Media advisory

**Event:** Policy Dialogue on Regional Cooperation, Connectivity and Inclusive Development in South and South-West Asia

**When:** Thursday 28 November and Friday 29 November 2013

**Where:** Le Meridien Hotel, New Delhi

**Organizer:** United Nations ESCAP-SSWA Office

As part of the ESCAP South and South-West Asia (SSWA) Office’s continuing engagement with member States to increase regional cooperation for accelerated inclusive and sustainable development across the subregion, the New Delhi-based office will convene the Policy Dialogue on Regional Cooperation, Connectivity and Inclusive Development in SSWA on 28 and 29 November 2013. One highlight of the event will be the High-level round table of eminent experts and officials who will discuss the potential for greater regional cooperation between the 10 member States. Other policy discussions and analysis will address priority development areas for SSWA countries and ways to strengthen regional connectivity for trade and transit facilitation. Panelists will also recommend actions to boost regional cooperation in food security, energy security and disaster-risk reduction strategies.

The Policy Dialogue will also discuss the recommendations of the South Asia Policy Dialogue on Women’s Economic Empowerment through Entrepreneurship that ESCAP-SSWA will hold on 27th November, and which will be attended by major South Asian women's chambers of commerce and entrepreneurship, and network organizations.

Two key publications will be launched in SSWA as part of the event: the ESCAP Trade and Investment Report 2013, during a panel of experts which will consider the key results of the Report and implications for trade and investment strategies in the subregion, and the MHHDC South Asia Human Development Report 2013, with key luminaries from across South Asia engaged to discuss the conclusions and opportunities for greater regional cooperation to address water-related aspects of human development in SSWA. The latter launch is the outcome of a partnership between ESCAP-SSWA and the Mahbub-ul-Haq Human Development Centre (MHHDC), Pakistan.

**Highlights:**
The Policy Dialogue will be inaugurated by H.E. Dr. E.M.S. Natchiappan, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Government of India and will bring together high-level policy makers of South and South-West Asia to develop greater regional cooperation for connectivity, transport and trade facilitation, food and energy security in the region.

The Policy Dialogue will also include the launch of two reports: the *Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report 2013* of ESCAP and the *Human Development in South Asia 2013: Water for Human Development*, a report by the Mahbub-ul-Haq Human Development Centre, Pakistan.

**Other speakers at the Inaugural session of the Policy Dialogue include:**

- **Dr. Nagesh Kumar**, Director, ESCAP-SSWA
- **H.E. Mr. Mohammad Tariq Ismati**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, Afghanistan
- **Ms. Lise Grande**, United Nations Resident Coordinator, India

For more information about the Policy Dialogue visit: http://sswa.unescap.org

Mr. Matthew Hammill, ESCAP South and South-West Asia Office, New Delhi
T: (+91) 11 309 73 707/M: (+91) 9818211404

Ms. Wanphen Sreshthaputra, ESCAP South and South-West Asia Office, New Delhi
T: (+91) 11 309 73 706/M: (+91) 96505 10 663.