security has become more important than ever.

Uzbekistan supports initiative of adopting five Action Tracks, which were introduced during the first UN Food Systems Summit in 2021.

It is also important to support efforts of ESCAP’s (ЭСКАТО) Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization on promotion of sustainable agricultural initiatives for food security through technical cooperation, exchange of information and knowledge sharing.

Third. Transport connectivity is one of the major driving forces behind a sustainable growth.
We believe it is vital to diversify existing transport corridors, linking our region with the outer world.

In this context, we support the initiatives of adopting a **Roadmap** aimed at digitalizing multimodal data and document exchange along the **trans-Caspian transport corridor** using **UN** standards.

**Forth.** We believe that the acceleration of the establishment of **UN Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund** for **SPECA** would promote **cross-border economic** and **environmental cooperation** for the development of the subregion.

**Last but not least.** **Uzbekistan** prioritizes promoting important issues set out in the “**green**” agenda. This is why we support measures to implement strategies for the transition to a **green** economy, development of **renewable** and **hydrogen** energy.

**Dear ladies and gentlemen!**

**Uzbekistan** will consistently continue to develop the **broad-scale**, **open** and **practical** partnership within the framework of **SPECA**.

We are confident that implementation of all initiatives proposed during this meeting will further **strengthen** our
mutually beneficial cooperation and contribute to achieving **sustainable development goals** by all our countries.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to express my gratitude to **H.E. Minister Jabbarov** for the excellent chairmanship.

I wish everyone fruitful discussions today.

**Thank you for your attention!**