

## STATEMENT

by

H.E. Sergey MANASSARIAN,  
Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs  
of the Republic of Armenia

at the

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Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific  
of the United Nations

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Your Excellency Mr./Ms. Chairperson,  
Your Excellency Ms. Executive Secretary,

Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me, please, at the outset, to express our sincere gratitude to the Royal Thai Government, Ms. Noeleen Heyzer, the Executive Secretary, and the Secretariat of the UN ESCAP for the excellent organization of the 69<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission and to wish us all efficient and productive work.

I have the honor and the privilege to reiterate from this distinguished podium that Armenia deems the cooperation with the UN ESCAP as a most important priority direction, among a number of others, within the framework of regional cooperation. Now, as after the recent competitive and democratic Presidential elections of February 18, 2013, the new cabinet is being shaped, both the re-elected President Sargsyan and the new Government members are to more vigorously pursue the on-going process of democratic and economic reforms to which my country is committed. With an already achieved target of 7.2 percent of economic growth, we will exert every possible effort to build up over the gained momentum, and to further

ensure the continuity and consistency in our policies of infrastructure development and sustainable economic growth.

Mr./Ms. Chairperson,

Being a landlocked country and having outlets to the sea only via Georgia in the North and via Iran in the South, and located on the crossroads between West and East, North and South, Armenia is destined take an active role in the development of international transport corridors of TRACECA, North-South and South-Eastern axis of the main trans-European transportation ways. With this regard, it is my pleasure to inform the distinguished delegates to this forum of the full completion by Armenia of two important instruments - and the respective notification will be shortly made to the UN depositary - the Convention and Statute on Freedom of Transit and the Convention on Transit Trade of Landlocked States.

Regretfully, the unsettled Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and the continuous unilateral closure of the Armenian Western border by Turkey are still creating considerable obstacles for the sustainable economic development of our country particularly in the field of international and regional transport communication.

Armenia therefore continues to closely cooperate with international financial organizations on the implementation of vital transport projects targeted at the reconstruction and modernization of motorway and railway infrastructure. North-South Road Corridor Investment Program is a major infrastructure project which aims at connecting the Southern border of the country with its Northern point by means of a highway to be built and/or reconstructed according to the international criteria and thus provide access to international markets. The reconstruction and development of the 556 km-long North-South Road Corridor will enable facilitation and intensification of both domestic and foreign transport and trade. The Project implementation, carried out through loans from the Asian Development Bank and, recently, from the European Investment Bank, will lead to the development of efficient transit roads providing access to the Black Sea through the territory of Armenia and Georgia and then to European countries. The project objectives also include facilitation of access to foreign market toward Central Asia and developing Armenia's major economic spheres and export expansion (industry, agriculture, mining industry, construction, tourism) etc.

Mr./Ms. Chairperson,

The energy sector of Armenia is currently one of the fully operational and cost-effective branches of the country's economy. Armenia not only fully covers its energy

demand in the internal market but also exports electricity to Georgia, as well as successfully performs an electricity exchange with Iran on mutually beneficial basis.

One recent important development in Armenia's energy sector was the signing on October 18, 2012, of an MoU with the United States providing necessary resources to keep Armenia's nuclear facility operating until plans for a new facility are in place.

Mr./Ms. Chairperson,

In the end, I once again congratulate all of us on the occasion of the UN ESCAP 69<sup>th</sup> session and wish successful work to all delegations and participants.

Thank you for your kind attention.