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**Sub-Regional Conference:  
Going Beyond the Meter: Inclusive Energy Solutions in South Asia  
11-12 April, 2016 – Hotel Jai Mahal Palace, Jaipur, Rajasthan**

**SESSION 1: SETTING THE CONTEXT—DELIVERY STRATEGIES TO MAXIMIZE INCLUSIVE ACCESS**

Feature Speaker: **Anju Bhalla**, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Power, India

***Text of Video Message***

Good Morning.

I am very pleased to welcome all of you to India. Although I am not able to be with you today, I do look forward to the outcomes of the Conference, and the sharing and learnings from it.

Energy access by itself encompasses the concept of inclusivity, and the vision of this Government is to create Ujjawal Bharat by ensuring 24 x 7 power to all by 2019. The Government of India is working with the State Governments to prepare State specific action plans to ensure access to quality power to all existing consumers and all unconnected consumers in phases.

One of the most important schemes of the Government for inclusive development is the Deendayal Upadhaya Gram Joyti Yojana for rural electrification. Separation of feeders for supply of electricity will ensure adequate power supply to farmers through dedicated feeders, while ensuring uninterrupted power supply to households. The target is to complete all village electrification by May, 2018 and we have exceeded the target of 5686 villages for 2015-16, by achieving electrification of 7108 villages.

This Government has also moved beyond the formal definition of rural electrification and is committed to cover all households in so far as access to electricity is concerned, by 2019. Power for All documents have already been signed by 18 States and your host State of Rajasthan was one of the first to do so.

The Pradhan Mantri Ujjawala Yojana, is one more landmark scheme for inclusive access to energy. The scheme aims to provide 5 crore LPG connections to BPL households, and is to be implemented over three years, starting this year. The scheme would benefit crores of

women belonging to the poorest households and will also provide employment to rural youth in the supply chain of cooking gas.

Going forward, we welcome all your efforts to mainstream gender and social inclusion challenges in the India energy sector and hope to continue working with ADB in this space.

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