

**Statement delivered by Nepal on behalf of
The Least Developed Countries (LDC) Group
Opening of the High Level Segment COP-20 / CMP- 10
Lima, Peru, 09/12/14**

Mr. President. Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen

Mr. President First allow me to convey my congratulations on your assumption of the Presidency. I would like to take this opportunity to express our deep appreciation for the incredible hospitality you and the people of Peru have shown to us.

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the Least Developed Countries Group, which represents the 48 poorest countries in the world, extremely vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. I speak for nearly one billion people who are suffering, in some cases dying, due to a crisis that they did not create.

Mr. President, it has become a daily part of our lives to experience the startling increase in frequency and intensity of extreme weather events resulting from climate change. Our farmers are finding it harder and harder to grow crops. Our cattle are dying. Our glaciers and mangroves are fast disappearing.

Unfortunately, despite 22 years of commitments to taking action, global temperatures continue to rise alongside unprecedented greenhouse gas emissions. The IPCC reports which we adopted, are unambiguously clear: unless we immediately reduce emissions, we are on track for a 3-5 degree rise in temperature. There will be severe, pervasive and irreversible impacts on people and ecosystems – and

some of our countries will completely disappear. In other words Mr. President, we are heading towards an unthinkable future.

Mr. President, despite more than 500 decisions under this regime, we are still losing sight of the big picture. While we respect individual interests of parties and the need for fine and detailed negotiations, we should not forget that the window of opportunity for addressing the global climate crisis is rapidly closing.

Mr. President, despite this, the LDCs are still optimistic on achieving a climate neutral future before the end of the Century. Our Group understands that, in our journey of combating the climate crisis and reaching a climate neutral world, we must make the right choices here in Lima and next year in Paris. We have a historical opportunity to make things right through the new Paris Protocol.

Mr. President, those choices include the following: first, all countries must undertake ambitious mitigation actions with short term quantifiable five year economy wide commitment targets and long term mitigation commitments by developed countries and other countries that are capable to do so; second, we must agree on a mechanism for increasing ambition overtime; and third, we must agree on a pathway for quantifiable, new, additional, predictable and sustainable financial resources for climate action in our countries.

Mr. President, we hope that 2015 Paris Protocol will reinforce legal parity between mitigation, adaptation, loss and damage and means of implementation as well as transparency of action and support. Needless to say, the

LDCs and our needs and priorities also warrant special and dedicated treatment in the Paris Protocol.

Mr. President, the LDCs call for the immediate replenishment of the LDCF. So far, the LDCF has received less than 1 billion USD to implement our National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs) which were meant to respond to our most urgent and immediate adaptation priorities. The LDCs welcome and appreciate the support of contributing countries thus far, but we remain far from the amount needed to implement our NAPAs. We urge developed countries to continue considering the LDCF in its future funding allocations. The implementation of the LDCs' urgent and immediate NAPAs must be completed by 2020.

Mr. President, let me say that the reality of what LDCs face demands explicit, urgent, ambitious and concrete actions to bridge the current emissions gap and the financial gap. Let us get back to work with good intentions of speeding up our work to enable us to finalise the most ambitious and effective climate protocol in Paris next year.

Mr. President,

Please allow me to speak on behalf of **South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)** comprising of eight countries namely, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

Mr. President, South Asia is a home to almost a quarter of the world's population and is endowed with vast water bodies and other natural resources. This region has also

rich cultural and biological diversity. A sizable portion of ecology and biological diversity is under stress as well.

Climate change has threatened our social and economic development. The region is becoming more and more vulnerable and is facing rising frequency and intensity of floods, droughts, cyclonic storms and storm surges, landslides, glacial lake outburst floods, sea level rise and salinity intrusion. The IPCC reports reaffirm the likelihood of these severe, perverse and irreversible impacts.

Noting that South Asia is particularly prone to climate change and related disasters, the **16th SAARC Summit** held in Thimphu, Bhutan, in 2010 adopted the '**Thimphu Statement on Climate Change**' as a means to further regional cooperation and actions on climate change.

Last month, the **18th SAARC Summit** held in Kathmandu, Nepal adopted the "**Kathmandu Declaration**" where the **SAARC Heads of State or Government** stressed on effective implementation of the SAARC Agreement on Rapid Response to Natural Disasters, SAARC Convention on Cooperation on Environment and Thimphu Statement on Climate Change, including taking into account the existential threats posed by climate change to some SAARC member states.

The SAARC Leaders underlined the urgency for the global community to arrive at a Protocol, another legal instrument, or an agreed outcome with legal force applicable to all by the end of 2015, based on the principles of Common but Differentiated Responsibility (CBDR), Respective Capabilities and Equity under the UNFCCC.

Mr. President, any delay in action on climate change will only add to our costs and the requirement of Adaptation. Therefore, Pre-2020 ambition and ratification of Kyoto Protocol 2nd Commitment Period is the urgent need of the hour.

We must work out a post-2020 framework that is based on equity CBDR-RC and protects the poor and vulnerable people in South Asia from the disastrous impacts of climate change.

Mr. President, please allow me, to speak on behalf of **Nepal** now.

The mountainous country – Nepal – is most vulnerable to climate change. Our agriculture, forests, water and infrastructure sectors are greatly affected by the adverse effects of climate change posing food, water and energy insecurities. Climate-induced disasters have repeatedly claimed lives and properties.

Moreover, disproportionate temperature rise in the Himalayas have caused glacier retreat, GLOF and frequent avalanches. This phenomena has exposed black rock in the beautiful ice caps, thereby seriously impacting on our tourism industry and on the lives and livelihoods of billions of people living around the Himalayas and downstream. Our development cost has increased by many folds and we must be compensated for this additional cost.

In spite of our technical and financial limitations, Nepal has taken several policy, institutional and implementation measures, including implementation of NAPA prioritized most urgent and immediate adaptation actions. We have

introduced dedicated budget code to channel climate finance and preparing low carbon development strategy.

The Climate Change Council, chaired by the Right Honorable Prime Minister, ensures coordination and guidance at the political level.

Mr. President,

Considering the significant contribution that mountains make and the climate change vulnerability they possess, Nepal calls upon all Parties to develop a special Work Program on Mountains under the article 4.8 of the Convention to reduce the climate change vulnerability and associated loss and damage. We believe such a work program will help to enhance our knowledge in better understanding mountain ecosystems and enable us to adapt to, and build resilience to climate change.

Thank you Mr. President !