

**Statement by the Hon. Mr. Shakti Bahadur Basnet, Minister of  
Forests and Environment (MoFE), Nepal at the 25th Conference of  
Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate  
Change (UNFCCC)**

**Madrid, Spain,**

**December 2019**

Madame Chair,

Fellow Ministers

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Namaste and Good Afternoon!

First of all, I would like to congratulate to the Government of Chile and Government of Spain in hosting this event in the Magnificent City of Madrid, and warm hospitality extended to us by the people of Spain. I assure Madame CAROLINA SCHMIDT ZALDIVAR MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT of my delegation's full support and cooperation in discharging your responsibilities.

**Madam Chair**

Mr. Secretary-General - António Guterres - recently sounded a warning, calling global efforts to fight climate change "utterly inadequate," and that "the point of no return is no longer over the horizon." The evidence is already stark and time to act is now.

Lamentably, it appears that our Paris Agreement commitment to maintain global temperatures below 1.5 degrees Celsius seems untenable, as the carbon emission is constantly increasing, with a record of over 55 billion

tons of GHGs in 2018. This pattern of carbon emissions growth threatens countries particularly least developing countries like Nepal.

In South Asia alone, an estimated 240 million mountain dwellers and 1.6 billion human souls, or 20% of the planet's human population, directly depend on the Fresh Water Towers of the Himalayas including Hindu-Kush Himalaya region but these pristine resources are retreating at an alarming pace.

This boom and bust water cycle poses great risk to already vulnerable downstream urban populations from imminent glacial lake outbursts, excessive landslides, inundation and a dramatic increase in flash floods in the high mountains & mid-hills. This region demands **special attention and needs while** considering to the livelihood of the most poor and vulnerable communities.

**Madame Chair,**

Nepal has made huge stride in implementing our climate change agenda with: our *National Climate Change Policy* to channel over 80% of climate financing to grassroots activities. We have initiated Vulnerability Risk Assessment, National Adaptation Plan and are completing our *Disaster Preparedness & Response Plans* for all Municipal areas.

I urge parties to make significant progress on the *Enhanced Transparency Framework*, which is the backbone of a well-functioning *Paris Agreement*, based on its procedures and guidelines agreed last year in Katowice. We also need to advance on the 2017 *Koronivia Joint Work*

*Program on Agriculture*; and we urge the parties to prompt financing of the *Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage* beyond existing ODA grant-financing mechanisms.

On mitigation, Nepal aims to achieve 80% electrification through renewable energy sources, with appropriate low-carbon energy mix by 2050. Electricity needs to be decarbonized first. Government allocated approximately 40 million USD for e-mobility this year. We have also established several mitigation-friendly policies, including: a *National REDD Strategy* to optimize forest carbon benefits; and a *National Rural and Renewable Energy Programme*, which supports clustered micro-hydro, solar, biogas and improved cook stove programming.

### **Madam Chair**

Nepal is focused on socio-economic development agenda to sustain Nepal's political gains under an overarching national aspirations of **“Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali.”** In this context, we are organising visit Nepal 2020. Therefore, we cordially invite you all development partners to visit Nepal to take lifetime experience, with splendid natural and cultural heritage.

In addition Nepal is organizing a biannual new initiative to bring the core of climate crisis at wider forum called *Sagarmartha Sambaad* or “Mount Everest Dialogue” with theme of “*Climate Change, Mountains and the Future of Humanity*”, coming April 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup>. This global dialogue will help us seek transformational solutions under potentially catastrophic climate change scenarios. I cordially invite you all to participate in the event as well.

**Madam Chair,**

Nepal firmly believes that assurance of long-term finance from developed countries will significantly to increase ambition and enhance its implementation. It will also increase the obligations to boost Nepal's core portfolio of national climate-resilient and low-carbon investments. This must be met through responsive and accessible financing, pragmatic technology transfer, and bottom-up capacity-building as priority.

In conclusion, let us enrich of our soul and enhance hope, not stay with dry soul and empty hope,

Finally, Madam Chair, I wish your strong leadership and very successful tenureship ahead.

Thank you!