

# MEDIA ADVISORY



## United Nations Development Programme

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**Thimphu, 30 August 2011:** Delegations from close to forty partner organisations, including bilateral donors and international organisations, will engage in a policy dialogue with the Royal Government of Bhutan at the 11<sup>th</sup> Round Table Meeting (RTM) for development partners this week. This is the first Round Table since the country embraced parliamentary democracy in 2008.

The Round Table Meeting will be hosted in Thimphu on 1-2 September 2011. It will be an opportunity to discuss Bhutan's development progress and ways of ensuring that development assistance is aligned with national priorities and is more effective. The policy dialogue at this high-level meeting will focus on Bhutan's development challenges, the outcome of the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan Mid-Term Review, and Bhutan's democratization process. Furthermore, the meeting will review Bhutan's macro-economic framework, the application of the Gross National Happiness concept in policy making and development programmes, and road map for the upcoming 11<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan.

The first RTM for Bhutan was held in the early 1980s. Customarily, Round Table Meetings for Bhutan are held twice in the course of a five-year plan. The previous such meeting took place in February 2008.

The Round Table is organised by the Royal Government of Bhutan in partnership with the United Nations and will be co-chaired by Lyonpo Yeshey Zimba, Minister-in-Charge of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Works and Human Settlement, and Dr. Ajay Chhibber, UN Assistant Secretary-General and UNDP Assistant Administrator.

The co-chairs will hold a press briefing for the media at the conclusion of the meeting on 2 September. A concluding press release will also be issued concurrently.

In addition, media representatives will be invited for the opening and closing of the RTM session and an RTM side event on 1 September to launch Bhutan's National Human Development Report 2011 entitled "*Sustaining Progress: Rising to the Climate Challenge*". More information on the launch is provided in a separate media advisory.

### **Note to Editors:**

Dr. Ajay Chhibber (India) is UN Assistant Secretary-General and Assistant Administrator at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Director of its Asia-Pacific Bureau. Prior to that, he worked at the World Bank for almost 25 years on a range of development issues, managing its programs in Vietnam, Turkey, Macedonia, and in Indonesia and the Pacific. He was the lead author of the seminal work on Governance at the World Bank and the 1997 World Development Report on the Role of the State. He has published widely, including five books on economic development and many articles in international journals and in major newspapers.

### **About UNDP**

UNDP is the UN's global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. We are on the ground in 166 countries, working with them on their own solutions to global and national development challenges. As they develop local capacity, they draw on the people of UNDP and our wide range of partners.

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