Dear Ministers and Heads of Delegation, Distinguished Participants,

I am particularly honored to represent the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization at this Second United Nations Sustainable Transport Conference.

Allow me to state from the very beginning that fostering cooperation between its 13 Member States in areas related to the Sustainable Developments Goals, with a special focus on transport sector, has been a top priority for the BSEC.

“Pursuing Sustainable Development” is the first general guideline for action in the BSEC Economic Agenda, with the «establishment of an efficient transport network» as the main goal in the field of transport.

The BSEC area is of paramount geostrategic importance including as regards transport and our
organization has developed over the years several important and mutually complementary, regional projects in this field of which I would mention the **Black Sea Ring Highway, the Motorways of the Sea in the BSEC Region and on the Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods.** Their aim is to contribute to the development of quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure in the region. These projects – still to be finalized – represent at the same time BSEC’s contribution to other greater projects covering the Eurasian region.

BSEC’s constant efforts in the transport sector are also aimed at harmonizing and simplifying procedures, formalities and the necessary documentation, introduction of more automation and digitalization in the procedures concerning the transport of goods and services.

Much attention is given to the promotion of **Single Window and Joint Control procedures** in order to reduce waiting time at border crossing points and to facilitate customs checks. A useful tool especially during the Covid-19 pandemic, is the Project «**BSEC PERMIT System**» that BSEC Organization has been implementing since 2010.

The adoption of a “**Framework for BSEC E-commerce Cooperation**”, or the “**Setting up an Information Exchange Mechanism on trade and economic issues in the BSEC Region**” are other important projects.
Excellencies, Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me conclude, by emphasizing that beyond being a vehicle for economic cooperation in the Black Sea region, the BSEC is also there to work, based on the commitment of its Member States, as an effective and valuable platform of cooperation for achieving the implementation of the UN Sustainable Developments Goals.

Thank you for your attention.