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**Introductory Statement as Delivered by Dr. Noeleen Heyzer,
Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations & Executive Secretary of
the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**

**Agenda Item 5: Final Review of the Conference Structure of the Commission,
Including its Subsidiary Structure, Pursuant to Resolutions 64/1 and 67/15
69th Session of the Commission
Bangkok, Thailand, on 26 April 2013**

Madame Chairperson,
Distinguished delegates,

As a continuation of our efforts to strengthen the conference structure of the Commission, and pursuant to resolutions 64/1 and 67/15, I am pleased today to present for your consideration, my report and our proposed road-map to implement the recommendations of the independent evaluation which I commissioned of the conference structure, led by Dr. Hafiz Pasha, the former Finance Minister of Pakistan and Assistant Administrator of UNDP. I would like to express our thanks to Dr. Pasha and this team for their work in this area.

The evaluation team's report has also been made available to delegates as Information note E/ESCAP/69/INF/9. The report contains a wealth of valuable findings and conclusions, which I trust will facilitate the final review of the conference structure by the Commission at its present session.

It also provides a set of wide-ranging and action-oriented recommendations, crafted to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the conference structure. I am pleased to inform you that these recommendations are based primarily on the valuable and much-appreciated feedback from member States and other key ESCAP stakeholders.

Thirty of our member States actively engaged in the process – either through the interviews or survey questionnaires. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to our member States for your continued and strong support for ESCAP's work.

The proposed roadmap to guide the implementation of the recommendations is presented in Document E/ESCAP/69/18. It provides for a phased implementation strategy.

The secretariat has already made significant progress in strengthening the conference structure. A majority of the recommendations call for strengthening current practices, so the recommendations which ESCAP believes to be immediately implementable, will comprise phase one. Our aim is to have these measures in place by the seventieth session of the Commission, in 2014. Recommendations in phase two and three will require more discussions and consultation with member States, as well as with the United Nations headquarters, because of budgetary and other administrative implications.

As you may be aware, a working group under the ACPR has, in preparation for the Commission's review of the conference structure, held informal consultations on my report and as a result the Chair of those informal consultations has prepared a draft resolution for

consideration by the Working Group on Draft Resolutions, which will begin later this afternoon. I would like to place on record my thanks to the members of the ACPR.

I therefore invite the Commission to provide any further guidance to the Working Group on Draft Resolutions, so that together we can strengthen ESCAP as the most inclusive and effective intergovernmental platform for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific.

I thank you.