

63rd Anniversary Celebrations of the Colombo Plan

Speech by the Secretary General Mr. Kinley Dorji

Honorable Mr. G. L. Peiris, Minister of External Affairs, His Excellency Mr. Harimawan Suyitno President of the Colombo Plan Council, Honourable Ministers, Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen. Good Evening and Welcome.

It is my pleasure to welcome you all. Today we celebrate the 63rd Anniversary of Colombo Plan. A journey that we started in 1951. We have come a long way. Bringing peoples and nations together building a culture of self help and mutual help.

It is appropriate to reflect for a moment on our motto. “Planning Prosperity together”. Colombo Plan, as we all now know, had its formation as an inter- governmental organization through the vision of our founder leaders from 7 Commonwealth countries as early as in 1951. The vision of the Founding Fathers was “planning prosperity together”. With that vision we ventured ahead. The past and the future

of Colombo Plan are woven around this ideology. Today Colombo Plan is strongly supported by a membership of 27 countries and there are many waiting to join the Colombo Plan family.

This is the right moment that we should pay our tribute and gratitude to the founder fathers of Colombo Plan for their visionary steps and aspirations to bring economic and social advancement of the peoples of South and Southeast Asia. That vision is now not only limited to people of South and Southeast Asia but it is reaching out to countries in the rest of the globe.

We are happy to continue the vision of Colombo Plan, towards achieving our ideology and look for the sustainability, development and growth of its future beyond the present. Therefore it is important for us to design and plan carefully leading the nations forward.

Each member state is a gem in the crown of Colombo Plan. It is our intention to add more gems to the crown by adding

more countries into our membership. The continued co-operation of each member state towards the Colombo Plan is an illustration of their commitment for socio-economic development through shared resources and mutual help. In other words today we celebrate for living up to our motto of “ Planning Prosperity Together” .

A special word of gratitude we must express here to the Sri Lankan Government and the people for being our host country. Sri Lanka has supported the Colombo Plan from its inception. It is heartening to see their co-operation and support for the sustainability of the Colombo Plan. May I say here that Colombo Plan looks forward to receive Sri Lanka’s gracious contributions in the future as well.

I would also like to express our heartfelt thanks to Colombo Plan Council, our donors and other stakeholders for their support, direction and collaboration which help us greatly in the implementation of our projects.

A special word of thanks to the Council President, His Excellency Mr. Harimawan Suyitno for his guidance and support for which we are ever grateful.

May I also express my gratitude and appreciation to the Hon. Mr. G L Peiris, Minister of External Affairs who so graciously accepted our invitation to be the Honoured Guest to celebrate this auspicious day. Honourable Minister, we are extremely grateful for your presence here today. It is a great honour to have you as our Chief Guest. Finally, I would like to express our sincere thanks to the Honourable Ministers, Excellencies and the distinguished guests for your most valued presence here today.

Thank you.