

Honourable Chair, first of all I would like to congratulate ^{you} on your appointment on behalf of our delegation. Secondly, I take this opportunity to highlight the achievements of Transport sector in Sri Lanka during the past few years. It is pleased to mention that year 2012 is significant in the field of Transport for our country. The reason for this being the reconstruction of Rail Road Network and commencing bus services to enable Northern and Eastern Provinces to be linked to the main national economic stream after several decades of inaction. Accordingly, the reconstruction of Northern Railway line is being carried out successfully. In addition, through the combination of all provinces in the island, a new Rail Road Network will be added on to the existing Rail Road Network minimizing anomalies in regional level. With the anticipation of further acceleration of economic progress of the country, it has been proposed to apply the draft port concept to our country, ^{in the near future.} Finally, we appreciate ^{the} support extended to Sri Lanka ^{by UNESCAP} so far and looking forward to further strengthen our partnership in the future. Thank you.

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