Mr. Chairperson and distinguished delegates

First of all, let me also take this opportunity to express our deep appreciation to the ESCAP Secretariat and its staff for the excellent arrangements made for this meeting.

Mr. Chairperson,

It is matter of great satisfaction that UNESCAP has been playing significant roles in socio-economic progress of Nepal and of this region. Nepalese delegation is very happy to mention here that ESCAP have organized number of regional and sub regional meetings and discussion in Nepal especially in the area of MDGs, trade and development. We are confident that the ESCAP will play more active and effective role in years ahead in alleviating poverty, achieving MDGs and promoting regional cooperation for the economic prosperity of the people of Asia and the Pacific region.

Nepal welcomes establishment of ESCAP Sub-regional Office for South and South-West Asia in New Delhi. We are happy to see the office already becoming active and contributing to the development of the member states through its work. The ESCAP SSWA Office organized a number of high-level policy dialogues in the region over the past year including in Kathmandu. Nepal has participated in some of these events. In the coming years Nepal would like the office to devote greater attention to the challenges faced by landlocked and least developed countries including the issues concerning transport connectivity and regional economic integration. Another important area of work would be inclusive development including MDG consistent macroeconomic modeling for planning bodies of South Asian countries. The National Planning Commission of the Government of Nepal will be happy to collaborate with ESCAP Office and share its experiences in this respect.

Thank you for your kind attention