ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
Ministerial Conference on Transport, Moscow, 5-9 December 2016

Name of speaker: (Mr.) (Ms.)
(Block letter)

Country/Organization: Islamic Republic of Iran
(Block letter)

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Agenda Item No: ________________________________

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Speech by H. E. Mr. Keshavarzian

Vice Minister of Roads and Urban Development and the President for Road Maintenance and Transportation Organization (I. R.Iran)

Moscow 5-9 Dec 201

In the name of God

Mr. Maxim Sokolov, Esteemed Minister of Russian Federation,

UNESCAP distinguished authorities,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude and express my appreciation to the government of Russian federation and all ESCAP team for hosting and well organization of such a this important event. I wish fruitful and constructive outcome of this meeting will result in development of economic and transportation field, promotion of transit and trade in the region and welfare for all.

It is a great pleasure for me to take part in this event, on behalf of Ministry of Roads and Urban Development, and to be among the transport big family composed of decision makers, policy makers, and transport stakeholders, both governmental and non-governmental, within the era of Asia and Pacific with presence of international organizations which are here to strongly support the transport initiatives.
No doubt, transport plays a significant role in economic and social growth and is considered as one of the most important keys leading into sustainable development and serves to reach millennium development goals (SDGs), the targets of which are in line with coordinated, balanced and sustainable development

Dear Chairman

Distinguished delegates

Honorable audiences,

It is admirable that recently we are witnessing the application of sustainable development implications in the international transport literature. It seems that these issues are valuable subject matters that emerge due to below facts:

- Development of commercial and economic infrastructures are not balanced in different regions of the world especially in our region ASIA and Pacific;

- In Asia and Pacific which covers a vast densely populated area, less trade and less commerce is taken place at intra-region, inter-region and international levels.

- People are still suffering from poverty and inequalities;

- Transport in rural and non-urban areas is severely under-developed;

- And last but not least is the fact that transport safety is far from international standards.

Dear ministers,

Distinguished delegates,

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

All the matters, I have just referred to will lead into cost increase in transport; in addition we are encountering other challenges like infrastructure weaknesses, missing links, border crossing obstacles, customs procedures, long delays at borders, old and worn transport fleet, insufficient investment on infrastructures and
lack of regional connections which all impede efficient and smooth transportation and put safety at risk.

In the meantime, energy consumption is remarkably high and not justifiable economically and a barrier on the way of development projects.

Honorable Chair

Distinguished Delegates

Dear audiences,

I was informed by my colleagues that a very useful program has been prepared by UNESCAP with cooperation of the countries as a 5 year Action Program for Asia and Pacific which was brought into discussion during the Ministerial Conference and will be approved.

In order to tackle with all the said obstacles we will have a good awareness of the transport facts, bottlenecks, weaknesses, shortages, and in-coordination and endeavor to find executive, institutional and legal frameworks, and forecast optimized approaches in order to make best decisions within a short, middle and long times for transport in Asia and Pacific.

My dear colleagues,

In one side we have to take executive decisions to reach our goals and from the other side we, the countries and stakeholders need a firm decision to realize the goals and to put priority to the international interests rather than national or regional interests.

May be this is the time to seek our interest in the realization of others’ interests and this could be probably one of the most significant principles in sustainability of the development where we could imagine our welfare in the welfare of the others.
Dear ministers,

Ladies and gentlemen,

In this time, I would like to mention some key transportation measures and initiatives has been done by Islamic republic of IRAN, that indeed could provide a common view for further collaborations:

- Signing the Ashgabat agreement between Islamic Republic of Iran - Oman-Turkmenistan- Uzbekistan.


- “Road safety action plan” of Islamic republic of Iran is planned and implementing for 2015-2020

- Missing link of Khaf-Sangan-Harat railways is connected now.

- Railway connection of Islamic republic of Iran, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, with completion of the 940 km new railway project.

- I would like to inform the conference that “dry ports agreement” is ratified by the parliament of the Islamic republic of Iran.

- Iran - Azerbaijan railways is connected by the completion of the railway connection bridge.

- Finally, on the enhancement of transportation infrastructures, specially railways projects with the direct foreign investment is the priority of macro plan of the government of Islamic Republic of Iran.

Thank you for kind attention!