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69TH SESSION OF ESCAP COMMISSION

SENIOR OFFICIALS SEGMENT

AGENDA ITEM 4: MANAGEMENT ISSUES

(C) TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES OF ESCAP AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTENDED CONTRIBUTIONS

STATEMENT BY DELEGATION OF BHUTAN

Madame Chair,

Since this is the first time my delegation takes the floor, allow me to congratulate you on your assumption of this important position. Please rest assured, Madame Chair, that you may count on my delegation's full support and cooperation.

I wish to thank the Secretariat for the comprehensive report provided on Technical Cooperation Activities, contained in Doc No. E/ESCAP/69/18. We congratulate the Secretariat on the progress made in strengthening its technical cooperation work this past year, engaging with a broader number of stakeholders in order to enhance the capacity of member states. We note that particular focus has been accorded to capacity building and to States with special needs. Indeed, Bhutan has also been beneficiary, with significant impact on the institutional capacity of concerned national agencies. This in turn, has enabled us to enhance our ability to develop and implement inclusive and sustainable economic and social development policies.

Madame Chair,

It is my great pleasure to announce that the Royal Government has decided to place on record our pledge representing a 100% increase in our annual contribution to ESCAP. The increase will be effective from this calendar year and is directed in support of the ESCAP Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia. We are pleased that with the establishment of the Subregional Office in New Delhi in ...2012, ESCAP is brought even closer to Bhutan. Although, this increased annual contribution remains but a token amount, it is Bhutan's modest gesture of appreciation for the cooperation that we enjoy with ESCAP, and a demonstration of our confidence and continued support for the mandate and role played by the Commission.

Thank you.