Dear Mr. Chairman,

First, I would like to congratulate you and assure you of the support of Kazakhstan’s delegation. I am confident that under your able leadership, this session will be successful.

Dear participants,

Every year, millions of people around the world – men, women and children – are trafficked, living in what can be described as slave-like conditions. In this regard, the problem of human trafficking is of great concern to the world community, including our country.

In his Address to the People of Kazakhstan (dated September 2, 2019) "Constructive public dialogue as the basis for stability and prosperity of Kazakhstan", our President Mr. Kassym-Zhomart Tokayev noted the need to toughen penalties for human trafficking, sexual violence and other serious crimes against the person, which indicates the importance of this issue for Kazakhstan.

For this reason, the national agencies of Kazakhstan have been carrying out consistent efforts to counteract human trafficking and crimes related to it.

Allow me, within the competence of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Kazakhstan, to inform you about the measures taken in the main areas.

**Strengthening of legislative measures in this direction**

- Kazakhstan has developed a sufficient legislative framework aimed at combating trafficking of people, which is constantly being improved (amendments were made in 2006, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2019).
  
  The latest changes took effect in January 2020.

- In order to achieve a comprehensive approach, Government plans for the Prevention, Prevention and Control of Crimes related to Human trafficking are being gradually adopted and implemented (6 Plans have been adopted since 2004).

  Currently, with recommendations of international reports taken into account, the next Action Plan for 2021-2023 has been approved.

**Interagency cooperation and practical activities of the police**

- Since 2003, the Interministerial Commission on Combating Human Trafficking has been operating in the country, which serves as a dialogue platform for national agencies, international and non-governmental organizations.
• The Ministry of Internal Affairs has anti-trafficking units, which have initiated **111 criminal cases related to human trafficking and one case** for creating and leading a transnational organized group engaged in human trafficking.

Since the beginning of this year, 66 criminal cases have been initiated.

• Various types of assistance funded the state budget are being provided to **victims** of human trafficking, including **8 types of services, such as social, medical and others.**

**Cooperation with international and non-governmental organizations**

• To improve the effectiveness of the measures taken, **Memoranda of Cooperation were signed** between the territorial police departments and 18 NGOs. In addition, within the framework of the current Memoranda, close cooperation has been established with the International Organization for Migration, the United Nations Agency for Migration, The OSCE Program Office in Nur-Sultan, and the US Embassy.

**Dearest participants,**

In general, the measures taken by the Republic of Kazakhstan cover all the main areas of prevention, detection and disclosure of crimes related to human trafficking.

I believe that further interaction and joint work will make it possible to increase the effectiveness of the fight against human trafficking and ensure the protection of the lawful interests of citizens who have fallen victims to these crimes.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you all to participate in a separate side event that Kazakhstan is co-organizing with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the United Kingdom on the topic of police reform. At the event, which will be held on Thursday, May 20 from 09:00 am to 09:50 am our Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs Mr. Alexey Kalaichidi will talk about Kazakhstan’s experience on the implementation of the police reform in the country. We will be glad to see you all there.

**Thank you for your attention.**