

## Meeting of Ministers of SPECA Participating States

23 April 2024  
Bangkok, Thailand

### *Joint Ministerial Statement*

We, the Ministers/Heads of Delegations of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) participating States – Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, gathered in Bangkok on 23 April 2024 on the sidelines of the 80<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) for a high-level dialogue with the heads of the UN regional commissions and heads of international organizations to advance our common interests in green development, trade facilitation, increasing transport connectivity and eliminating non-tariff barriers to trade in the SPECA region.

We express our sincere gratitude to the Tajik side and ESCAP for the high-level of organization of the meeting of ministers responsible for the economic activities of the SPECA participating States.

Noting the high importance of preventing the negative impacts of global climate change on the economic sectors of the SPECA participating States, we welcome the key theme of the chairmanship of the Republic of Tajikistan – “Green development in the SPECA region”.

We express our thanks to the United Nations regional commissions - ESCAP and UNECE for providing support to the SPECA participating States’ efforts to transform SPECA into more effective and impactful platform of regional cooperation and integration.

We are committed to the implementation of the initiative to establish a United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund “SPECA Fund”, which aims to create incentives for economic development and integration in the region. During the meeting, the main provisions of the Terms of Reference of the Fund and the next steps and timetable for the establishment of the Fund were considered.

Following the spirit of cooperation within SPECA, which recognizes the principles of equality, mutual understanding and trust, with the desire for joint sustainable development, we intend to work together on:

1. Development of a green economy in the region, including the development of the potential of SPECA participating States in providing the countries of the region with clean electricity, the introduction of green technologies, the development of electric transport and related infrastructure.

2. Implementation of the Roadmap for Digitalization of Multimodal Data and Document Exchange along the Trans-Caspian Transport Corridor using UN legal instruments and standards, approved at the SPECA Summit in Baku on 24 November 2023.

3. Increasing trade turnover in the region through the promotion and use of the benefits of e-commerce, the effective use of trade portals and the establishment of direct contacts between the relevant authorities of the SPECA participating States.

4. Elaborating the Concept for the development of the UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia until 2030, including in the context of the upcoming UN Summit of the Future.

5. Preparations for the Economic Forum and the 19<sup>th</sup> session of the SPECA Governing Council, which are planned to be held in the autumn of 2024 in Dushanbe.

We are convinced that increased connectivity in the above-mentioned areas will open up new prospects and opportunities for economic development within the framework of SPECA.

-----