

**STATEMENT BY DR. KESHAB MAN SHAKYA, HON. MINISTER
FOR ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GOVERNMENT OF NEPAL**

**High Level Segment of COP 18/CMP 8 at Doha, Qatar
5 December 2012**

Mr. President
Honourable Ministers
Secretary General of the United Nations
Madam Executive Secretary
Excellencies
Distinguished delegates
Ladies and gentlemen

Mr. President, first of all, on behalf of my delegation, I would like to congratulate you on your election as the chair of COP 18 and CMP 8. I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to the State of Qatar for hosting this conference and for the warm hospitality accorded to us. I also appreciate the excellent arrangements made by the UNFCCC Secretariat.

Nepal is highly vulnerable to climate change which has adversely affected agricultural productivity, biodiversity, hydrological cycle, ecosystem services, socio-economy and sustainable development. We are compelled to cope with and adapt to these impacts which have created additional social and economic burden on a resource-poor mountainous country, Nepal. Such situation demands immediate and urgent response.

Mr. President,
In an effort to address the climate change impacts in the mountains, the Government of Nepal organized an International Conference of Mountain Countries on Climate Change in 2012 in Kathmandu to develop a framework within which mountainous countries and international institutions could collaborate to address the adverse impacts of climate change. The conference adopted the *Kathmandu Call for Action* to carry forward the Mountain Initiative.

Nepal is implementing climate change adaptation activities based on our National Adaptation Programme of Action, Climate Change Policy, and the framework of country-driven Local Adaptation Plan for Action (LAPA). LAPA provides opportunities to integrate climate adaptation into local as well as national planning process, identify and implement urgent and immediate adaptation actions with the participation of local communities.

While Nepal is encouraged by progress on some outstanding issues, positive outcome is still needed on other important issues. We are concerned about unmet funding pledge to Least Developed Country Fund (LDCF), which is critical and important for the implementation of LDC work programme. Nepal urges support for the LDCs to benefit from CDM, REDD+ and existing funding mechanisms.

We strongly urge for five-year second commitment period of Kyoto Protocol. COP18 must take concrete decisions to implement the outcomes of COP13, for a global deal including issues on mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology transfer and development, and capacity building. We welcome the progress on institutionalizing the Green Climate Fund (GCF) as an umbrella fund under the UNFCCC, but we are concerned about inadequate resources. Therefore, COP18 must decide to scale up funding and pave a process for direct access. We emphasize the availability of new, additional, adequate, predictable and sustainable funding.

Mr. President,

My country has the honour to chair the LDCs Coordination Group in the UNFCCC negotiation process for 2013 and 2014. I assure that Nepal, on behalf of the LDCs, will positively engage in all aspects of the negotiation process. We believe in cooperation and coordination, and request all the parties to support us in this endeavour.

Mr. President,

While expressing our expectation of significant and meaningful outcome from this COP, we call on all the parties for a stronger commitment for the success of this conference to safeguard our common future.

Thank you.