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Deputy Chairman

Dear participants!
Lady and Gentlemen!

First of all I would like to express my thanks to ADB for the their excellent work and for perfect organization of this meeting, as well as to Azeri State Customs Committee for hospitality.

In recent years the level of request for quality of customs activity has been raised, which is due to simplifying and automatization of customs procedures, fulfilling of customs fees, stopping of the import of prohibited and hazardous items, decreasing of counter passing, increased awareness with respect to legislation and effectiveness of crime struggling in custom matters.

Indeed, reforming process in customs sphere, directed to simplification and harmonization of customs procedures, implementing of the new customs approaches, as well as risk management and audit, technical procurement of custom facilities, development of information and communication infrastructure are the priority areas of customs policy in Turkmenistan.

At the present time the customs service of Turkmenistan has been working in this field.

In order to facilitate the legislation background for customs activity we are working now on the project of the new Customs Code.

The current Customs Code of Turkmenistan was established on 8 October of 1993 by the 19th session of “Milli Mejlis” (the parliament) and by these days there were 3 additions and complimentaries been adjusted to it.

The needs to the new Code are based on the economic and trade development of Turkmenistan, continuing modernization of economic, legislation and organizational background of customs matters.

Undoubtedly, in new Code will be included the positive experience of custom service, as well as the principals of international customs matters for unification with the international norms.

I would like to note that the XV session of the parliament, held on October 2004, had discussion and approved the Code “The Land”, “The Water” and Taxes Code. These documents have become the steps on the further development of the Turkmenistan.

The new Taxes Code of Turkmenistan has included the calculation and payment of the axsiz of goods, imported in Turkmenistan and in

comparison with the previous list the calculation order has been simplified, some of the goods have been excluded.

Additionally, on 9 October of 2004 the law of Turkmenistan on “Narcotics, psychotropic drugs, precursors and measures to prevent” was approved, which defines the state policy on items included to the List that fits the Legislation of Turkmenistan, the International Pacts of Turkmenistan as well as the UN Unified Convention on narcotics of 1961, with complimentaries accepted in accordance of Protocol of complimentary (1972) to the Unified Convention (1961) and Psychotropic Substances (1971).

The improvement of the customs service activity depends on the technical procurement and general logistics issues, so that we have been working in this direction.

In 2004-2005 the president of the country ordered to donate about 15 millions USD for customs service of Turkmenistan for the needs of constructing the modern customs bodies and providing them with the new systems of controlling the vehicles, cargos and luggage.

At the present time all border custom bodies overloaded with cargos and passengers flow and the main temporary keeping stores are equipped with technical advices for transports and luggage control.

The customs facilities are equipped with the radiation controlling system and going to be provided with the connection advices.

We plan to organize the implementing communication network, complex automated customs preparation systems and other automated systems to implement electronic stuff matters.

We do a lot on the staff relations. The staff training and postgraduate system should fit the constantly changing customs activity and requests of high professional standards.

For this aims we arranged on Ashgabat customs base new training center supports by the UK Embassy and OSCE. The extent of this center and provide with technical advices issues are under discussion at the moment.

In the current year the 20 custom officers had finished the training course on technical control facilities, held in Ukraine. With support of UK Embassy and UN Drug Abuse and Crime Administration the 52 custom officers had finished the two weeks training course on precursor and narcotics identification.

Eventually I would like to note, that regular workshops and training seminars held with support of ADB and presented materials and recommendations has the positive effect on the customs policy and will facilitate efficacy of customs activity.

That is why the Turkmenistan Customs Service would be pleased to take part in every event held by ADB and will appreciate recommended materials and working programs.