Dear ladies and gentlemen!

Let me express my gratitude to the initiators and organizers of this meeting for the opportunity to meet again with all of you, to share experiences from each of our countries to ensure best interests of the child, and continue along the path that leads to the well-being of children.

Today Turkmenistan passes on the keys to the 4th Forum for Child Protection in Central Asia, which begins its work in Dushanbe, a beautiful green city with a beautiful, hard-working and hospitable people.

As you all know, the third Forum on Child Protection was held in Turkmenistan from May 30 to June 1, 2011. It was organized by the Parliament of Turkmenistan jointly with UNICEF, with the support of the President of Turkmenistan. It is symbolic that it coincided with the International Day of Protection of Children's and the delegations had a chance to participate in activities organized on this occasion. Forum participants were leaders and representatives national parliaments, government and non-governmental organizations, experts and professionals involved in the protection of children's rights from Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Turkey, France, Russia, UNICEF Regional office, international organizations, the diplomatic missions accredited to Turkmenistan, students, youth and others.

The speakers noted that the key to successful solutions to the protection of children's rights in the countries of Central Asia is the political will, national legislation in accordance with international law, an appeal to the age-old traditions of education of the young generation. The participants discussed the issues of providing a platform for the exchange of experiences between the countries of Central Asia and beyond, to encourage the revitalization of political commitment and cooperation. Also, they discussed priority areas of joint cooperation with international experts in the field of protection of the rights and interests of children, including the reform of the juvenile justice. Outcome document of the Forum was the adoption of the Declaration, which calls for stronger national action for the benefit of children with regard to their rights provided by the CRC. Conduct regular monitoring and review of progress at the national level in order to eliminate obstacles for action, the development and adoption of special laws, policy-making in the field of juvenile justice.

During the forum Turkmen representatives informed the participants about the situation in the country in the field of children's rights and promoting international cooperation in this field. It was emphasized that in the years of independence, Turkmenistan has proven commitment to concrete actions to protect the rights of children in the context ratified the CRC, CRPD, CEDAW and other international instruments on human rights, providing them with the most opportunities for education and harmonious development. It is indicative that the May 27, 2011, ie, 3 days before the Forum, the President approved the "National program for early childhood development and preparation of the child for school for the period of 2011-15."
Important steps have been taken to improve national legislation and bring it in line with the ratified conventions of the UN, ILO, WHO and other international organizations, most of which relate to major humanitarian challenges of our time, the development of programs and policies friendly to children, regardless of whether they live in urban or rural areas, or have a disability.

Turkmenistan is one of the few countries in the world, which is among the first to join the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability, which once again confirms the Government's commitment to building a more inclusive society in which all children are valued equally, brought up in a caring and competent families, as well as access to high-quality social services and family support at the local level. Besides, Turkmenistan has ratified a number of conventions of the International Labour Organization in the field of employment of women and children.

The forum provided the impetus for the implementation of further steps to achieve the intended goals. Turkmenistan adopted a "National Programme of healthy nutrition of the population of Turkmenistan for 2013-2017", the National Programme on HIV prevention for 2012-2016, the state program of employment of young people in Turkmenistan, the General program to provide the country's settlements with clean drinking water; General program for the development of the system juvenile justice, and many other documents.

The Government has recently acceded to a number of important international initiatives, including the "Global commitment to child survival: Promise Renewed " and "Termination of the placement of children under three in institutions." Turkmenistan joined the global process to discuss the future development and embarked on a partnership with the UN national consultation on “Post 2015 Development Programme“. Just a few days before coming here, we had a meeting on the co-financing of joint work plans for 2014-2015 between the Government of Turkmenistan and UNICEF.

Today's meeting is a continuation of the dialogue in advancing reforms to protect the rights of children in the region, using the opportunity to strengthen cooperation among the Central Asian countries in building activities with strategic partners such as the European Union, the UN and others. Of particular note is that today's dialogue focused on the issues of creating an inclusive policy, improvement of the system of services for children with disabilities, is a timely occasion to raise awareness and mobilize all stakeholders to effectively move to an important purpose - to protect the rights of the children, particularly those with disabilities with all the possible means.

The experience of many countries shows that without strong protection of the fundamental rights of the child - it's non-discrimination, the best interests of the child, right to life, survival and development, the right to be heard and without the implementation of general measures, such as legislation, data collection, independent monitoring, cooperation with civil society, the allocation of resources cannot achieve the desired result. Another important component of success is to raise awareness about the need of a paradigm shift in the understanding of modern principles of the protection of children's rights in general, and children with disabilities in particular.
Today, thanks to the concerted efforts of all stakeholders, we can take another step forward in the implementation in practice of the principles of the CRC and the CRPD, promoting the rights of children with disabilities at the global, regional and country levels.

In conclusion, I would encourage everyone "moving forward - to work together to create an inclusive society for every child." I wish the Forum fruitful work toward a common goal for all - to ensure a prosperous and dignified life for children, create the conditions for maximum realization of the rights of children with disabilities in becoming equal members of society. This is precisely what the creative work which largely determine the future of our planet - the Earth and our shared family - all of humanity. Peace and prosperity to everyone!

Thank you!