



Opening remarks of Mr. Giorgi Todua

5th High-Level Expert Group (HLEG) Meeting on Trade, Investment, and Other Related Matters in the ECO Region
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Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Esteemed Colleagues,

It is an honour to address you as a representative of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and to thank the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) for this valuable platform for dialogue and partnership.

UNIDO and ECO have a long and productive history of cooperation, working together to advance trade across the ECO region through regional quality policy and capacity-building. Our cooperation with ECO Member States through standalone projects is even broader, ranging from inclusive green transition and support to small and medium enterprises, all the way to poverty alleviation and inclusive rural development.

The ECO region is geographically vast and endowed with economic resources, which underscores the need for deeper regional cooperation. UNIDO remains committed to supporting this cooperation and working closely on regional and country-level initiatives, including further advancing regional trade through strengthening quality infrastructure systems.

Distinguished Delegates, with your continued support, by combining UNIDO's technical expertise with ECO's convening power, and by building on our previous cooperation, I truly believe that we can deliver concrete benefits for industries and communities, leading towards a more connected and prosperous region.

Thank you.