



Government of Nepal
Ministry of Environment,
Science and Technology

Our Mountains, Our Future

Mainstreaming Climate Change into Mountain Development

Proceedings of the International Conference of Mountain Countries on Climate Change



Kathmandu, Nepal

April 5-6, 2012

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Right Honorable President of Nepal Dr. Ram Baran Yadav with dignitaries and Conference participants.

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The International Conference of Mountain Countries on Climate Change was held on 5-6 April 2012 in Kathmandu as a part of the Mountain Initiative launched by Nepal during the 15th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Copenhagen, Denmark. The Mountain Initiative provides a framework to work together to better understand the changes occurring in mountains, share the challenges they face as a result of climate and global changes, and launch adaptation and mitigation programs jointly. The main objective of the Conference was to bring together all mountain countries from the Hindu-Kush Himalayan, Andean, Alpine, Pamir and Atlas regions in order to make their collective voices stronger in international negotiation processes including UNFCCC and Rio+20 for securing global attention for sustaining mountain ecosystem and for the well-being of mountain-dependent people. The Conference was inaugurated by Rt. Hon'ble Dr. Ram Baran Yadav, President of Nepal and attended by some 300 participants from 26 countries, including Ministers, parliamentarians and political leaders. Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Ministers, ministers and other dignitaries addressed the Conference, followed by panel discussions and interactions. It culminated into the formulation and unanimous adoption of the Kathmandu Call for Action, which paves a way for future course of actions in the mountains. The proceedings summarize the Conference activities providing brief description of each event and also shedding light on genesis and evolution of Mountain Initiative.

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June 18, 2012

Krishna Gyawali
Secretary
Ministry of Environment,
Science and Technology

Table of Contents

Abbreviation	vii
Executive Summary	viii
1.0 Background and Context	1
1.1 The Mountains	1
1.2 The Mountain Initiative	1
1.3 The International Conference	2
1.4 Conference Partners	3
2.0 Realizing the Impacts of Climate Change in the Mountains	5
2.1 Inaugural Session	5
2.2 Panel Discussion: Climate Change Impacts, Vulnerability, Adaptation Options and Climate Financing in the Mountains	6
2.3 Panel Discussion: Climate Change in the Mountains, Knowledge Generation, Ecosystem Services, Livelihoods and Mountain Agenda	14
2.4 Launching of the NCCSP and National Framework on LAPA	16
2.5 Special Address	16
3.0 Partnering for Mountain Development	18
3.1 Special Session	18
3.2 Panel Discussion: Climate Change and Mountains in the International Negotiation Processes	20
4.0 Kathmandu Call for Action on Mountains and Climate Change	23
4.1 The Process	23
4.2 Adoption of the Kathmandu Call for Action	24
4.3 Closing Session	27
5.0 The Way Forward	30
6.0 Annexes	32
1. Conference Program	32
2. List of Participants	36
3. Inaugural Section	53
3.1 Inaugural Address by Dr. Ram Baran Yadav, Rt. Hon. President of Nepal	53
3.2 Welcome Speech by Hemraj Tater, Minister for Environment, Nepal	55
3.3 Vote of Thanks by Krishna Gyawali, Secretary, Ministry of Environment	57

4.	Press Release	59
5.	Special Address by Honorable Madhav Kumar Nepal, Former Prime Minister	61
6.	Special Session	
6.1	Welcome Speech by Hemraj Tater, Honorable Minister for Environment	65
6.2	Keynote Speech by Dr. R. K. Pachauri, Chair, IPCC and DG, TERI	67
6.3	Statement by B.M.S. Rathore On Behalf of Honorable Smt. Jayanthi Natarajan, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment and Forests, India	74
6.4	Address by Honorable Abdullah Bin Murbarak Bin Aabboud Al-Midhadhi Minister for Environment, Qatar	77
6.5	Special Address by Dr. Baburam Bhattarai Right Honorable Prime Minister of Nepal	78
6.6	Chair's Remark by Bijaya Kumar Gacchedar Honorable Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs	82
6.7	Vote of Thanks by Mr. Krishna Gyawali, Secretary, Ministry of Environment	84
7.	Closing Session	86
7.1	Statement by Narayan Kaji Shrestha, Honorable Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs	86
7.2	Chair's Remarks by Hemraj Tater, Honorable Minister for Environment	89
7.3	Vote of Thanks by Batu Krishna Uprety, Joint-Secretary (Tech.) Ministry of Environment	90
8.	Conference Task Force Members	93

List of Boxes

A.	Milestones on the Mountain Initiative	2
B.	Conference Highlights and Key Messages (5 April 2012)	17
C.	Recommendations of International Expert Consultation	23
D.	Recommendations of South Asian Parliamentarian Workshop on Climate Change	24
E.	Kathmandu Call for Action	25
F.	Conference Highlights and Key Messages (6 April 2012)	29

Abbreviation

ADB	: Asian Development Bank
CANSA	: Climate Action Network, South Asia
CBD	: Convention on Biological Diversity
CCD	: Convention to Combat Desertification
CDKN	: Climate and Development Knowledge Network
CEN	: Clean Energy Nepal
COP	: Conference of the Parties
DFID	: UK Department for International Development
EU	: European Union
FAO	: Food and Agriculture Organization
GHGs	: Greenhouse Gases
GLOF	: Glacial Lake Outburst Flood
HKH	: Hindu-Kush Himalayas
ICIMOD	: International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
IDS-Nepal	: Integrated Development Society-Nepal
IESCO	: International Energy Service Company
INGOs	: International Non-governmental Organizations
KCA	: Kathmandu Call for Action
LAPA	: Local Adaptation Plan for Action
LDCs	: Least Developed Countries
MoEnv	: Ministry of Environment
MoEST	: Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology
NAPA	: National Adaptation Program of Action
NEFEJ	: Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists
NGO	: Non-governmental Organization
SAARC	: South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
UNDP	: United Nations Development Program
UNEP	: United Nations Environment Program
UNFCCC	: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
USAID	: United States Agency for International Development
WMO	: World Meteorological Organization

Executive Summary

Background: As a part of the Mountain Initiative, Government of Nepal, Ministry of Environment organized a two-day “International Conference of Mountain Countries on Climate Change” in Kathmandu from 5-6 April 2012. The main objective of the Conference was to bring all mountain countries together to make their collective voice stronger at international platforms. The Conference was inaugurated by Right Honorable Dr. Ram Baran Yadav, President of Nepal and attended by some 300 participants from 26 countries, including ministers, parliamentarians, senior officials of the government, and representatives of the development partners and other stakeholders. Right Honorable Prime Minister and other ministers also addressed the meeting. The meeting included a keynote speech, addresses by key dignitaries, panel discussions and interactions, which culminated in the formulation and unanimous adoption of the Kathmandu Call for Action.

Key Messages: Evidences of climate change in the Himalayas and mountains are most visible. The impacts of climate change on the mountains include rapid snow and glacial melt, variable rainfall, droughts, displacement of people, change in land use and land cover, and loss of livelihood opportunities. Water-induced disasters have become more frequent resulting in high siltation and sedimentation problems along with biodiversity loss. All of these changes are affecting agricultural productivity, health, tourism, livelihoods, power generation and infrastructures, overall economic growth and human security.

There is a realization among mountain countries to have a strong collective voice, a common position, and unified approach to negotiate, lobby and act in a coordinated manner at all platforms including Rio+20. The mountain countries need simple, realistic and effective actions that offer direct benefits to people, improve their livelihood and provide viable alternatives to their dependence on natural resources. There is a need for all mountain countries to come together, identify common issues, and make strong collective representations at international fora.

Mountain ecosystems are inter-related and this needs to be factored into planning and implementation. It is also equally important to consider the issues of indigenous peoples, economic valuation of and payment for ecosystem services (PES), and river diversion in each discussion forum.

The upcoming Rio+20 needs a new paradigm for sustainable development that not only integrates environmental, economic and social issues but also highlights for an environmentally clean, green and climate-resilient planning. Such a paradigm should consider social, economical and physical vulnerabilities of the mountains with equal importance.

A side-event may be organized at the 18th Session of UNFCCC to draw the attention of the international community to the urgency for dealing with climate change. Countries including negotiating groups

such as the G77 and China need to be persuaded in the negotiation processes for necessary decisions to promote climate-friendly development in the mountains.

Small mountainous countries alone can't address the adverse impacts of climate change. Therefore, mountainous countries such as China and India will have a greater role to raise the issues more forcefully and influence the climate negotiation processes. Besides, regional institutions need to be set up and/or strengthened for addressing climate change in the mountains. Mountain countries need to dedicate some parliamentary sessions to discuss on climate change, and parliamentarians should also be engaged in the negotiation processes. Nodal points need to be identified for tackling climate change and a team of permanent negotiators need to be developed and mobilized, particularly in the small mountainous countries, for successful international negotiations.

Climate-related funds are available for different purposes, but they are not easily accessible to the mountain communities. The fund flow process needs to be simplified. Further, a special mountain fund needs to be created to promote adaptation activities to meet the increasing needs of the climate vulnerable communities in the mountains.

Actions and Commitment: A major output of the Conference is the adoption of the 10-point Kathmandu Call for Action on mountains and climate change. The Call for Action reinforces commitments to promote the Mountain Initiative, undertake collaborative research, act collectively, develop incentive mechanisms, establish dedicated funding mechanism, and to develop and implement program of work and plan of action both of global and national levels, among others. The ministers, parliamentarians and senior officials attending the meeting pledged to move ahead together to intensify efforts in the international negotiation processes to translate the commitments into actions.



1.0 Background and Context

1.1 The Mountains

Mountains cover about 24 percent of the land area on Earth and are home to about 13 percent of the global population. They provide essential ecosystem goods and services to people living in both the upstream and the downstream areas. The mountains in the Hindu-Kush Himalayas, Andes, Alps, Pamir and Atlas ranges play an important role in regulating the global climate system.

Mountains are highly fragile and vulnerable to climate change. The changing climate has affected the lives and livelihood of people of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) who typically have low capacity to cope with and adapt to the unprecedented changes that are taking place as a result of global climate change. The mountain people are facing serious impacts such as increasing poverty, frequent natural and human-induced disasters, and other socio-economic challenges.

Climate change has affected not only the vital ecosystem services required by mountain people but also that needed by those living in the downstream areas. The mountains and the mountain people have not received adequate attention at international environmental deliberations and processes, including climate change related processes such as UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Kyoto Protocol and others. As a result, the mountains and mountain people continue to face an uncertain future.

1.2 The Mountain Initiative

Capitalizing on the unique opportunity of the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP15) to UNFCCC in Copenhagen, Right Honorable Prime Minister of Nepal called upon the mountain countries around the world “to come together, form a common platform and collectively raise concerns in the international arena”. He said collective and coordinated approaches are crucial for mountain countries even to make themselves heard and be able to secure the potential benefits from international negotiation processes. In order to carry this call forwards, Nepal started the initiative, known as the Mountain Initiative (See: Box A for the chronological development of the initiative).

The goal of the Mountain Initiative is to “mobilize meaningful support and ensure solidarity to achieve the goal of sustainable development of mountain ecosystems, mountain peoples and their livelihoods”. Within this broad framework, major objectives of this Initiative are as follows:

1. Fill the knowledge gaps on the impacts of climate change on mountains, and communicate the information globally;
2. Highlight the specific concerns of mountain ecosystems and related livelihood issues within the ongoing UNFCCC and Rio+20 negotiations, and beyond;

3. Analyze and document specific climate change scenarios and impact on the mountains as well as plains and downstream; and
4. Document best practices and information about local knowledge and adaptation activities and share this with national and international stakeholders.

Box A: Milestones on the Mountain Initiative

- | | |
|------|---|
| 2009 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Summiters' Summit to Save the Himalayas at the COP15, Copenhagen - Gathering of delegates of mountain countries at COP15 to discuss on mountain issues - Call of the Right Honorable Prime Minister of Nepal on the need for a common platform |
| 2010 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Endorsement of the concept of Mountain Initiative by the Government of Nepal - Nepal's call to organize the International Conference on Climate Change in Kathmandu endorsed by the SAARC Summit in Thimpu, Bhutan - Side-event on the Mountain Initiative during meetings of the Subsidiary Bodies and Ad Hoc Working Group of UNFCCC in Bonn, Germany in June and August - Expert Consultation Meeting on the Mountain Initiative on Climate Change - Formation of an Expert Group by 15 mountain countries to promote Mountain Initiative - Side-event at COP16 in Cancun, Mexico - Press Conference on Nepal's initiatives on climate change including the Mountain Initiative at COP16 in Cancun, Mexico |
| 2011 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Side-event on the Mountain Initiative at COP17 in Durban, South Africa |
| 2012 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - International Expert Consultation of Mountain Countries on Climate Change, Kathmandu, Nepal - South Asian Parliamentarian Workshop on Climate Change, Kathmandu, Nepal - International Conference of Mountain Countries on Climate Change, Kathmandu, Nepal. |

1.3 The International Conference

A two-day International Conference of Mountain Countries on Climate Change was held in Kathmandu, Nepal from 5 to 6 April 2012. The objective of the Conference was to promote the Mountain Initiative,¹ particularly to discuss the sustainable mountain development agenda and use the opportunity to analyze the challenges and prospects of mountain ecosystems, including that for alleviating poverty. The specific objectives of the Conference were to:

¹ The Mountain Initiative is a collective effort towards raising the voice of mountain countries in global platforms. It aims to highlight the needs and concerns of mountain countries and arrive at a framework for effective collaboration for addressing these concerns. The ultimate purpose of the Initiative is to reduce risks and build climate resilient mountain communities that are vital for maintaining mountain-based ecosystem services for the welfare of humanity. It began as an effort of the Government of Nepal, in collaboration with major development partners and stakeholders, to bring the mountain countries from the Hindu-Kush Himalayas, Andean, Alpine, Pamir and Atlas regions together for placing issues and impacts of climate change in mountains, mountain people and their livelihoods on the global agenda.

1. Provide a forum for mountain countries to share knowledge and experiences on the impacts of climate change on the mountains, and deliberate the common risks; and
2. Discuss a common approach to deal with specific concerns relating to mountain ecosystems and livelihoods.

About 300 delegates and participants from 26 mountain countries and representatives from the Nepal-based diplomatic communities, donors, development partners, international and national non-governmental organizations, civil society and community-based organizations attended the Conference. The detailed Conference agenda is given in Annex 1. The list of participants is given in Annex 2.

Dr. Ram Baran Yadav, Right Honorable President of Nepal, inaugurated the Conference by watering a potted plant². It had four panel discussions throughout the two-day long Conference. Mr. Madhav Kumar Nepal, former Prime Minister of Nepal made special address at the end of the program on 5 April 2012. Dr. Baburam Bhattarai, Right Honourable Prime Minister of Nepal, was the Chief Guest on the second day. Dr. Rajendra Pachauri, Chair of Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), delivered a keynote address



Dr. Ram Baran Yadav, Right Honorable President of Nepal, inaugurating the Conference

on the science of climate change. Mr. Bijaya Gacchedar, Honorable Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs made a Chair's remark on special session and Mr. Narayan Kaji Shrestha, Honorable Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal, delivered a closing statement at the Conference.

1.4 Conference Partners

The Ministry of Environment organized the Conference with support from the UK Department of International Development, European Union, Royal Norwegian Embassy, United States Agency for International Development (Hariyoban Program), Netherlands Development Organization (SNV), United Nations Development Program, World Bank, Asian Development Bank and the Climate and Development Knowledge Network.

The Ministry of Environment in collaboration with the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) organized International Expert Consultation on Climate Change on 4 April and derived conclusions which are also reflected in the Kathmandu Call for Action adopted on 6 April 2012.

² Cinnamomum Camphora (Kapur), a native of China, Japan and Taiwan, is an evergreen tree, planted in Nepal up to 2000m as religious and ornamental tree, and is a source of camphor used in pharmacy.

The Clean Energy Nepal and Climate Action Network, South Asia joined the Government of Nepal, Ministry of Environment in organizing the South Asian Parliamentarians' Workshop on Climate Change while NGO Federation and the Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists supported the Conference activities, particularly in organizing exhibition, and media including preparation and dissemination of news.

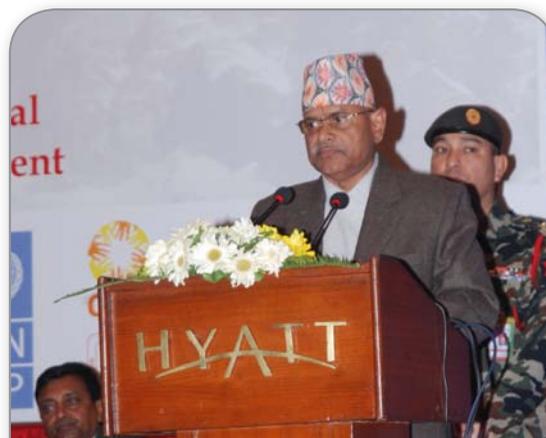
ICIMOD and Integrated Development Society-Nepal (IDS-Nepal) provided technical support and backstopping. They were responsible for: (i) Providing technical support to the Conference to ensure interdisciplinary inputs, participation and collaboration; (ii) Reporting the findings of national and international expert consultations; (iii) Serving as nodes for communication with delegates, experts and participants; (iv) Seeking support from the relevant agencies and organizations; (v) Providing expert support for preparing, publishing and disseminating the conference report; and (vi) Facilitating coordination among partner organizations and experts.

The summary of the Conference is presented in Chapter II and III of this proceedings.

2.0 Realizing the Impacts of Climate Change in the Mountains

2.1 Inaugural Session

Inaugurating the Conference Dr. Ram Baran Yadav, Right Honorable President of Nepal, said that the climate change has made the life of the mountain people more difficult and that country has already been experiencing the impacts of climate change in terms of environmental degradation, changing rainfall patterns, severe floods, extended drought and rapid glacial melt. The President also dwelt on efforts Nepal making towards mitigating the impacts of and adapting to climate change. He further added that the efforts did not match the scale of problem, and therefore the need for greater regional and global support is required. He said Nepal is committed to the Mountain Initiative adding that it requires support and demands actions at the global, regional and national levels to become a robust platform for mountain countries. The President cautioned that the climate clock was already ticking adding that if we did not act now there could be little time to come up with effective measures to adapt to, and mitigate the effects of climate change on the mountains and mountain people. (See: Annex 3.1 for the full text).



Dr. Ram Baran Yadav, Right Honorable President of Nepal, delivering the Inaugural Speech

Mr. Hemraj Tater, Honourable Minister for Environment, Nepal welcomed the participants at the Conference. Mr. Tater said mountain countries have difficult terrain but they are rich in natural resources, biodiversity, culture and traditions that also have opportunities for development. Despite the potential, he added, the mountain countries lack technology, knowledge, skilled human resources and financing that is needed for improving the living conditions of the poor and disadvantaged people. Honourable Minister further said mountains are home to the most vulnerable ecosystems in the world and also the depository of ice, glaciers and snow, adding that these have been adversely affected by the increase in greenhouse gases impacting water resources, forests, agriculture, human health, tourism and infrastructure. He urged participants to make use of the Conference to share knowledge and experiences on the impact of climate change on the mountains for developing a common approach to deal with specific concerns relating to mountain ecosystems and livelihoods (See: Annex 3.2 for full text).

Messages

Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary, UNFCCC

In a message to the Conference Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary, UNFCCC said that climate change was already threatening the planet. She said the Himalayas – the largest area of glaciers and permafrost outside the polar regions, and the headwaters of 10 of the world's largest rivers – have already been affected by the impact of climate change. The retreat of glaciers threatens rivers, biodiversity, agriculture, forestry, health and tourism. She further added that mountain people

are highly vulnerable to climate change, and States have formed the Climate Change Adaptation Committees to address them. She called on all the participating countries to fully engage with this new initiation. She said the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) will assist the LDCs to implement their own medium- and long-term adaptation needs.

The UNFCCC Executive Secretary said Bhutan, Lesotho, Nepal, Tanzania and Yemen have already identified priority activities for mountain areas and livelihoods in their National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA) and implementing the actions need good governance and planning, pro-activeness and participation of businesses and civil society.

Appa Sherpa, 21-time Everest Summiteer

Another key message was from 21-time Everest Summiteer Mr. Appa Sherpa who was on a 1700 km long trek across Nepal's Great Himalayan Trail to raise awareness about climate change and its impact on the environment. Mr. Sherpa is also a victim of a Himalayan disaster – the Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) of 1985 where he lost all of his farmlands. Before his 19th climb on Mt. Everest the world-famous climber announced his intention to dedicate his life for building awareness about climate change and bring relief to mountain communities. Mr. Sherpa spoke about how the climate was impacting everyday life of people across Nepal and wished participants at the Conference would devise ways to help communities tackle with the changing livelihood conditions in the mountains.

Mr. Krishna Gyawali, Secretary, Ministry of Environment offered a vote of thanks to the President of Nepal for his address to the Conference. He also thanked the dignitaries who had travelled to Nepal to attend the Conference; which he said was strong commitment to assisting mountain people to cope with climate change impacts. He added, the process would take a step forward with the adoption of the Kathmandu Call for Action, which he hoped would be adopted by the Conference. (See: Annex 3.3 for full text).

2.2 Panel Discussion: Climate Change Impacts, Vulnerability, Adaptation Options and Climate Financing in the Mountains

2.2.1 Ministerial Panel

(Moderator: Kul Chandra Gautam, Former Assistant Secretary-General to the United Nations)

Honourable Lyonpo Pema Gyamtsho, Minister for Agriculture and Forests, Royal Government of Bhutan, began his remarks appealing for a people-friendly environment, and sustainable development, and stressed that the impact of climate change was two times higher than the global average in mountain areas that were prone to landslides and soil erosion. He said that sustainable mountain development was a challenge in itself that had now been made more



Speakers of the Ministerial Panel Discussion

difficult by the impact of climate change. This was why, he added, climate change and global warming deserved topmost priority. He also called for a 'mountaineering holiday' to let it recover its natural integrity.

Honorable George Khachidze, Minister for Environment Protection, Georgia supported the Mountain Initiative and suggested that it will be promoted extensively for developing a common voice for mountain countries. He said that Georgia is highly vulnerable to glacier retreat resulting in a high number of natural hazards that could affect adversely hydro-electricity generation. He further added that his country would back up any effort by mountain countries to reduce climate change impacts. He stressed the importance of cooperation among mountain countries to defend their interests through the mountain agenda and sustainable development.

Honourable Jargalsaikhan Choijantsan, Vice-Minister for Nature, Environment and Protection, Mongolia said that mountain countries have specific landscapes and natural systems that are being affected by climate change. He added that the impact on the socio-economic conditions and livelihoods is not only evident in the mountains and lowlands but also in the coastal areas. He further highlighted that the snow cover is disappearing, desertification is accelerating, and water supply is decreasing. He also proposed requesting a special session at COP18 for landlocked and developing countries and forming a special task force for negotiations.

Honourable Hemraj Tater, Minister for Environment, Nepal said mountain countries need to develop a collective voice, singular stand and common approach to save their cultures, traditions, natural beauty and economies. He added that the climate change impacts were serious and causing problems for farmers despite their hard work. These problems have manifested in the form of extreme droughts, food insecurity and rapid change of weather patterns that have worst affected the farmers. He said Nepal's NAPA and LAPA provide multiple opportunities for climate adaptation.

Honourable Gabriel Quijandria, Vice-Minister for Environment, Peru said that the mountains are important for ecosystem goods and services and therefore, the first priority would be to raise the people's awareness about these benefits. He said desertification, deforestation and soil erosion are universal problems in mountain countries and their mitigation requires joint effort of a large number of stakeholders. He added that glacial retreat is a serious issue as it can cause permanent loss of biological resources, and said, Peru is ready to work with the mountain countries for their sustainable and inclusive development.

Honourable Talbak Orzuevich Salimov, Chairman, Committee on Environment Protection, Tajikistan said that mountains are the source of bread and butter for mountain people who are now facing with extreme floods that directly affect livelihoods. Therefore, he urged to save the mountains for future generations and suggested that the theme of the Conference be, "Our mountains our future".

Honourable Fatma A. Ferej, Minister of State for Environment and Natural Resources, Tanzania said that global warming has adversely affected the non-marketable environmental services, led to increase

in landslides, soil erosion, siltation in rivers, catchment degradation, biodiversity loss and the reappearance of malaria in the previously malaria-safe places. She added that efforts to change the situation could be successful if done in partnership with local people and neighboring countries in the spirit of true internationalism. She also assured that Tanzania stands to ensure that sustainable development goals continue to be upheld, implemented and improved.



Honourable Fatma A. Ferej, Minister of State for Environment and Natural Resources, Tanzania, expressing her views on the Ministerial Panel Discussion

Honourable Mufeed Abdo Al-Halemi, Assistant Deputy Minister for Water and Environment, Yemen said that the damages caused by climate change are becoming more obvious in Yemen and that it is the country's top agenda, after the end of war and political conflict. He said rising temperatures and increase in water level in the desert, due to high rainfall and floods, have had direct impact on the environment, water, agriculture and human health. This is why, he added, climate change has become a national concern for his country.

Following the presentations, a delegate from Pakistan, said that Pakistan contributes very little to greenhouse gases but it has highly been affected by glacial retreat, snow-melt and flooding. He said that the water level in the Indus River had risen significantly and affected agriculture, human health, and contributed to increasing poverty. He added that floods have displaced some 20 million in 2011 and killed 4500 people in 2010.

Floor Discussions

The floor discussions were focused on coming up with strong and clear messages for the Rio+20 Conference. The comments and discussions from the floor are summarized below:

- i. Even though Bangladesh is not a mountainous country, it is a country that will be affected by glacial retreat, snow-melt and flash floods. Therefore, it is necessary to act quickly, raise our voice and tell the international community to do something before it is too late. Otherwise Bangladesh will be unable to cope with extreme weather events.
- ii. The International Conference on Cooperatives is committed to, and should be involved, in addressing climate change. In 2010, more than one billion cooperative members agreed in Cancun, Mexico that the cooperative movement should work for protecting the environment mainly in the mountainous regions.
- iii. Indigenous peoples and knowledge, good practices, payment for ecosystem services and appreciation, and proper valuation of ecosystem services should be brought in international discussions.

- iv. Rivers are the arteries of the mountain ecosystem. If plans to divert the rivers go ahead that could have major local, regional and international impacts.
- v. The poor mountain countries have two urgent requirements: easily accessible technical assistance and financing.
- vi. Mountain countries need to be concerned about environmental, economic and social issues of the mountain people.
- vii. The primary victims of the climate change are women, the poor, the landless, farmers and marginalized people. They are directly exposed to global warming, and consequent climate-induced disasters. The Conference should consider ensuring their participation and engagement right from policy formulation to strategy implementation for protecting the mountain ecosystems.
- viii. The mountain countries should work together through their UN delegates to ensure that mountain issues are mainstreamed in the Rio+20 Conference. The delegates at the UN should be given clear instructions and guidance on this matter.



A participant expressing his views during the Floor Discussion

Follow up by Panelists

Responses of the panelists are summarized below:

- i. Honorable Minister of Bhutan said that more investment (for adaptation and mitigation) is needed in the mountain region for protecting the densely populated downstream areas. He said that the mountains are unique whereas climate change is a universal issue and therefore, mountain countries have to struggle collectively and strategically. He also said protecting forests would be possible when alternative livelihood means are available.
- ii. Honorable Vice-Minister of Peru responded to some comments saying that upstream-downstream linkage is a trans-boundary issue like the Amazon River, which originates in the Andes and flows through Peru, Bolivia, Columbia and Brazil. Therefore, he said, all countries and communities have to share the responsibility for minimizing the consequences, and also share the benefits. On indigenous peoples he said the Government of Peru is committed to using and even testing their knowledge to deal with harsh conditions of mountains caused by climate change; and efforts were being made to make society more resilient to climate change. He added that recovery, conservation and management of ecosystems should receive high priority.
- iii. Honorable Minister of State of Tanzania said that mountains and the livelihoods of mountain people need to be protected and therefore, the Conference needs to come up with a singular voice and strategy to raise global awareness about mountain ecosystems. The delegate added that it would also require more funds for adaptation and mitigation and that Tanzania has already mainstreamed gender in all sectors, including the environment.

The discussions were followed by a brief remark by Dr. Rajendra Pachauri, Chair, IPCC. He said that climate change has brought about enormous opportunities as well as challenges and summarized the general issues as follows.

- i. Since women are the first and direct victims of climate change, they should be given a special role in defining the actions for dealing with climate change.
- ii. Mountain ecosystems are isolated but related to other ecosystems. All related ecosystems need to be factored into planning and program implementation and this needs collective commitment, voice and action to deal with the problem. Mountain countries should opt for a network or alliance like the Small Islands States to raise their voice to ensure that they are heard. This can help the mountain countries to articulate their concerns and priorities at the global platforms and processes.
- iii. Climate change has effects on health, livelihood and biodiversity. It will have implications for the downstream communities as well. Therefore, adaptation and mitigation need to be articulated for supporting the climate proofing of the downstream communities.
- iv. Green growth is needed to protect natural resources, which, in turn, would protect the lives of the people dependent on them.
- v. Adaptation (at the local level) and mitigation (at the global level) should go hand-in-hand.



Summary and Conclusions

The moderator wrapped up the meeting by picking out the key themes in the sessions, which are summarized below:

Climate Change Impact

- Global warming is a universal phenomenon. Any disturbance on the mountains extends to the downstream areas and ultimately to the coastal areas.
- Climate change affects the water-food-energy nexus. Water-related hazards have threatened the life of many people, and this has accelerated migration, and the feminization of poverty.
- Climate change has a devastating impact on public health (examples, the resurgence of malaria and water-borne diseases).

Vulnerability

- Mountain people are more vulnerable to climate change than others. For instance, the rate of warming in mountains is about 2-3 times faster than the global average, resulting in a loss of wildlife habitat and plant species. The amount of freshwater is depleting, forest cover is decreasing and extreme weather events are becoming more frequent.

Adaptation Options

- Indeed there is a need to be creative and resourceful in finding options. Many adaptation actions are needed, and isolated actions are not enough. Both national actions and trans-boundary cooperation are equally important to promote, and benefit from climate adaptation.

Climate Financing

- Huge resources go towards organizing international conferences. Further, even though there are many funding mechanisms (carbon financing, CDM etc.) developing countries, mountain countries, and LDCs have found it difficult to access the resources. Indeed, more funding is needed for mitigation and adaptation. Let us hope that the Kathmandu Call for Action will prove useful to draw more funds for the purpose.

In conclusion, the moderator said that the Rio+20 Conference would have a crowded agenda where the mountain issue could be easily drowned, and therefore a coordinated and unified front was required to act, negotiate and lobby effectively. He hoped that the Kathmandu Call for Action would serve as a common negotiating platform.

2.2.2 Expert Panel

(Moderator: H.E. Gyan Chandra Acharya, Nepal's Permanent Representative to the United Nations)

The second session began with opening remarks by Philip Marker, UK Climate Change Envoy for Asia who said that the mountain countries are among the most vulnerable to climate change as mountain people depend on them for freshwater and ecosystem services while they also serve as habitat for a large biodiversity. Mr. Marker added that the mountain regions are the beacons for climate change impacts as they are more visible in terms of increasing snow and glacial melt, with rise in temperature. The UK, he said, is committed to an equitable global deal that recognizes the vulnerability of mountain regions and considers climate change as an entry point. There would be a need for political support, consensus and commitment for including the mountain issue in the agenda, he added, and the Kathmandu Call for Action could give a great impetus to the process. He stressed that the Call be made ambitious, equitable and effective, and added that the stories of common people were required to convince politicians for their support in ensuring that climate issues are recognized in the global process.

Hon. MD. Sohrab Ali Sana, Member of Parliament from Bangladesh said that due to its downstream location, the country receives silt and floods from the mountains as well as sand and salt water from the sea. He stressed the need to have a collective voice for the Rio+20 Conference to save mountain countries. He also informed that Bangladesh has set up Climate Change Trust Fund, Climate Change Resilience Fund and Climate Change Unit, even though the problems are different from those of mountain countries.

Expressing her views on the issue, Honorable Lucky Sherpa, Member, Constituent Assembly, Nepal said mountain people are highly vulnerable to impacts of climate change mainly water-induced

hazards and GLOFs that cause loss of lives, property and displacement. She also said these people face a situation of either “too much water” or “too little water” more frequently than in the past. She added that the mountain people needed climate justice and food security and therefore, the climate change was a human rights issue. She also stressed that social issues of climate change should be addressed and that mountain people be included in on-going dialogues and debates, and also that cultural diversity be discussed alongside the development.

Honorable Buddhika Pathirana, Member of Parliament, Sri Lanka said that his country’s biodiversity is at risk due to human actions such as deforestation for farming. He informed that the problem is further aggravated by climate change causing adverse effects on water systems, rain and weather patterns that have manifested in frequent floods and droughts, and other water-induced hazards.

H.E. Jose Luis Balmaceda, Ambassador, Ministry of Foreign Affairs from Chile discussed the multiple impacts of climate change on mountains and mountain people, which he said affects other systems in the planet. As an example, he said that the Andes and Antarctic regions contribute to rise in sea levels due to glacial melt. He noted that the glaciers, snow and ice are the single most important source of water and advised the Conference to consider creating joint political pressure, along with other platforms and civil society, to get the desired global decisions.

Mr. Amir Hooshang Delju, Senior Scientific Coordinator, World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said that WMO was in the process of setting up a global framework on climate change services to strengthen observation and climate monitoring, research modeling and prediction, creating user interface platforms, and capacity building. He added that WMO, World Bank and ADB were working to provide a permanent platform for dialogue between users and providers, and a pilot program was underway in Nepal. He also said that WMO is ready to assist mountain countries at national and international levels on the outcomes of this important event.

Dr. Herbert Acquay, Senior Manager, Environment, Water Resources and Climate Change, The World Bank said that the Bank is ready to support mountain countries on climate change. He added that mountain countries must prioritize climate change for both local and national actions. The World Bank, he said, goes beyond its traditional role for developing financial packages for climate change (acting as administrator and trustee of many climate funds, catastrophic insurance). These roles include: (i) enhancing knowledge on climate change (generate, share and catalyze south-south exchange for climate resilience); and (ii) strengthening institutional capacity (risk management, adapting infrastructure design, providing tools for high quality information, etc.).

The final speaker on the panel Kenichi Yokoyama, Country Director, Nepal Resident Mission, ADB said that the Bank gives topmost priority to assist on mitigation and adaptation and has begun technical assistance on three fronts: (i) knowledge development; (ii) preparation of planning tools; and (iii) institutional development (like supporting Nepal for establishing the Department of Environment). He also informed the meeting that the Bank-supported pilot projects are underway on community-based climate resilience and sustainable water management sectors.

Floor Discussions

Key messages in the discussions that followed the presentations by speakers on the panel are summarized below:

- i. The World Bank generally finances only big projects. Their terms and conditions do not favor poor countries and loans are not easily accessible to developing countries.
- ii. There was no representation of developed countries in the Conference.
- iii. Climate finance should adopt pro-poor, pro-people and pro-gender approaches. It should support tangible actions for overcoming vulnerabilities, and the role of both gender and civil society in the process should be clearly defined.
- iv. Discussion was only on deforestation but not on the availability of alternatives to kerosene, gas, and other fossil fuels.
- v. Villagers are denied their traditional rights and are forced to compromise on development. They need to be empowered to take advantage of new development projects.

Follow up by Panelists

The responses of the panelists are summarized below:

- i. The World Bank has used its resources to provide grants and zero percent interest loans to mainstream climate change in development. The Bank also has climate trust funds. This is despite the Bank not being a Party to the UNFCCC process.
- ii. Indigenous knowledge needs to be preserved while dealing with climate change issues. Sustainable energy should be provided to the mountain countries.
- iii. Triangular approach of science, finance and policy interface should be the basis for addressing effective adaptation.
- iv. Mountain countries have always had to compromise in term of mitigation and adaptation. A Green Climate Fund has been created but without any financial base for the activities it can support.

Summary and Conclusions

Wrapping up the session, the moderator said that the ultimate goal of the Conference is to assist mountain countries and to ensure that their issues become a part of the global agenda. Therefore, he said, the Conference agenda was not only about mountains but also mountain people. The key messages from the session were:

- The impact of climate change is global and therefore all climate change issues should be mainstreamed in the national as well as the global agenda. Because of their vulnerability, poverty and often land-locked status, mountain countries need global partnerships, accessible funding mechanisms, capacity building and technical assistance.
- Mountain countries need to take a supportive approaches for mutually reinforcing poverty and environment – this is where global partnership can help.
- Mountain countries need dedicated support from international agencies. Even though there is no substitute for domestic ownership and leadership, there is a need for global support.

- There has to be a balance between poverty alleviation and over-consumption. We need to consider the limits of Earth's resources. How the two issues could be brought together in setting up an institutional mechanism, and how the social, economic and environmental dimensions are addressed are the major issues including the disconnect that exists between science and politics.

2.3 Panel Discussion: Climate Change in the Mountains, Knowledge Generation, Ecosystem Services, Livelihoods and Mountain Agenda

(Moderator: Young-Woo Park, Regional Director, United Nations Environment Program, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific)

Dr. David Molden, Director-General of ICIMOD, opened the session saying that women are at the front-line of climate change impacts and thus there is feminization of resources. He said that scientific uncertainty prevails in the Himalayas especially on ecological and human conditions, glacial retreat and the growing number of trans-boundary water-induced hazards. He emphasized the need for more research and regional cooperation and suggested that solutions need to be people-centered and should prioritize changing of people's livelihoods and filling the knowledge gaps.

Dr. Jiang Mingjun, Director-General, IESCO from China said even though developed countries are responsible for most of the present day climate change problems, developing countries are more vulnerable and victims, and therefore climate security should be the main concern of mountain countries.

Mr. Sun Zhen, Deputy Director-General, Development and Reform Commission, China said mountain countries would need to move ahead with one goal but through differentiated responsibilities. He added that these countries have high potential for hydropower but they need to understand ecological, technological and social (infrastructure) feasibilities and therefore, more investment is required. The terms and conditions of the present international framework are not friendly to developing countries, he added. He also urged developing countries to consider risk management strategies.

Mr. B.M.S. Rathore, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India said that mountain countries are rich in ecosystem services but its people are poor and the impact of climate change is not limited to the upstream areas only but also transcends beyond to the downstream regions. He added that livelihoods are at stake due to failure of agriculture, and migration. According to him, the ecosystem and its valuation needs to be recognized and that better investment and markets are needed for assisting developing countries. He stressed that poverty has to be at the center of the agenda, with sustainable development as the way forward.

Dr. Dirk Hoffman, Bolivian Mountain Institute, Bolivia said that the people of Bolivia have begun to feel the impact of climate change on the mountains. He noted that glacial retreat should be taken as an important warning: emissions generated 20-25 years ago are now having an impact and today's emissions will impact the future, and therefore, the issue should not be ignored. He also underlined the need to maintain a good interface between science and policy saying that natural and social dimensions should be integrated. He further said that the mountain people must be the focus of any adaptation plan.

Dr. Dinesh Chandra Devkota, Visiting Professor, Central Department of Environmental Science, Tribhuvan University, Nepal said that the impact of climate change on mountain ecosystem services can be seen across three dimensions; (i) mountain ecosystem services (the stress of too little water or too much water, which has a direct impact on agricultural production, livelihoods, health, socio-economic status, upstream-downstream linkage and ecotourism); (ii) knowledge base (awareness, opportunities, economic services, knowledge generation, application and joint research); and (iii) agenda (national agenda for sustainable development, link to Millennium Development Goals, poverty alleviation, and regional cooperation).



Speakers at the Panel Discussion

Mr. Masayoshi Nakawo, National Institutes for Humanities, Japan emphasized the need of integration between natural and social dimensions, adding that people should be sincere while dealing with the consequences of climate change and its impact on the community.

The speaker from Mountain Partnership, Mr. Olman Serrano reiterated the view that mountains are the source of clear water, recyclable resources and food security. He added that Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) supports any initiative to deal with the impact of climate change in the mountain countries.

Dr. Arjun Karki, Chair, LDC Watch, said that the LDCs are highly vulnerable to the greenhouse gas emissions and extreme erratic weather events. He gave examples of reduced rainfall in African countries (such as Angola, Tanzania, etc.). He also said that many countries were facing the problem of water scarcity. He stressed that any activities in the mountainous areas should be people-centric and community-based and that sustainable agriculture and community forestry management should be included in the mountain agenda.

Dr. Michael Glantz, Director of the Consortium of Capacity Building, University of Colorado, U.S.A. said that humans need nature, not the other way around. He said instead of looking at the social dimension of climate change, we need to look at the climate dimension of social change and emphasized the need to talk about nature and ecosystem goods and services. He added that a mountain coalition would be the best vehicle to integrate mountain issues in the global agenda.

Floor Discussions

The following two issues were raised by the participants:

- i. Mount Everest is an important source of tourism revenue but the area is also highly vulnerable to GLOFs. Therefore, action is needed to protect the area from this disaster.

- ii. Besides gender-equality, people of backward and disadvantaged communities should also be included in the mountain agenda.

Summary and Conclusion

The moderator summarized the presentations with a key point: Mountain countries should seek a “collective solution” rather than put up individual cases for action because collective voice is more powerful, and is more likely to be heard by the international community.

2.4 Launching of the NCCSP and National Framework on LAPA

Honorable Minister of State for Environment Mrs. Durga Devi Mahato launched the Nepal Climate Change Support Program (NCCSP) to implement most urgent and immediate adaptation needs in 14 districts of mid- and far west Nepal, as prioritized in the National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA). This flagship project will be implemented with the support from the UK-DFID and EU. Hon’ble Minister of State also launched the National Framework on Local Adaptation Plan for Action (LAPA) - an instrument to implement climate adaptation activities, and to integrate adaptation options in the planning process at different levels. During this launching program, the representatives of DFID and EU expressed their satisfaction for the opportunity to support Nepal in addressing the adverse impacts of climate change and in contributing to improve the living condition of the climate vulnerable people (See: Annex 4 for press release).

2.5 Special Address

Honorable Madhav Kumar Nepal, former Prime Minister of Nepal, delivered a special speech preceding the reception. The key points in the address are given below (See: Annex 5 for the full text):

- i. Mountain people are affected by climate change despite their negligible share in the global greenhouse gases emissions. The ecosystem services of mountains are important for both upstream and downstream communities. But the issues and problems have always been sidelined from the mainstream debate of climate change negotiation processes.
- ii. Nepal urged the mountainous countries, during COP15, to work together for the conservation of the fragile ecosystems, and the rich biological and cultural diversity. The meeting & mountain countries in Copenhagen resulted in the Mountain Initiative.
- iii. This Conference can be a platform to develop a common stand and voice, and draw the attention of the international community on the impacts of climate change on mountains and mountain livelihoods. International support must be provided to promote harmonious relations among people, their environment to ensure sufficient supply of healthy food; provide accessible financing, institutional framework and governance; and enhance strategies for cooperation among mountain countries.

Box B: Conference Highlights and Key Messages (5 April 2012)

- The Conference was inaugurated by the President of Nepal, and included a special address by a former Prime Minister. Honorable Ministers, parliamentarians, high-level government officials, and about 300 participants from 26 countries participated in the Conference.
- Glacial retreat is the most visible evidence of global warming in the Himalayas and other mountains. Glacial retreat causes water-induced hazards and threatens rivers, biodiversity, agriculture, forestry, health, tourism, people's livelihoods, hydroelectricity generation, indigenous traditions and cultures.
- 'Mountaineering holiday' would provide the mountains opportunities to recover its integrity.
- The immediate impacts of climate change are rapid snow and glacial melt, variable rainfall, droughts, rising temperature, displacement of people, change in land use and land cover, and loss of livelihood opportunities.
- Mountain ecosystems are most vulnerable to GHG emissions and thus there is a direct impact on water resources, peoples and infrastructures. Snow cover is disappearing, desertification is speeding up and water supplies are dwindling in many mountain countries.
- Mountain countries need to develop a collective voice, singular stand and common approach to save their ecosystems, cultures, traditions and ecosystem integrity.
- Mountain peoples need simple, realistic and effective actions that offer direct benefits to people, improve their livelihood opportunities, and provide viable alternatives to move away from their dependence on natural resources.
- The first hand observations on the ground to validate what scientists have been predicting about the impacts of climate change are: Increased rainfall and flash floods have raised water levels in countries like Yemen causing erosion, siltation, sedimentation, biodiversity loss, infrastructure damage and changes in livelihoods.
- Indigenous peoples' knowledge, and valuation of payment for ecosystem goods and services need to be discussed in the international negotiation processes.
- The mountain ecosystems are complex and interrelated with other ecosystems. All these ecosystems need to be factored into planning and implementation. A collective commitment, voice and actions are needed to deal with the problem globally. The formation of a platform or network or alliance of the mountain countries would be an advantage during negotiations and international processes. Mountain countries need a coordinated and unified front to negotiate, lobby and act in a coordinated manner leading up to Rio+20 and beyond.
- More investment is needed in the mountains to address climate adaptation and mitigation and protect the densely populated downstream areas.

3.0 Partnering for Mountain Development

3.1 Special Session

3.1.1 Welcome Speech

The Special Session began with the video on “Mountains and People”, following which Honorable Hemraj Tater, Minister for Environment, Nepal welcomed the Prime Minister and participants to the special session. He said that developed countries and high income developing countries have a greater responsibility to address the root causes of global warming, and work towards reducing GHGs as recommended by scientific studies. He added that security, stability, and availability of freshwater are the major challenges faced by mountain



Honorable Minister for Environment Hemraj Tater delivering the Welcome Speech

countries and called on all to work together to make the international community aware of the impact of climate change on mountain countries (see: Annex 6 for the full text).

3.1.2 Keynote Address

The session began with a keynote address on ‘Science of Climate Change’ by Rajendra Pachauri, Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and Director General, The Energy and Resources Institute, India. The key messages in the speech are summarized below (See: Annex 6.2 for slides):

- i. Climate change is a natural phenomenon but the speed at which it is changing is alarming and has been worsened by human activities. Sea levels have risen by about 17 cm and the predicted temperature increase ranges from 1.8° Celsius to 4° Celsius. Precipitation (snow and water) sometimes is heavy and occurs within a short period of time. Previously, on average, climate hazards occurred once every 20 years but now they occur every two years.
- ii. Loss of lives due to hazards is increasing. Risk management and adaptation need to be tailored to meet local needs at the local and regional levels.
- iii. The mountain countries are under stress because of multiple effects of climate change such as migration of species to higher altitudes, as is the case in Himanchal Pradesh in India, and glacial melt that has affected 500 million people directly. In some places, melting snow has formed large lakes that have breached dams in some places causing widespread damages downstream.
- iv. The problem of food security will increase and exacerbate malnutrition.
- v. Adaptation is essential but mitigation of global emissions is also equally important.

3.1.3 Statement

Mr. B.M.S. Rathore, a delegate from India, read out a statement of India's Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment and Forests. The key messages of the statement are summarized below. (See: Annex 6.3 for full text).

- i. Climate change increases the risks of social targets such as poverty eradication and socio-economic development. Therefore, the capacity to absorb the adverse impacts and adaptation to climate change are key priorities for mountain countries. Action on adaptation should be an integral part of the Durban Platform as it provides an opportunity for vulnerable countries.
- ii. India has already taken steps to sustain Himalayan ecosystems so as to understand the inter-linkages between the ecosystem and climate change influences. The measures provide inputs for the sustainable development of the Himalayas while addressing the protection of sensitive ecosystems.
- iii. India has also established an Indian Network for Climate Change Assessment (INCCA) to assess climate change in four major areas: agriculture, forests, human health, and water in different geographic regions.

3.1.4 Address

Honorable Abdullah Bin Murbarak Bin Aabboud Al-Midhadhi, Minister for Environment, Qatar expressed his happiness for his ability to participate in the Conference. He said that Qatar has been the part of the COP processes for mountain countries and offered his support to the success of the Mountain Initiative (See: Annex 6.4 for full text).

3.1.5 Special Address

Right Honorable Prime Minister of Nepal Dr. Baburam Bhattarai said that the Rio+20 Conference needs to come up with a new paradigm on sustainable development that not only integrates environmental, economic and social issues, but also considers clean, green and climate resilient components. He added that higher altitudes were experiencing warming that is over 3-5 times the global average and said everyone has to share the responsibility for the changes which have added extra

sufferings to the mountain people. He said that the time to act is right now and that the cost of inaction or delayed action will be much higher in the future. He concluded by calling for collective actions and renewed global partnerships (See: Annex 6.5 for full text).



Right Honorable Prime Minister of Nepal Dr. Baburam Bhattarai delivering the Special Address

3.1.6 Chair's Remarks

The chair of the Special Session Honorable Bijaya Kumar Gacchedar, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs of Nepal said that Nepal is the 4th most climate vulnerable country according to the Climate Change Risk Atlas of 2010. He noted that not only mountain ecosystems but also the poor and disadvantaged people are also highly vulnerable to climate change. He advocated for pursuing the common



Honorable Bijaya Kumar Gacchedar, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs, Nepal addressing the Special Session

challenges together based on a common understanding on climate impacts, and vulnerability, and work together for response measures and finances, technologies and developing human resources required to address the challenges (See Annex 6.6 for full text).

3.1.7 Vote of Thanks

Mr. Krishna Gyawali, Secretary at the Ministry of Environment, Nepal thanked the speakers and participants attending the morning session. He also reminded the participants about threats of climate change and thanked the Prime Minister, ministers and the special speaker for their addresses to the Conference (See Annex 6.7 for full text).

3.2 Panel Discussion: Climate Change and Mountains in the International Negotiation Processes

(Moderator: Mr. Quamrul Islam Chowdhury, Bangladesh)

Ms. Mercedes Meneses, Environment Analyst, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Chile said that glaciers are fragile ecosystems that require special care and mountain countries need to work together with one voice to find a place in the negotiation processes. He added that special efforts are needed to safeguard intellectual property rights, encourage G77 countries to play more proactive roles in COP18, operate green funds in a transparent way and to come to a legally binding agreement for an increased financial contribution and technology transfer. He said climate change is becoming a humanitarian issue and not just an economic issue.

Dr. R. S. Toila, CHEA, India explained the need to assess progress of the past 20 years and put on record how badly marginalized the mountain countries have been. He noted that influential countries like India and China should come forward and give more space for "mountain issues" in the positions at international meetings. Dr. Toila further said that the mountain countries have talked too much about the science of climate change but not as much on local level adaptation. He also called on all mountain countries to come together and articulate issues with one voice while making efforts to build

national capacity and set up a mountain fund to address the issues related to poverty, agriculture and food security.

Dr. Nyi Nyi Kyaw, Deputy Director General, Forest Department, Myanmar said his country's mountains are home to ethnic communities, who practice traditional shifting cultivation that causes soil erosion and deforestation. He added that his country was also highly vulnerable to cyclones and that capacity development, technology transfer and research & development were key priorities for mountain countries.

Mr. Ysmail Dairov, Advisor to Director, State Agency for the Environment and Forests, Kyrgyzstan said Copenhagen, Cancun and Durban have shown how difficult it is to raise the issues of mountain countries at international platforms and stressed the need for working together for lobbying and protecting their interests in terms of adaptation, mitigation and financing. He added that a side-event of Heads of Mountain States should be organized at Rio+20 to persuade the international community to adopt the agenda of mountain countries.

Mr. Batu Krishna Uprety, Joint-Secretary (Technical), Ministry of Environment, Nepal said although a lot of opportunities exist in international instruments including the UNFCCC to address the impacts of climate change on mountains, it has not received due attention in climate negotiation processes. He added that it would be possible to have a separate program of work for the mountains based on Article 4.8 of the UNFCCC. He said that there are funds to address climate change impacts but are not easy to access adding that mountain countries require not just financing, but also technology and capacity development opportunities for climate adaptation and impact mitigation.

Mr. Ilkhomjon Rajabov, Head, Climate Change and Ozone Centre, Tajikistan reiterated the need for mountain countries to work together, need to put together a common agenda and be vocal. He added that the Kathmandu Conference is an opportunity for mountain countries to get united and take a common agenda to international platforms, including Rio+20.

The final speaker on the panel, Mr. Aleksander Merkuskin, Deputy Head, Monitoring on Environmental Pollution, Uzbekistan suggested that mountain countries form a coalition and work to include their agenda in the negotiation process. He also stressed for a need to integrate the different climate funds and processes and that the Green Fund should work with programs, not with projects. He also pointed out a need to address trans-boundary issues for protecting mountain ecosystems taking care to protect the interests of both downstream and upstream countries.

Floor Discussions

The major issues emerged from the discussions are summarized below:

- i. A high level meeting should be organized as a side-event at Rio+20, for which the Mountain Partnership offered assistance in facilitating the meeting.
- ii. India and China are planning to divert the big rivers, which can have a long-term impact in the region.

- iii. Assistance from other countries is required to put the mountains on the global environmental agenda and this would need aggressive communications, information sharing through side-events and meetings for convincing negotiators, and promoting the concerns of mountain countries in the international processes.
- iv. Since Rio+20 Conference is an international event, it would be useful to involve the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, civil society and the private sector in the negotiations.

Follow up by Panelists

The responses from the panelists are summarized below.

- i. It would be meaningful if all mountainous countries meet, identify commonalties and become vocal in raising their issues at international platforms, while regional institutions need to be developed for monitoring mountain ecosystems.
- ii. Mountain adaptation funds should be created to promote activities at the country level.
- iii. Mountain agenda should not be confused with other LDC issues. Efforts should be made to convince influential mountain countries like China and India forward and raise the issues more aggressively, and mountains need to designate a person to focus exclusively on mountain issues.
- iv. It was noted that there are only four paragraphs on mountains in the negotiation text (one paragraph as reference in Rio+20, two paragraphs in G77 and one paragraph by Switzerland). The UN Secretary General has reported that there has been no progress on the mountain agenda. In a 170-page document on the Rio+20 agenda, only one page is devoted to mountain issues and it remains a difficult task to protect the four paragraphs now in the negotiation text. In order to effectively highlight the mountain issues, delegates from mountain countries must be instructed to specifically raise the issues, come together and to speak with one voice. Mountain countries also need to designate negotiators for looking into specific LDC related issues and those related with financing.



Audiences at the Panel Discussion

Summary and Conclusions

The moderator closed the session urging countries to raise and discuss climate change not just in UNFCCC processes but also in platforms related to other instruments. He said this can be best achieved by training negotiators, bringing influential countries on board with the agenda and make presentations at all international platforms on the Kathmandu Call for Action. The moderator said that mountains are totally ignored in the UNFCCC processes and therefore the focus should be on getting them into the agendas and negotiation texts, as the first step.

4.0 Kathmandu Call for Action on Mountains and Climate Change

This important session was organized to finalize the Kathmandu Call for Action on mountains and climate change under the chairmanship of Mr. Madhav Prasad Ghimire, Chief Secretary of the Government of Nepal and this was moderated by H.E. Gyan Chandra Acharya, Nepal's Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

4.1 The Process

The International Conference of Mountain Countries on Climate Change assigned a team of experts to draft the Kathmandu Call for Action. The team began its work by contacting representatives of mountain countries and collecting their feedback on the draft on issues related to climate change and mountains. The team sought inputs from country delegates, experts, representatives from civil society, professional groups and relevant organizations and climate change networks. Issues and points were also drawn from various technical workshops and consultations held as part of the preparation process such as the International Expert Consultation and South Asian Parliamentarians' Workshop on Climate Change. The recommendations of these meetings were shared by Dr. Madhav Karki, Deputy Director, ICIMOD (Box C), and Honorable Member of the Constituent Assembly of Nepal Ms. Ang Dawa Sherpa (Box D).

Box C: Recommendations of International Expert Consultation

Immediate actions need to be taken otherwise, the hydrological systems will be disturbed, water shortages will be more frequent and severe, frequency of hazards will increase and cause adverse impacts on agriculture, livestock and other production sectors. The costs of inaction will be much higher. Therefore, it is high time that we act now. Major recommendations of the expert consultation are summarized below:

- i. Give equal importance to social and economic vulnerabilities as physical vulnerabilities for mountain people;
- ii. Focus on value-chain, black carbon, water-food-energy nexus, action research and traditional knowledge;
- iii. Identify critical ecosystem services for poverty reduction and human well-being;
- iv. Promote tailor-made adaptation to meet local needs and for supporting livelihoods, especially the poverty reduction and disadvantaged groups;
- v. Develop institutional framework for climate adaptation, integrating the ecosystem with the social system;
- vi. Promote South-South and North-North cooperation, strengthen collaborations with other non-mountain ecosystems and also strengthen upstream-downstream linkages;
- vii. Use different climate change finance instruments and make them easily accessible; and
- viii. Ensure that Mountain Initiative has a clear focus, roadmap and a consolidated approach and policies for advocacy at different levels.

Box D: Recommendations of South Asian Parliamentarian Workshop on Climate Change

Members of the Parliament, experts and civil society representatives from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka met for a workshop prior to the International Conference of Mountain Countries on Climate Change to discuss the roles and responsibilities of parliamentarians for tackling climate change. Their recommendations are summarized below:

1. All South Asian countries should:
 - i. Formulate supportive policies on climate change, especially on scaling up good practices and indigenous knowledge;
 - ii. Implement all declarations related to climate change;
 - iii. Assign the SAARC secretariat to regularly monitor the progress of implementation;
 - iv. Establish a dedicated institute on climate change;
 - v. Implement effectively multilateral environment agreements (MEAs) on climate change, desertification and biodiversity; and
 - vi. Urge developed countries to drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
2. South Asian countries and relevant organizations are encouraged to:
 - i. Organize parliamentary sessions frequently on climate change;
 - ii. Engage parliamentarians in the climate negotiation process;
 - iii. Adopt integrated, holistic, pro-people approach; and
 - iv. Involve women and indigenous people on climate change.

The expert team also included issues, trends and priorities discussed in various sessions of the Conference to prepare a preliminary draft that was shared with delegates, participants, and representatives of various countries, agencies and organizations.

4.2 Adoption of the Kathmandu Call for Action

The draft Kathmandu Call for Action was distributed to all participants for inputs and suggestions and was discussed in a session. The inputs and feedback were incorporated in the final version that was read out, discussed and unanimously adopted by the participants. The full text of the Kathmandu Call for Action on Mountain and Climate Change is given in Box E.

Box E: Kathmandu Call for Action

We, the Ministers, Heads of Delegations and Representatives of International and National organizations, having attended the International Conference of Mountain Countries on Climate Change held from 5 to 6 April 2012 in Kathmandu, Nepal;

Being aware of the human-induced multiple impacts of climate change on mountain ecosystems, goods and services and implications on livelihoods, health and welfare of the mountain people and environment;

Recognizing the need for urgent, collaborative and effective actions at all levels for addressing climate-induced vulnerabilities and impacts on mountains, enhancing the well-being of climate vulnerable communities and also strengthening the climate resilience of the people of mountainous countries; and

Applauding the Government of Nepal for starting the Mountain Initiative;

Appreciating the international expert consultation on mountains and climate change and taking note of their recommendations;

Also appreciating the South Asian Parliamentarians' Workshop on Climate Change and taking note of their recommendations;

Hereby express our resolve to:

1. Reaffirm the spirit of solidarity and cooperation among the mountain countries and countries with mountainous regions for addressing the common problems affecting all the mountainous regions, and for consolidating our common efforts to effectively integrate mountain issues into the global climate change and development agenda including the Rio+20 process and beyond;
2. Promote research as well as use of traditional knowledge for sharing, learning and exchange of information and best practices to support science-policy interface and help find best solutions to climate change challenges through global cooperation, including south-south cooperation, recognizing that the mountains provide solutions for sustainable development using ecosystem services, in particular, water, biodiversity, energy, and for enhancing food security;
3. Reinforce that our collective actions will complement the objectives of achieving equitable and sustainable development including the Millennium Development Goals with a focus on reducing poverty and enhancing gender equity and social inclusion among the people in mountain countries and regions;
4. Agree to update the sustainable mountain development agenda in the context of growing challenges and opportunities, resulting from climate change and globalization;

5. Encourage building appropriate incentive mechanisms at various levels to recognize and reward mountain communities for conservation and maintenance of mountain ecosystem services through climate change adaptation and conservation of critical ecosystems;
6. Strengthen and consolidate the Mountain Initiative as a global platform for all mountainous countries to discuss common issues through collaborative and cooperative efforts for mobilizing the necessary support and raising awareness globally about the adverse impacts and vulnerabilities of mountain ecosystem services and implications on the livelihoods of the poor and disadvantaged people and make efforts to reduce impacts of climate change collectively;
7. Urge the development partners to support through the establishment of dedicated funding arrangements for the adaptation and mitigation programs in mountain countries within the framework of UNFCCC and other sustainable development processes and build the resilience of communities, women and disadvantaged groups in particular, through a comprehensive and holistic approach at the local, national, regional and international levels in the spirit of enhanced global partnership; and
8. Recognize and build on high potentials of mountain ecosystem services to promote green growth strategies and strengthen linkages between mountain ecosystem and other ecosystems to reduce poverty and promote sustainable development;
9. Work collectively to mobilize global support to promote investment in mountain countries in an institutionalized manner, and to enhance the level of concrete cooperation among all the stakeholders, including the private sector, local communities, civil society and youth, with action plan based on mutual collaboration and commitments among the mountain countries and the development partners, UN system, including the Mountain Partnership, and multilateral organizations in order to ensure adequate and effective flow of financial resources, including innovative financing, technology and capacity building to the mountain countries;
10. Agree to give continuity to the Mountain Initiative on a sustainable basis, organize the next conference through mutual consultations at an appropriate time, and develop the program of work to carry forward the Kathmandu Call for Action;

Have hereby decided to adopt this Kathmandu Call for Action.

Kathmandu, Nepal

6 April 2012

Concluding the session the Chairperson said that the Call covered all aspects of climate change and its adoption has given mountain countries a determination to move ahead to take the Call for Action to different platforms. Recalling his participation in COP15, he said about 40 people from mountainous countries gathered, and had a consultation on mountain issues followed by a series of meetings. He added that the declaration adds important actions that are relevant at the national, regional and international levels. He said the declaration was the concrete achievement that belongs to all mountain countries and the next steps would be to prepare a plan of action and program of work for translating the commitment into reality and hoped that it would not take long to develop an action plan under the Mountain Initiative.

4.3 Closing Session

The Closing Session began with the short introduction of the Kathmandu Call for Action on Mountains and Climate Change by Krishna Gyawali, Secretary at the Ministry of Environment, Nepal. Mr. Gyawali said that mountains are valuable to the entire world and that our future is linked with the health of the mountains. He termed the declaration a historic document on climate change for mountain countries as it reflected a solid consensus. He added that the declaration is a framework document that should



Mr. Krishna Gyawali, Secretary at the Ministry of Environment, Nepal providing introduction of the Kathmandu Call for Action

be implemented in cooperation with governments, local communities and other stakeholders. The declaration was then read and adopted by a round of applause.

The session also included remarks from participating ministers, heads of delegates and envoys, which are briefly summarized below:

- i. Hon. Fatma A. Ferej of Tanzania said she was happy with the adoption of the document and reaffirmed her pledge to its implementation.
- ii. Hon. Talbak Orzuevich Salimov of Tajikistan said that declaration was a good example of the collective work of mountain countries on climate change, and that it should be used as tool in the negotiation processes. He added that the document should be used as a means to garner international cooperation and support for the prevention of glacial retreat, balancing upstream-downstream nexus and adaptation to water-related hazards.
- iii. Hon. Gabriel Quijandria of Peru offered full support to the declaration adding that mountain ecosystems and people should always be at the top of our minds. He further added that the declaration could serve to bring all mountain countries under one umbrella.
- iv. Hon. Lyonpo Pema Gyamtsho of Bhutan said that the declaration brings hope to mountain people who are smiling due to hardships caused by changes in the climate. He added that climate change

was everyone's concern and needs different approaches in different countries for addressing the issues. He called the declaration a beginning of a long journey towards resolving issues raised in the Conference. He concluded his speech quoting Mahatma Gandhi: 'Let us be the change we want to see'.

- v. The representative of the Swiss Embassy in Nepal said that 20 years ago a special chapter was introduced calling for a comprehensive approach for dealing with the complexities of mountains – human dimensions, diversity, natural resources, disasters and adaptation to climate change. He added that actions require good knowledge, understanding, resources, institutions and political will. He hoped that the Conference would be taken as a commitment to go beyond the Rio+20 processes.

Hon. Narayan Kaji Shrestha, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Nepal said that the Kathmandu Call for Action was a momentous step towards creating a common understanding on the impact of climate change on mountain ecosystems and communities. He added, enhanced cooperation is needed to abate the impacts of climate change on ecological systems, and reduce the threats on human livelihoods and biodiversity. He also expressed confidence that the Conference would give all mountain countries confidence to raise the issues related to mountains in international platforms. (See: Annex 7.1 for the full text).



Honorable Narayan Kaji Shrestha, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Nepal addressing the Closing Session

Honorable Hemraj Tater, Minister for Environment of Nepal, from the chair, said the Conference is very productive and successful to meet its objective. Honorable Tater opined that the Kathmandu Call for Action will provide additional opportunities to collaborate with mountainous countries and implement activities to address the adverse impacts of climate change on the mountains, its resources, people and their livelihood. (See: Annex 7.2 for the full text).

Mr. Batu Krishna Uprety, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Nepal offered the vote of thanks to all the dignitaries that had addressed the Conference, particularly the Right Honorable President, Right Honorable Prime Minister, Honorable Deputy Prime Ministers and Ministers, parliamentarians and delegates from mountain countries and institutions, development partners, non-governmental organizations, civil society representatives and media, including those engaged in making the Conference success (See: Annex 7.3 for full text).

The second day Conference highlight is given in Box F.

Box F: Conference Highlights and Key Messages (6 April 2012)

- Right Honorable Prime Minister of Nepal delivered a special speech at the Conference, and the session also included a talk on the 'Science of Climate Change' by the Chair of the IPCC.
- The Prime Minister said Rio+20 needs to be come up with a new paradigm of sustainable development, one that not only integrates environmental, economic and social issues but also is clean, green and climate-resilient.
- The IPCC chairperson gave examples of how the changing climate had caused an increase in extreme events and associated natural disasters. He added that too much talk has been focused on Science of Climate Change but not on local level adaptation. All mountainous countries should come together, identify commonalities, and raise a strong voice.
- Special efforts are needed to safeguard intellectual property rights, and to bring the G77 countries to play more proactive roles in COP18, and for ensuring more transparent operation of green funds.
- The mountain countries should organize a side-event of Heads of the States to send a strong message to the international community about the impacts of climate change on the mountains and its resources, and people and their livelihood. Many mountain countries are the members of the G77 and they need to persuade the group to add to their strength in the negotiation processes.
- Mountain countries should seek help countries to take their agenda forward though a planned communication effort for convincing negotiators and other countries for promoting the concerns of mountainous countries.
- Regional institutions should be set up for monitoring mountain ecosystems.
- Mountain adaptation funds should be created as existing funds are not easily accessible to mountain countries.
- It is high time to identify nodes for taking up mountain issues and recruit negotiators if needed.
- Social and economic vulnerabilities are as important as physical vulnerability.
- It is equally important to dedicate parliamentary sessions on climate change and engage parliamentarians in the negotiation processes.
- Honorable Ministers and participants from mountain countries adopted the Kathmandu Call for Action and have committed to support and take the declaration forward.

5.0 The Way Forward

The mountains are a complex eco-systems characterized by biological and ethno-cultural diversity, specific topography-related vulnerabilities (landslides, snow and glacial melt, soil erosion), and vulnerability to water-induced hazards. The mountainous regions are already facing water scarcity, energy and food shortages, and social conflicts as the competition for resources intensifies with the changes caused by climate change. Often, the mountain countries are landlocked, remote and inaccessible. The



Conference participants

impact of climate change in mountain areas has been doubled as compared to the global average and this also affects the downstream regions. Socioeconomically, mountains are characterized by persistent poverty, harsh living conditions, marginalization, low access and poor technology.

Today mountain regions manifest the most visible impacts of climate change and this is why urgent actions are needed in their management and conservation for protecting the ecosystem goods and services and livelihoods of the people. Getting global attention on these issues requires an effective network or alliance of mountain countries, with national focal points on mountain issues who can bring up the concerns in all international platforms on environment and development. Various mechanisms of climate financing exist but the funds are not easily accessible to least developed mountain countries. Integrated sustainable development of mountain countries is possible only when climate change and the climate funds are discussed together to ensure easy access to countries that need it the most.

The Conference was the first of its kind and the one that brought together mountain countries to discuss the impact of climate change. The Conference had four sessions where panelists put ideas, views and concerns through statements that were then discussed by the participants. The meeting had several special addresses. These sessions culminated in the preparation and adoption of a consensus: Kathmandu Call for Action. The 10-point Kathmandu Call for Action is a historic understanding of mountain countries on climate change. The main messages from the Conference sessions are summarized below to promote sustainable mountain development by addressing the impacts of climate change, and by implementing the Kathmandu Call for Action:

1. Mountain countries need to develop a collective voice, singular stand and common approach to save cultures, traditions, nature, and ecosystems. Therefore, a special session of the Heads

of Delegation be organized at COP18 and a task force are urgently needed to inform the international negotiation processes.

2. Many countries are still unaware of mountain issues, and mountains are not a priority in international negotiation processes and therefore, the first priority should be to raise awareness about the mountains and mountain ecosystems including through Rio+20, UNFCCC, Convention on Biological Diversity and Convention to Combat Desertification processes as climate change impact is not confined to a specific area rather it goes beyond the national boundaries and to downstream coastal areas.
3. Since the primary victims of climate change are women, the poor, the landless, farmers and the marginalized people, special efforts are needed to engage them at different levels.
4. Indeed, climate change has become a human rights issue. Therefore, the mountain countries need climate justice and food security. These issues need to be addressed through an integrated approach that includes science, finance, national policy and global frameworks on climate change mitigation and adaptation.
5. The mountain countries should also use the new and innovative methods of financing initiated by the international banks on mitigation and adaptation: all climate finance should be pro-people and gender sensitive and targeted to the poor people.
6. There is a paucity of data on ecological and human conditions, glacial retreat and trans-boundary hazards, upstream-downstream linkages and valuation of ecosystem goods and services, and data gap should be bridged.
7. There is a need of a compact of mountain countries to address issues facing them for getting international attention: this could be the formation of a coalition of all mountainous countries.
8. In order for the mountain countries to make their voice heard in negotiation processes, the G77 and China countries (many of whom are also mountainous countries) need to be persuaded to join the mountain agenda. A coalition or alliance, as suggested elsewhere, would be a pragmatic way to find space in the negotiations.
9. Green Development and Green Economy are interconnected and need to be addressed together. No separate process exists to allow mountain countries to enter their agenda in the UN processes and designate mountain focal points in the countries, and establishing regional institutes would therefore be effective ways to move ahead. Simultaneously, the capacities of mountain countries for coping with climate change also need to be enhanced.

Implementation of the Kathmandu Call for Action

The Call for Action, an outcome of the understanding and realization of the mountain countries, is based on commonalities and shared vulnerabilities and risks. It is a framework that guides for future actions. This also covers areas such as promoting the Mountain Initiative, undertaking collaborative research, moving collectively, developing incentive mechanisms, and establishing dedicated funding mechanisms to help mountainous countries to cope with climate change. The Call for Action provides mountainous countries opportunities to prepare and implement national action plan, and develop the 'program of work' to carry forward its implementation.

Conference Program

4 April 2012, Wednesday

1600 - 1800 Pre-registration

Day 1: 5 April 2012, Thursday

0800 - 0830 Arrival of the Participants and Registration

0830 - 0845 Participants will take their designated seats

0845 - 0855 Arrival of the Dignitaries

0855 Arrival of the **Right Honorable President of Nepal, Dr. Ram Baran Yadav**

Inaugural Session

Chief Guest: Right Honorable President of Nepal, Dr. Ram Baran Yadav

0900 - 0902 Right Honorable President at the dais

0902 - 0905 Sight and Sound of Mountains

0905 - 0912 **Welcome remarks:** Mr. Hemraj Tater, Honorable Minister for Environment, Government of Nepal

0912 - 0915 **Inauguration of the Conference (by watering the plant) by Right Honorable President of Nepal, Dr. Ram Baran Yadav**

0915 - 0940 **Messages:**

Ms. Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary, UNFCCC Secretariat

Mr. Appa Sherpa, 21-times Mount Everest Summiteer

0940 - 0948 **Inaugural address by Right Honorable President of Nepal, Dr. Ram Baran Yadav**

0948 - 0953 **Vote of Thanks:** Mr. Krishna Gyawali, Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Government of Nepal

0953 - 1015 Group Photographs with Right Honorable President and other dignitaries

1015 Right Honorable President departs from the Conference Venue

1015 - 1050 **Tea / Coffee Break**

SESSION 1

1050 - 1300 **Ministerial Panel on the Climate Change Impacts, Vulnerability, Adaptation Options and Climate Financing in the Mountains**

Moderator: Mr. Kul Chandra Gautam, Former Assistant Secretary - General to the United Nations

1050 - 1100 **Keynote Remarks:** Honorable Lyonpo Pema Gyamtsho, Minister, Royal Government of Bhutan

Panelists:

- 1100 - 1240 Honorable George Khachidze, Georgia
Honorable Jargalsaikhan Choijantsan, Mongolia
Honorable Hemraj Tater, Nepal
Honorable Gabriel Quijandria, Peru
Honorable Talbak Orzuevich Salimov, Chairman, Committee on Environment Protection, Tajikistan
Honorable Fatma A. Ferej, Tanzania
Honorable Mufeed Abdo AL-HALEMI, Yemen

Remarks: Dr. Rajendra Pachauri, Chair, IPCC

Wrap-up by the Moderator

- 1240 - 1300 Launching of the Nepal Climate Change Support Program and the National Framework for Local Adaptation Plan for Action
1300 - 1400 **Lunch, Hyatt Hotel**

SESSION 2

1400 - 1530 Panel Discussion: Climate Change Impacts, Vulnerability, Adaptation Options and Climate Financing in the Mountains (contd ...)

Moderator: H.E. Gyan Chandra Acharya, Nepal's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, New York

1400 - 1410 **Keynote Remarks:** Mr. Philip Marker, UK Climate Change Envoy for Asia and Head, UK Climate Change and Energy Unit, Delhi

1410 - 1530 **Panelists:**

- Honorable MD. Sohrab Ali Sana, Member of Parliament, Bangladesh
Honorable Ms. Lucky Sherpa, Member, Constituent Assembly, Nepal
Honorable Haji Adeel, Member Senate, Pakistan
Honorable Buddhika Pathirana, Member of Parliament, Sri Lanka
H.E. Mr. Jose Luis Balmaceda, Chile
Mr. Amir Hooshang Delju, Senior Scientific Coordinator, WMO
Dr. Herbert Acquay, Sector Manager, Environment, Water Resources and Climate Change, World Bank
Mr. Kenichi Yokoyama, Country Director, Nepal Resident Mission, Asian Development Bank

Wrap-up by the Moderator

1530 - 1600 **Tea / Coffee Break**

SESSION 3

1600 - 1830 Climate Change in the Mountains: Knowledge Generation, Ecosystem Services, Livelihoods and Mountain Agenda

Moderator: Dr. Young-Woo Park, Regional Director, UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

Keynote Remarks: Dr. David Molden, Director General, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)

Presentation: Dr. Jiang Mingjun, Director General, IESCO China

Panelists:

Mr. Sun Zhen, Deputy Director-General, Development and Reform Commission, China
Shri B.M.S. Rathore, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forest, Government of India

Dr. Dirk Hoffman, Bolivian Mountain Institute, Bolivia

Dr. Dinesh Chandra Devkota, Visiting Professor, Central Department of Environment Science, Tribhuvan University

Prof. Masayoshi Nakawo, National Institutes for the Humanities, Japan

Dr. Olman Serrano, Mountain Partnership, Food and Agriculture Organization

Dr. Arjun Karki, Chair, LDC Watch

Dr. Michael Glantz, Director of the Consortium of Capacity Building, University of Colorado, Boulder, USA

Wrap-up by the Moderator

1830 - 2030 **Conference Dinner and Cultural Program, Hotel Hyatt**

1830 - 1845 **Special Address:** Former Prime Minister,
Honorable Madhav Kumar Nepal

Day 2: 6 April 2012, Friday

Special Session

Chief Guest: Right Honorable Prime Minister of Nepal, Dr. Baburam Bhattarai

Chair: Mr. Bijaya Kumar Gacchedar,
Honorable Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs, Government of Nepal

0900 - 0910 Video: Mountains and People

0910 - 0915 Welcome remarks: Mr. Hemraj Tater, Honorable Minister for Environment,
Government of Nepal

0915 - 0925 Keynote Speech on the Science of Climate Change and Mountains:
Dr. R.K. Pachauri, Chair, IPCC and DG, The Energy and Resources Institute

0925 - 0935 Mr. Abdullah Bin Murbarak Bin Aabboud Al-Midhadhi,
Honorable Minister for Environment, State of Qatar

0935 - 0955 **Special Address:**
Dr. Baburam Bhattarai, Right Honorable Prime Minister of Nepal

0955 - 1000 Vote of thanks: Mr. Krishna Gyawali, Secretary, Ministry of Environment,
Government of Nepal

1000 - 1010 Chair's Remarks

1010 - 1040 **Tea / Coffee Break**

SESSION 4

1040 - 1300 **Climate Change and Mountains in the International Negotiation Processes**

Moderator: Mr. Quamrul Islam Chowdhury, Bangladesh

Panelists:

Mr. Aisif Verdiyev, Head Hydrologist, Azerbaijan

Ms. Mercedes Meneses, Chile

Mr. Aime Mbuyi Kalombo, DR Congo

Dr. Nyi Nyi Kyaw, Deputy DG, Forest Department, Myanmar

Mr. Ysmail Dairov, Advisor of Director, Kyrgyzstan

Mr. Batu Krishna Uprety, Joint-Secretary, Nepal

Mr. Ilhomjon Rajabov, Head, Climate Change & Ozone Centre, Tajikistan

Mr. Aleksandr Merkushkin, Deputy Head, Monitoring on Environmental Pollution, Uzbekistan

Wrap-up by the Moderator

1300 - 1400 **Lunch**, Hyatt Hotel Garden

1400 - 1530 **Kathmandu Call for Action on Mountains and Climate Change**

Chair: Mr. Madhav Prasad Ghimire, Chief Secretary, Government of Nepal

Moderator: H.E. Gyan Chandra Acharya, Nepal's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, New York

Presentations:

Recommendations of the Expert Consultation: Dr. Madhav Karki, DDG, ICIMOD

Recommendations of the Parliamentarian's Workshop on Climate Change: Hon. Ang Dawa Sherpa

Discussion on the Draft of Kathmandu Call for Action on Mountains and Climate Change

Chair's Remarks

1530 - 1600 **Tea / Coffee Break**

Closing Session

Chief Guest: Mr. Narayan Kaji Shrestha, Honorable Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Government of Nepal

Chair: Mr. Hemraj Tater, Honorable Minister for Environment, Government of Nepal

1600 - 1610 Kathmandu Call for Action on Mountains and Climate Change

1610 - 1700 Remarks by Honorable Ministers

1700 - 1715 Address by the Chief Guest

1715 - 1720 Vote of Thanks: Mr. Batu Krishna Uprety, Joint-Secretary and Head of Climate Change Management Division, Ministry of Environment, Government of Nepal

1720 - 1730 Closing Remarks by the Chair

Master of Ceremony: Ms. Naina Shakya

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Inaugural Section

Annex 3.1

Inaugural Address

Dr. Ram Baran Yadav

Rt. Hon. President of Nepal

Excellencies, Distinguished Participants
Ladies and Gentlemen !

I am delighted to inaugurate this conference in the presence of the distinguished audience, which I believe, is trying to find a way to address the greatest challenge facing humankind today.

Firstly, I would like to welcome all of you who have come to this meeting from different mountainous regions of the world.

We all know that mountains all over the world are facing disproportionate impacts of climate change. Combined with the forces of globalization, continuing environmental degradation and slow socio-economic development, climate change is making life of the mountains in developing countries more difficult.

We in Nepal are already seeing, feeling and experiencing the environmental degradation what experts say are the impacts of the changing climate. The rainfall pattern is changing, and we have experienced more severe floods and extended droughts. As a son of a farmer, I know how these changes can affect farm production and the livelihoods of people who depend on agriculture and natural resources.

In the mountains and foothills, water sources have begun to dry up and the ecosystem does not produce as much as it used to. Scientists explain that this is because of the erosion of topsoil, during extreme rain and windstorms, among others.

I have also been told about the melting of glaciers and the resultant scenarios, if the pace of climate change persists on today's scale. The bottom line is that if we do not act promptly now, we are likely to face more natural disasters, greater food insecurity, and acute water shortages in the future.

The Government of Nepal has begun efforts towards mitigating and adapting to the impacts with support of different development partners. But the efforts do not match the scale of problem, and therefore, there is a need for greater regional and global support to the effort. Nepal believes that

together, we, the mountainous countries, need to scale up the effectiveness of our participation in the global environment and climate change negotiation forums to attract increased attention and support for tackling the issues we face in the mountains.

The Mountain Initiative launched by Nepal is a commitment that demands actions at the global, regional and national levels. It aims to address the common interest of the mountainous countries and regions. Nepal hopes that this Initiative can provide a framework and platform for mountain countries, regions and international partners to work together for benefiting people both in the mountains and those living downstream.

Ladies and gentlemen, you have an enormous challenge ahead of you. But I believe that having this group of committed and learned delegates from around the world here in Nepal is the first step towards tackling the challenge. It can be done. We can do it collectively.

I am also confident that you have the expertise to come up with ways to address our common challenge through a common approach adapted to local contexts. I hope, your deliberations will contribute towards developing long-term adaptation programs to minimize threats to human well-being from the environmental causes and consequences of conflicts and disasters.

This meeting is important because you are discussing ways to secure this Earth for future generations. It is also important because, in a few months, world leaders are meeting again in Rio after 20 years to discuss and agree on sustainable development pathways. I believe you have the capacity to suggest the approaches that can best suit the mountains.

Similarly, this meeting is also important because we the peoples of mountainous countries also have a lot to learn from each other's experiences.

We all know that the climate clock is ticking and we have little time to come up with effective measures to adapt to, and mitigate the effects of climate change on the mountains. Let us put all our efforts to come up with a collective vision for a Sustainable Mountain Development (SMD) agenda, and work together to convince the world about its importance to humanity.

I wish you a comfortable and memorable stay in Nepal.
Finally, I wish a grand success of this conference.

Thank you all !

Welcome Speech

Hemraj Tater

Minister for Environment, Nepal

Right Honourable President of Nepal, Dr. Ram Baran Yadav
Honourable Ministers,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Participants,
Friends from Media and the Non-governmental organisations,
Representatives from the development partners,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to welcome you all on behalf of the Government of Nepal in this opening session of the International Conference of Mountain Countries on Climate Change to be held here today and tomorrow. I am pleased to note good representation from mountainous countries of Latin America, Africa, Central Asia and South Asia in this Conference. I do expect, Honourable Ministers and participants, that your travel, although long, was comfortable and wish that your stay here in Kathmandu will be enjoyable and memorable.

We are proud of being in the mountains. We might be land-locked and might have difficult terrain, but I consider that we are very rich in natural resources, diversity in flora and fauna, and culture and traditions. But we lack technologies, knowledge and skilled human resources and finance to utilise them to improve the living conditions of our poor and disadvantaged people. Mountains provide ecological, economic and social services to billions of people living both upstream and downstream. Mountains - home to the most vulnerable ecosystems in the world, the depository of ice, glaciers and water - are challenged for their existence due to increased amount of anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) in the recent years. Snow and glaciers melt and decline in glaciations process have greater impacts on water resources, agriculture, forests and biodiversity, health and urban settlements, tourism, and infrastructures.

Mr. Appa Sherpa, 21-times Mount Everest Summiteer and the Climate Ambassador of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation repeatedly told us about high rate of snow melting in the Mount Everest - the roof of the world, a pride of the global community and a global heritage for mankind.

As you all know, we have recognised the urgent need for collective and coordinated efforts to address impacts of climate change on the world's mountains, bridge knowledge gap and safeguard the interest and concerns of the mountain people, establish a mechanism for information and experience sharing and promote the mountain agenda for the benefit of large number of people, livelihoods and resources. Recalling in this context, the call of the then Right Honourable Prime Minister of Nepal

in the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference, this Conference has been organised to provide a forum for the mountain countries to share knowledge and experiences on the impact of climate change on the mountains and forge a common approach to deal with specific concerns relating to mountain ecosystem and livelihoods. In this Conference, we will discuss on climate vulnerability, impacts, responses and financing and will have a call for global communities on mountains and climate change.

The Durban Climate Change Conference has opened avenues for further negotiation on climate change regime. I consider this most opportune time to find ways in climate negotiations and other international fora such as Rio+20 to include sustainable mountain agenda for the benefits of all humankind and life-forms. I consider it high time to act now, act together and act differently to address the adverse impacts of climate change. If we don't act now, time will not wait. The economic cost of delayed action will be immense and unbearable to all of us.

At the end, I would like to welcome you all once again. I do hope for your enjoyable and memorable stay in Kathmandu.

I wish this Conference to be success and effective in addressing the concerns and needs of all of us.

Thank you all !

Annex 3.3

Vote of Thanks

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Honorable Minister of State for Environment of Nepal Ms. Durga Devi Mahato,
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Excellencies, Heads and Members of Delegations, Diplomatic Missions and Development Partner Agencies,
Distinguished Guests and Participants,
Friends from Media,
Ladies and Gentlemen !

It is indeed an honor for me today to be able to express a deep sense of gratitude to the chief guest of this inaugural session, Right Honorable President of Nepal Dr. Ram Baran Yadav, and also deliver my heartfelt thanks to all other distinguished guests, invitees and participants of this International Conference of Mountain Countries on Climate Change that just began officially with the Right Honorable President's watering the plant, itself a symbolic action of nurturing the nature for green and sustainable human development.

Speaking on behalf of the Ministry of Environment and all the participants present today, we are profoundly grateful to you, Right Honorable President, because you accepted our request to be present here today for inaugurating this historic event, and also delivered a very inspiring and encouraging address, despite such a busy schedule you have and many other urgent priorities you need to attend. Your remarks were full of wisdom made in a plain tone, a message perhaps to all of us that we need to talk in a language common people can understand easily, and act in such a way that common people can feel the difference, positively, from our action. We are sincerely thankful to you, Right Honorable President !

We are equally thankful to Ms. Christiana Figueres, the Executive Secretary to the UNFCCC Secretariat in Bonn for sending us this elaborate video message, which describes the challenges and responsibilities of mountain countries on climate change. Even if she could not physically be present, her words heard through the screen have been very encouraging and meaningful toward meeting the objectives of the conference. We need your support, Christiana, for putting the mountain countries with their sustainable mountain development agenda on the UNFCCC radar. We are confident we will get it.

Just a while ago, we also saw and heard about the Great Himalayan Climate-Smart Trek team led by Appa Sherpa, a legend in his own lifetime, who has been championing the cause of battling climate change in

and around the high mountains with messages and actions. We thank the team, which is now nearing the completion of its mission of trekking 1700 kms of the mountain trails, and wish them best wishes !

I now would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all the heads and members of the delegations to this conference, especially our foreign guests representing their respective countries and organizations. for coming all the way from faraway destinations, and showing solidarity to 'mountain initiative' that Nepal has been launching since 2009 COP15 summit in Copenhagen. I would especially like to acknowledge the presence of Honorable Ministers, parliamentarians, high-ranking officials from the government, diplomatic missions, United Nations agencies, international financial institutions and multilateral development institutions, and civil society organizations both from within and abroad. My special thanks are due to the experts and academics who have enriched our preparations through the expert consultations held yesterday, and also to those from private sector, youth and women networks, students, green-lovers, environmental activists and all the stakeholders of environment and climate change for being present today with so much zeal and enthusiasm.

I thank everybody present here today for choosing to be here, because it shows you are interested in what we are up to, and you love it! It indeed counts a lot to us !!

Finally, as we have just set up the stage today for the conference, we need you and your inputs during the successive deliberations. Please be part of them and contribute. Without your inputs and feedback we cannot draw any conclusion, and without your support and understanding, we cannot conclude anything in consensus. We want to achieve something concrete out of this two-day happening, which we are so happy to host, and we urge you to make it happen, building on commonalities in terms of our common challenges and opportunities that we share as mountain countries. We want to connect our outcome to the upcoming Rio+20 and other international deliberations, in the form of Kathmandu Call for Action, which will be a kind of broader framework of consensus amongst us, in the great interest of mountains and mountain people to fight climate change challenges. Let's accomplish this mission together, and let's do that in a good spirit of together-ship !

Thank you !!

Press Release

Launching of NCCSP and National Framework on LAPA

Today the Ministry of Environment launched the Nepal Climate Change Support Program (NCCSP) and National Framework on Local Adaptation Plan for Action (LAPA) at the International Conference of Mountain Countries on Climate Change in Kathmandu. The first phase of this Euro 16.5 m (NRs. 1,800,000,000) program aims to reduce the vulnerability of 2 million women and men in the Mid and Far West of Nepal where the impacts of climate change are already being felt.

The program, with funding provided by the EU (Euro 8.6m) and the UK (Euro 7.9m) and technical support from UNDP, will be the first initiative to put the Government's National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA) into practice. The EU is providing this financial assistance from the Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA), which was formed in 2007 to help Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Development States (SIDS) to integrate climate change consideration into their development planning. As reflected in the May 2010 Joint EU - Asian LDC Declaration on climate change, the EU is committed to working together with the most vulnerable countries to mobilise political support for stronger action on climate change.

Secretary of Environment Krishna Gyawali said, 'This program is the first to put Nepal's Climate Change Policy and NAPA into action, ensuring that at least 80% of resources reaches the local level where it is desperately needed'

The Ministry of Environment led program will also be the first to help communities in the Mid and Far West implement most urgent and immediate adaptation actions as included in the NAPA through the National Framework on Local Adaptation Plan for Action, that respond to needs identified at village level. For example: support for irrigation, landslide and flood protection, access to clean energy and introduction of more climate resilient crops.

Dr. Alexander Spachis from the EU said 'We are very pleased to see that the Government of Nepal is taking steps towards the development of policies and programs for climate resilience, such as implementation of the National Adaptation Program of Action through Local Adaptation Plans for Action. We believe this would certainly help the Government of Nepal to integrate climate change considerations into its development planning, as well as implement concrete measures at the local level helping the most vulnerable and poor rural communities to adapt to the consequences of changes in climate.

The first phase of the program will focus on 14 Districts in the Mid and Far West of Nepal³ which the NAPA identified as the most climate vulnerable requiring urgent support from donors as its first priority. Adaptation actions will be implemented by preparing LAPA.

Philip Marker, UK Climate Change Envoy for Asia said, 'The UK's support for NCCSP will help the vulnerable adapt and will have a specific focus on helping women and disadvantaged communities cope with the challenges climate change is bringing. The UK plans to provide further support in the future.'

For further information please contact:

Mr. Batu Uprety, Joint-Secretary (Technical), Ministry of Environment, upretybk@gmail.com or bkuprety@moenv.gov.np

³ Humla, Mugu, Dolpa, Bajura, Jumla, Jajarkot, Rukum, Achham, Dailekh, Rolpa, Kailali, Bardiya Kalikot and Dang.

Special Address

*Honorable Madhav Kumar Nepal
Former Prime Minister*

Mr. Chairman,
Honourable Ministers,
Distinguished Heads of Delegations,
Representatives of Civil Society,
Ladies and Gentlemen !

Good evening !

It is a great pleasure to be with you all this evening, and I wish to extend a very warm welcome to all of you, particularly to the delegates from abroad at this “International Conference of Mountain Countries on Climate Change”.

I express my sincere gratitude to the Ministry of Environment, Government of Nepal for inviting me to address this august gathering this evening. I would also like to commend the Ministry for making this conference possible after three year long continuous efforts.

I am particularly delighted that the process which was conceived in Copenhagen during the Conference of Parties (COP-15) in December 2009 has now finally taken off. As an initiator of this process, I would like to briefly state why I wanted this process to be initiated and how the idea was conceived.

While taking part at COP 15 negotiation process in Copenhagen as head of the delegation of Nepal in December 2009, I found that the issues and the problems of mountain regions were completely sidelined from the mainstream debate of the COP process.

The people of the mountainous countries in the world have been facing increasing negative impact of climate change due to its fragile nature. It was, therefore, necessary to bring our issues in the COP negotiation process and make sure that they were raised and discussed. Despite the fact that the mountainous countries’ share in the global emission, the major factor of climate change, is very little, they are the ones who are being affected the most.

As the mountainous countries face unique climate change issues, I strongly believe that these countries need special rights and privilege to protect their people and ecology. Let us recall that any serious climate change phenomenon in the mountainous countries will also have its impact in other ecological

zones of the world. Protection of the ecology in the mountainous areas is therefore not only important for the people of these countries, but also for the people of countries downstream.

It was realized during COP 15 that there was a need to give alternative thought to bring the issues of ecology and people, whose vulnerability was accelerating because of growing effects of climate change, under the current development paradigm. With this realization, we, the leaders of the mountainous countries, decided to take a collective stand on our issues, recognizing that only then it would be possible to include our issues and problems into the mainstream COP negotiation processes.

With this realization, I personally took initiative in organizing a gathering of all the delegates from the mountainous countries and representatives from other related organizations in Copenhagen during COP 15. During our brief reception, we shared our views and came to the conclusion that we should stand together for the interests of the mountain people in order to make sure that our issues are sufficiently highlighted and there is a full recognition and understanding among the international community of the contributions made by mountain eco-system and its cultural diversity.

Dear delegates,

We have already been experiencing the effects of climate change in our lives, the consequences are numerous and grave. The seasons are shifting and the globe is becoming warmer and warmer, our air is polluted day after day, water is receding and becoming a scarce resource, and the land is deserting to supply us sufficient food and shelter.

We have to keep our planet healthy and green. We must handover our planet to our future generation as a safe place to live, where no living things are deprived of fresh air, water, food and shelter. We must make sure that Mother Earth remains as a planet intact with its eco-system, its purity and its beauty.

Let us work together so that we can keep the majestic mountains of the Himalayas the third pole, the Alps and the Andes, forever white, covered with snow that our children and grand children can enjoy their beauty as well as feel protected from the ecological balance that the snow covered mountains provide.

To save our planet and ecology, we need to change our lifestyles; we need to change the discourse of our consumption-led development culture, a culture that ignores the ecology, and people in the quest of profiteering and short-term satisfaction of individuals.

I strongly believe that, it is only the harmonious relationship between people and ecology that will save our people and mountain ecology, and lead us towards sustainable development. We also need to promote biodiversity based agriculture which produces more healthy and sufficient foods.

Despite the fact that all major governments have acknowledged the causal role of anthropogenic emissions in producing rapid global warming, little action has been taken so far to reduce such emissions. We all are hoping to have an effective agreement on climate change based on the widely agreed upon principle of common but differentiated responsibilities which has been a part of 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. Under this principle, developed states must bear greater share of responsibility to address the impact of climate change because of the greater pressure they put on the global environment and also their financial and technological ability to take actions.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me briefly reflect the context of climate change in our country, Nepal. Nepal has 8 out of the 10 highest mountains peaks in the world. Fast melting down of snow with rising glacial lakes and higher frequency of cloud bursts are creating immediate risks to us. Likewise, shifting monsoon period with extended droughts and fewer rainy days is creating vulnerabilities for livelihoods and economic development. Such a trend is not only affecting the Chure Mahabharat mountain range of our country, it is also jeopardizing the foothills of the Himalaya and the plains downstream which serve as, the food baskets in Asia for more than a fourth of humanity.

Why the mountainous countries problems have not received the same level of attention in the global agenda as those of island countries and coastal regions, is obvious. It is because we the people and governments of the mountainous countries have so far failed to take collective stand on our issues.

We must act collectively by creating a mountainous countries bloc in the negotiation process. We should make our forceful stand and make the international community realize about the environmental importance of the mountains and the deteriorating eco-system to the world. We should also mobilize the global community in the interest of the mountain people and mountain ecology.

We should collectively highlight the natural heritage and cultural legacy of the mountain regions. Mountains are a great source of clean drinking water, irrigation and hydropower - a clean source of energy- to reduce carbon emission in the long run. We should also highlight the importance of tourism potential in the mountain regions.

Although, on a small scale, in Nepal we have been able to demonstrate successful examples of working to tackle some challenges of climate change - such as through the community forestry program, participatory management of conservation areas, and eco-tourism inked with sustainable livelihood of the people, and environmental protection.

During my less than two years time (May 2009 to February 2011) as Prime Minister of Nepal, we took a number of initiatives at the policy level as well as practical level to address the issues of Climate Change both at national and international level. We set up a high level council on climate change under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister. We held a cabinet meeting at Kalapatthar, the base camp of Mt. Everest at 5542 metres height to highlight the increasing impact of climate change

in the Himalayas. The meeting came out with a 10-point declaration which expressed our strong commitment to protect the fragile mountain ecosystem.

We also organized a 'Summiteers Summit to Save the Himalayas' campaign in December 2009 by bringing together more than 100 great mountain climbers to Copenhagen, Denmark on the eve of COP 15. And we hosted a high level regional conference on climate change in Kathmandu in August 2009.

Dear delegates,

I believe a global level gathering like this conference can help us develop our common stand and mobilize mountainous countries collective voice in the COP processes. I, therefore urge this conference to form a common platform and make sure that mountain concerns get due attentions in international deliberations. Let us also press to secure sufficient international support to our adaptation processes.

Due to our different geo-climatic situations, different levels of development and adaptation capacity, not all the mountainous countries are affected in the same way. We know that some of us are better prepared and some of us are harder hit. As most of the mountainous countries are land-locked and least developed, they are particularly vulnerable and fragile. We must, therefore, keep those countries in mind while developing our future programs.

We need predictable, substantially enhanced and long term finance. We also need direct and easy access to such resources and technology with an institutional framework and governance that caters to the interests and concerns of all of us. For this, we need to adopt a two-fold strategy of south-south cooperation and north-south partnership to create an enabling environment to effectively address the issues of Climate Change.

As a Co-Chairperson of the 'International Eco-safety Cooperative Organization (IESCO), which has been extensively involved in the protection of the environment in the world, particularly in the Asia Pacific region, I would like to invite all of you to take part in an upcoming conference of Hindu Kush Himalayan countries to be held in Kathmandu in near future.

I wish you all a memorable stay in Nepal and every success in achieving our shared goals which will be formulated at this important conference.

Thank you for your patience and bon appétit.

Special Session

Annex 6.1

Welcome Speech

Hemraj Tater

Honorable Minister for Environment

Mr. Chairperson,
Right Honourable Prime Minister of Nepal, Dr. Baburam Bhattarai,
Honourable Ministers,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is indeed a great pleasure for me to welcome you Right Honourable Prime Minister Dr. Baburam Bhattarai, and Honourable Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs Mr. Bijaya Kumar Gacchedar, in this special session of the Conference. I would also like to welcome Honourable Minister from Qatar who joined us today, along with other Honourable Ministers and dignitaries.

As you may recall, Right Honourable President of Nepal inaugurated this Conference yesterday with an inspiring opening statement. And presence of the Right Honourable Prime Minister today is a testimony of our strong commitment to address the adverse impacts of climate change in the mountains, mountain peoples and their livelihoods, along with mountain resources.

People, all over the world, are experiencing temperature rise. We in the mountainous countries may not have contributed to the problem, but we are greatly affected by its effects. The effects are on the rise each year. And we have no options but to adapt to the climate change. Developed countries and high income developing countries have greater role to reduce the 'root cause' of global warming, that is, the reduction of greenhouse gases in line with the recommendations of the scientific studies. Nepal considers the Climate change Convention and the Kyoto Protocol as appropriate international instruments to reduce GHGs emissions. These instruments open avenues to convince our development partners to invest more on climate change programs. Our collective efforts today might bear the fruit for tomorrow.

Yesterday, we discussed about the impacts of climate change on the mountains. Honourable ministers, members of parliament, and representatives of international institutions focussed their presentations and discussions on mountains and climate change. Millions of people are affected by hurricanes, floods, droughts, and forest fires. It is clear that these events are happening in countries across all

regions, regardless of the size, geography, level of development or economic strength. No one is immune from the impact. In High Mountain areas, these changes are becoming more and more obvious and just as visible. The security and stability of each nation and all peoples – our prosperity, our health, our safety – are greatly challenged.

Several ideas have come up to draw a roadmap to address these challenges. We must work boldly, swiftly, and together. Our collective and coordinated actions will bring us closer and unite to work together to address our common challenges, that is climate change. This will further help to bridge knowledge gap and safeguard the interest and concerns of the people living both at mountains and downstream. We must now rush to find fair and equitable solutions in as many places as possible.

At the end, let me take this opportunity to urge all of us to work collectively, to sensitize the international community more about the importance and benefits of conserving the mountains. Our collective action today will determine the future of our millions of children and grand children in the years and decades to come.

Thank you all !

Keynote Speech

Dr. R. K. Pachauri
Chair, IPCC and DG, TERI

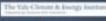
Science of Climate Change and Mountains

Dr. R. K. Pachauri

5th April 2012, Kathmandu
International Conference of Mountain Countries on Climate Change



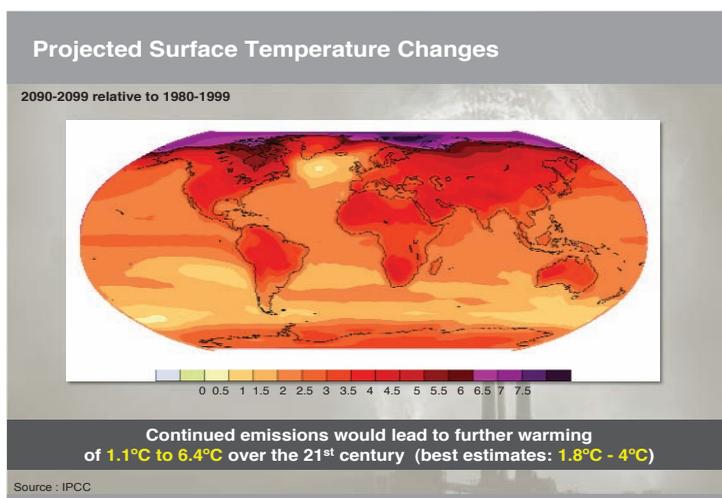
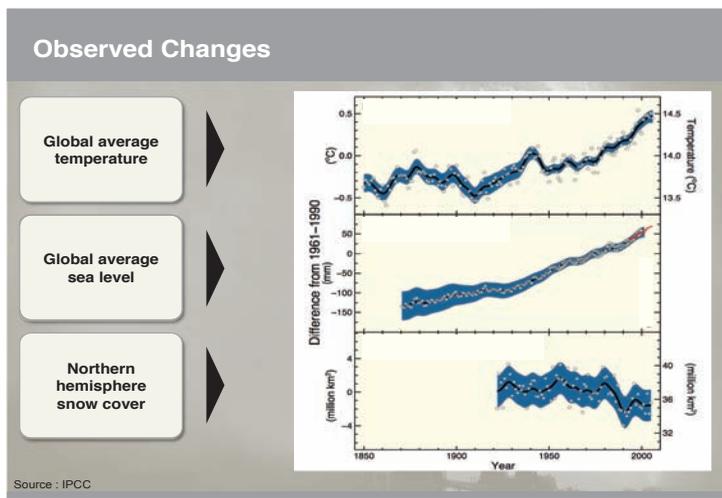
Director-General, The Energy and Resources Institute



Director, Yale Climate & Energy Institute



Chairman, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

A changing climate leads to changes in extreme weather and climate events



Increasing vulnerability, exposure, or severity and frequency of climate events increases **disaster risk**

Source : IPCC

Increasing exposure of people and assets has been the major cause of changes in disaster losses



Pakistan floods, 2010 6 million left homeless

Source : IPCC

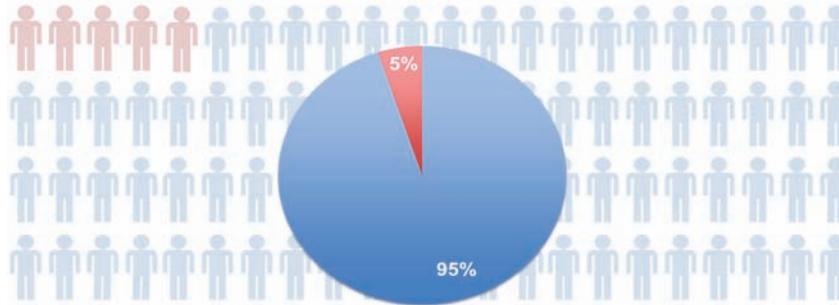
Climate models project more **frequent hot days** throughout the 21st century



In many regions, the **time between** “20-year” (unusually) warm days will **decrease**

Source : IPCC

Fatalities are higher in developing countries



From 1970-2008, over 95% of natural-disaster-related deaths occurred in developing countries

Source : IPCC

Effective risk management and adaptation are tailored to local and regional needs and circumstances



- Changes in climate extremes vary across regions
- Each region has unique vulnerabilities and exposure to hazards
- Effective risk management and adaptation address the factors contributing to exposure and vulnerability

Source : IPCC

Impacts on ecosystem services

Mountain regions have experienced above-average warming in the 20th century, a trend likely to continue



Impacts may be exacerbated by **ecosystem degradation** pressures such as land-use changes, over-grazing, pollution in particular in highly diverse regions like the Himalayas



Cold tree lines appear to be characterized by **seasonal mean air temperatures of around 6°C**



Where warmer and drier conditions are projected, mountain vegetation is expected to be subject to **increased evapotranspiration**

Source : IPCC

Impacts on glaciers



- **Glacier melt** projected to increase mudflows, flooding, rock avalanches and to affect water resources within the next 2 to 3 decades
- High population density and consequent deforestation and land-use change have adversely affected these glaciers.
- The Ganga, Indus, and Brahmaputra rivers could become seasonal rivers in the near future.

½ billion people in the Himalaya Hindu-Kush region and ¼ billion in China who depend on glacial melt for their water supplies are likely be affected

Source : IPCC

Glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs)



- The formation of large lakes is occurring as glaciers retreat from prominent Little Ice Age (LIA) moraines in several steep mountain ranges, including the Himalayas
- The temporary increase in glacier melt can also produce enhanced GLOFs.

Frequency increase from 0.38 events/year in 1950s to 0.54 events/year in 1990s in the Himalayas of Nepal, Bhutan and Tibet

11

Impacts on food security



- Consequences for **down-stream agriculture** which relies on glacial melt and rivers for irrigation will be unfavorable in most Asian countries.
- Complex and localized impacts of climate change will effect groups with low adaptive capacity such as
 - Small holders
 - Subsistence farmers
 - Pastoralists
 - Artisanal fisher folk

Possible **yield reduction** in agriculture: 30% by 2050 in Central and South Asia

Source : IPCC

Characteristics of stabilization scenarios

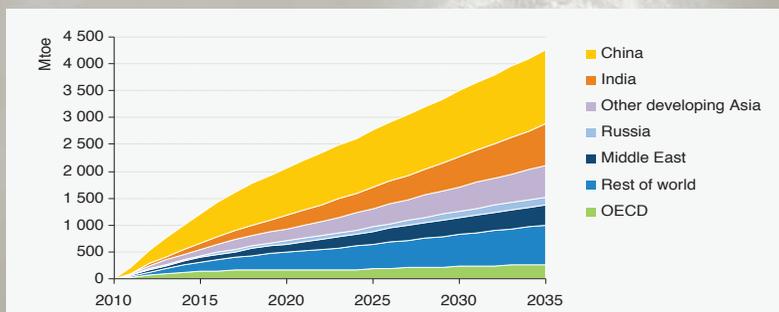
Post-tar stabilization scenarios

Stabilization level (ppm CO ₂ -eq)	Global mean temp. increase (°C)	Year CO ₂ needs to peak	Global sea level rise above pre-industrial from thermal expansion (m)
445 – 490	2.0 – 2.4	2000-2015	0.4 – 1.4
490 – 535	2.4 – 2.8	2000-2020	0.5 – 1.7
535 – 590	2.8 – 3.2	2010-2030	0.6 – 1.9
590 – 710	3.2 – 4.0	2020-2060	0.6 – 2.4

Source : IPCC

Emerging economies continue to drive global energy demand

Growth in primary energy demand in the New Policies Scenario

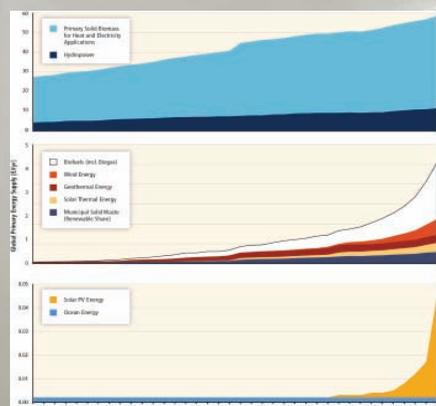


Global energy demand increases by one-third from 2010 to 2035, with China & India accounting for 50% of the growth

Source: World Energy Outlook, 2011

14

Renewable energy growth



Rapid increase in recent years

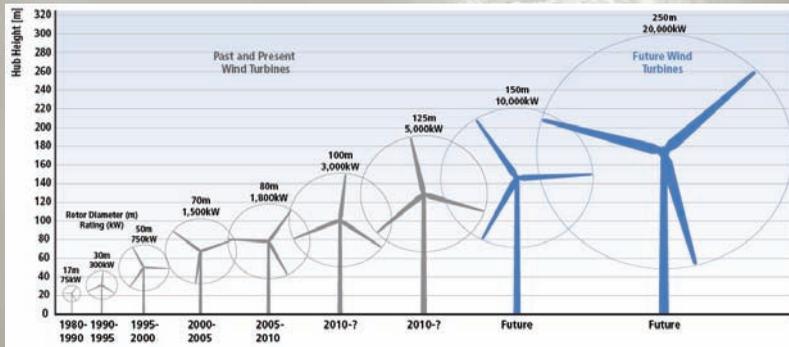
- 140 GW of new RE power plant capacity was built in 2008-2009
- This equals 47% of all power plants built during that period

Source : IPCC

15

Technical advancements

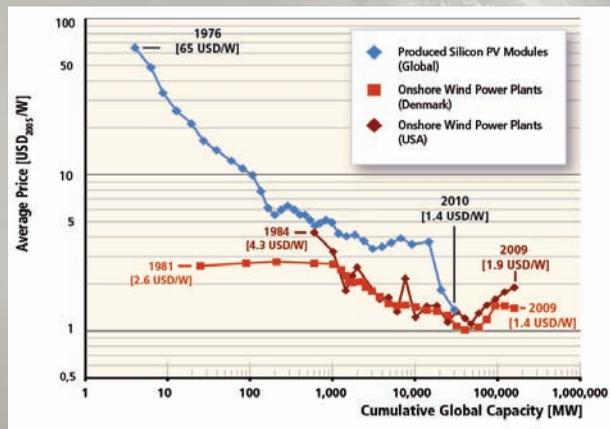
Growth in size of typical commercial wind turbines



Source : IPCC

16

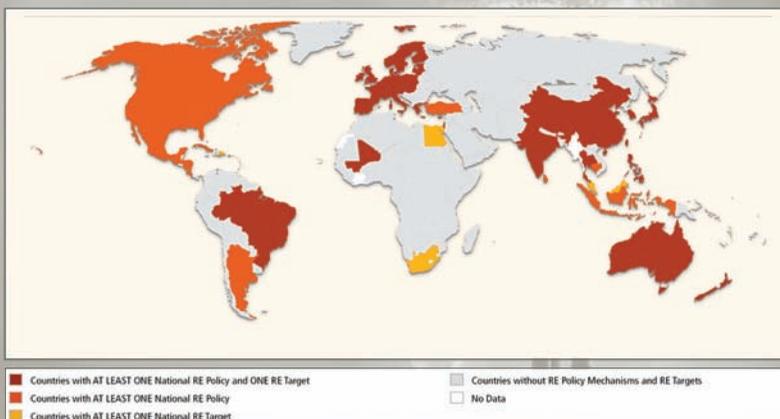
RE costs have declined in the past and further declines can be expected in the future.



Source : IPCC

17

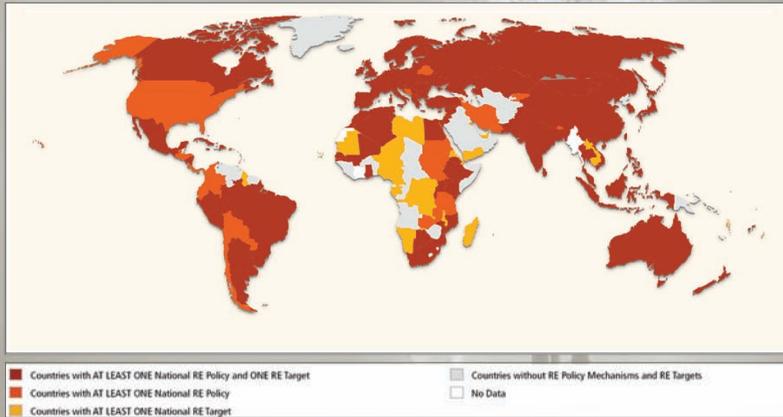
RE and Climate Change Mitigation Policies 2004



Source : IPCC

18

RE and Climate Change Mitigation Policies 2011



Source : IPCC

19



Annex 6.3

Statement

B.M.S. Rathore

On Behalf of Honorable Smt. Jayanthi Natarajan
Minister of State (Independent Charge) for
Environment and Forests, India

His Excellency, Right Hon'ble Prime Minister of Nepal, Dr. Baburam Bhattarai;
Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Home Affairs,
Govt. of Nepal, Mr. Bijaya Kumar Gacchedar;
Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Government of Nepal, Mr. Hemraj Tarter,
Hon'ble Excellencies Ministers from various countries
Distinguished delegates
Ladies and gentlemen,

At the onset, let me convey, high personal regards from our Minister of State for Environment and Forest, Smt. Jayanthi Natarajan to the Hon'ble Minister for Environment Mr. Hemraj Tarter. For unforeseen reasons, the Hon'ble Minister could not be present, personally, though she was very keen to participate in this very important event, which is organised by the Govt. of Nepal. She has conveyed her best wishes for successful deliberations and outcomes from the conference.

Excellences and distinguished delegates, I take this opportunity, on behalf of Government of India, to thank the Government of Nepal for hosting us here in this beautiful and historic city of Kathmandu, on this significant occasion of "International Conference of Mountain Countries on Climate Change". We deeply commend the efforts of the Government of Nepal and in particular the leadership of Right Hon'ble President of Nepal, Dr. Ram Baran Yadav, to bring mountains into the Global agenda on Climate Change.

The conference provides an important forum for the mountain countries to enhance sharing of knowledge and experiences on impacts of climate change on the mountains and to discuss the various possible approaches to address the associated concerns.

Climate Change and its associated risks have presented significant challenges to the international community. These risks assume bigger and dangerous proportions for developing countries like us who are faced with over-riding priorities of poverty eradication and socio-economic development. We know that socio-economic vulnerabilities increase the risks associated with climate change impacts. Therefore, capacity to absorb the adverse impacts and adaptation to climate change are the key priority for us.

While developing countries have taken ambitious steps to address climate change at significant costs to their economies, the international response to climate change under the United Nations Framework

Convention on Climate Change is unfortunately not getting much traction owing mainly to the failure of developed countries to lead and fulfil their due obligations. However, since climate change will not wait, Nepal's initiative to organise a Conference of Mountain countries with a focus on climate change adaptation in mountain region becomes extremely relevant and timely.

In pursuance of Bali Action Plan adopted during the thirteenth session of Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held at Bali, an Adaptation Framework was adopted in Cancun for enhanced action on adaptation. It was also decided that significant share of new multilateral funding for adaptation would flow through the Green Climate Fund. It was also decided that the fast start funding (FSF) for the period 2010-12 would be allocated between mitigation and adaptation activities in a balanced manner. While the FSF did not deliver, the Green Climate Fund is likely to take some time before it becomes fully operational. The post 2012 long term finance scenario is fraught with uncertainties due to lack of financial resources, given the huge requirements for adaptation funding in vulnerable regions. It is necessary therefore, that adaptation should receive much needed thrust in the multilateral climate change talks.

At the recently concluded climate change conference held in Durban, a new Durban Platform has been launched, which provides an opportunity to vulnerable countries including the mountainous countries like us to address their climate change concerns. The Durban Platform should not remain limited to mitigation actions but should be comprehensive enough to provide comfort to the deeply vulnerable mountain countries like us. Thus, enhanced action on adaptation should be an integral part of the Durban Platform.

India is endowed with a vast Himalayan Region, which is a mountain range that spans ten states of India namely, Jammu & Kashmir, Himanchal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura as well as the hill regions of two states - Assam and West Bengal. The region is responsible for providing water to a large part of the Indian subcontinent and contains varied flora and fauna.

We have already taken a number of steps to ensure sustainable development of the Himalayan Ecosystem. India's National Action Plan on Climate Change, which is our overarching policy framework to address climate change, includes eight missions. While two of these missions focus on promotion of energy efficiency and use of renewable in the country, the other missions address sustainability concerns in some of the key sectors like Water, Forests, Agriculture and Habitat. There is a dedicated National Mission on Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem. This Mission aims to deliver better understanding of the inter-linkages between the Himalayan ecosystem and the climate factors and provide inputs for Himalayan Sustainable development while addressing also the protection of sensitive ecosystems.

For improving our knowledge of climate change, we have established an Indian Network for Climate Change Assessment (INCCA), which carries out scientific studies of various aspects of Climate Change.

INCCA has carried out a 4x4 assessment of climate change in India covering four major sectors viz. Agriculture, Forests, Human health and Water in four ecological regions of the country viz. the Himalayan region, the western ghats, north-eastern region and the coastal region. Through this report, impacts of climate change in the four critical sectors in the Himalayan region have been assessed for the 2030s. We have also brought out in 2010 an updated inventory of the GHG emissions for the year 2007. Our first National Communication (NATCOM) was given to the UNFCCC in 2004. The second one is under preparation and will be submitted soon in 2012.

India is among the few countries where the forest cover is actually increasing. We have taken strong measures to conserve forests. Between 1995 to 2005 our forest cover increased by over 3 million ha. India is launching an ambitious Green India Mission to increase the quality and quantity of forest cover in 10 million hectares of land, addressing both the quality of forest cover, as well as the quantity of forest cover. A major new program on coastal zone management has been launched recently to address the adaptation challenges facing over 300 million people in our country that live in vulnerable areas near our coast.

India has partnered with Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh in a Climate Summit for Living Himalayas, which was recently hosted by the Royal Government of Bhutan in Thimpu on November 19, 2011. During the Summit, the four countries have agreed to foster cooperation at the sub-regional level through a Framework of Cooperation and an Implementation Mechanism to address the climate change adaptation needs in the Southern watersheds of the Eastern Himalayas.

India whole heartedly supports the initiative of Government of Nepal and looks forward to fruitful discussions and outcomes from the conference.

Thank you.

Address

Honorable Abdullah Bin Murbarak Bin Aabboud Al-Midhadhi
Minister for Environment, Qatar

Right Honourable Prime Minister of Nepal, Dr. Baburam Bhattarai
Honourable Deputy Prime Minister of Nepal, Mr. Bijaya Kumar Gacchedar,
Honourable Ministers,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I sincerely thank the Governments of Nepal for inviting Qatar to be among you in this gathering, and for the warm hospitality.

As the host country of COP18, I would like to convey to you that Qatar is working hard to ensure that all arrangements are in place, to assure successful COP meeting from all aspects. We have established higher committee chaired by H.E. Mr. Abdullah Bin Hamad Al-Attiyah, the president designate of COP18/CMP8. A number of other ministers, including myself, are members of this higher committee. In addition, there are several Sub-committees that have been established for both logistics and technical issues.

We all know that climate change is one of the most urgent challenges to be tackled by the international community, and that it is important to facilitate negotiations in a constructive and collaborative manner. However, today we are not negotiating. Hence, I urge participants to be open and frank in expressing their views.

We believe that any discussions must take the interest of all groups and parties, under an atmosphere of cooperation, inclusiveness and transparency.

This meeting is a good opportunity to listen to issues of interest for Mountain Countries and to take on board your valuable inputs. We recognize that Mountain Countries have specific concerns and particular vulnerabilities. We will be listening carefully to the discussions over the coming two days, and look forward to working closely with all of you toward a successful outcome at COP18 in Doha.

I wish all of you a good fruitful gathering.

Thank you.

Special Address

Dr. Baburam Bhattarai

Right Honorable Prime Minister of Nepal

Mr. Chairman,
Honourable Ministers, Excellencies,
Dr. Rajendra Pachauri, Chair, IPCC
Distinguished Participants,
Friends from Media,
Ladies and Gentlemen !

1. It gives me immense pleasure to share my thoughts before this august gathering of distinguished participants from around the world. I welcome you all in Kathmandu and thank you for accepting our invitation. I believe that the Conference will be a milestone to collectively understand the causes and effects of climate change in mountain countries, discuss options and approaches to addressing them, and come out with reliable and sustainable solutions.
2. Climate change is making our lives increasingly vulnerable. Its impact has widely been felt across the globe in various forms. Experts have confirmed that progressive warming at higher altitudes has been three to five times the global average. This rapid warming is evident in our observations of increased snow and glacial melt and the frequency of extreme events such as devastating floods and droughts which have exacerbated problems of hunger and poverty in many mountainous regions. In particular, women and children have been the most affected victims of its adverse effects. Therefore, I feel that, firstly, we need to be cognizant of and responsive to the sufferings of the people for meeting their urgent needs for survival and, secondly, join them in preserving the ecosystem that nurtures them. Only then can we afford to engage in any meaningful discourse on development and also in a series of negotiations.
3. It is our privilege to have amidst us, the distinguished Chair of the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change. The IPCC Fourth Assessment Report (AR4), issued in 2007, had alerted us about the alarming state of global warming and accelerated climate change. Just to recall, it stated that warming of the climate system is unequivocal. With a tone of greater certainty, it then cites the recent incidents of climate change such as widespread global temperature increase; eleven of the last 12 years, that is, from 1995 to 2006, being the warmest-ever years; more frequent hot days and hot nights; increased sea level rise; and decreased snow and ice sheets in various parts of the globe. All these reports, including the keynote speech by the IPCC Chair, yesterday, clearly suggest that the window of opportunity is closing fast and we need to act now

and decisively. Therefore, we need to emphasize here that its adverse consequences will hamper our efforts of economic development and improved wellbeing of the people if no corresponding measures are taken in time. The costs of inaction or delayed action will be much higher in future. Our future depends on our action today.

4. Mountains are a great source of energy, food security and biodiversity, providing water and ecosystem services to the billions of people living both upstream and downstream. They are homes to humanity blessed with the richness of ethno-cultural diversity and traditional knowledge. Yet, they have been rather disproportionately affected by climate change, and so, are yet to receive adequate focus in the international climate change negotiations and relevant forums. This realization led us to believe that impacts of climate change on mountains and on the people dependent on them for their livelihoods need to be minutely understood and holistically analyzed, and concrete actions need to be taken to address them. This propelled us to launch what has been known as the Mountain Initiative since COP 15 in Copenhagen. The essence of this Initiative is that mountains and the people living there deserve to be better treated when it comes to investing in climate change adaptation. Mountains hold enormous resource potentials and opportunities but they also carry a risk of disastrous consequences, if we continue to neglect them. The world has rightly accorded special priority to oceans, atmosphere, sustainable cities and transportation. We feel that the time has come for the world community to accord similar priority to mountain countries that are especially vulnerable to the impact of climate change and global warming.
5. The UNFCCC process has been instrumental in putting the issue of climate change on the world radar. Climate change and its impacts have indeed become a global issue of paramount concern. We feel that the development models that have been in use for the last several years have created and accelerated this problem to the detriment of sustainable human development. Therefore, the Upcoming Rio+20 Summit should agree on a new paradigm of sustainable development. Nepal feels that the mountainous countries should call for a new path of development that not only better integrates environmental, economic and social issues but also provides for equitable and just development strategies that are environmentally clean, green and climate-resilient.
6. As our efforts to date have proven inadequate to cope with the climate-induced disasters, we cannot afford to wait until after the outcomes of the lengthy negotiation processes. Our problems are mostly of immediate and urgent nature, and we need to find ways of addressing them collectively and immediately. The irony is that those who are most affected in the mountain countries have hardly contributed to climate change, yet they are ill-equipped to deal with its impacts due to their low capacity, poor technology and scarce financial resources.
7. Nepal is on the frontline of climate change effects and ranked among the world's five most climate-vulnerable countries. We are a country where climate change is challenging the very survival of people as well as the core of our limited infrastructures through accelerated climate-induced disasters. This Conference will provide us opportunities to further comprehend the challenges and opportunities in our treasures of nature and human civilization, and share and learn experiences and best practices to protect them.
8. With eight of the 10 highest mountains and rich bio-cultural heritage, Nepal has been a place to learn about global warming and climate change impacts, and also a place where people live with

diverse cultural and economic connections to these mountains. Unfortunately, their environment and identities are changing rapidly and their livelihoods are being seriously threatened. There is a real danger of hazards such as glacial lake outburst floods and invasive species turning into disasters that can destroy lives, livelihoods, and hard-gained infrastructure.

9. Despite our limited national capabilities, we have recognized adaptation as a national 'survival strategy' to protect our people, livelihood and ecosystems. The National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA) is being implemented through the approved National Framework on Local Adaptation Plan for Action (LAPA). Nepal's Climate Change Policy requires channeling over 80 percent of the total budget of the climate change programs to local entities with the local ownership and leadership. We have continued to promote a clean and renewable energy development path to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. However, there is a big funding gap compared to the magnitude of the challenges.
10. We have established coordination mechanism at different levels in climate change regime. In reviewing the overall situation as the Chair of the Climate Change Council, I have often found that we have so much uncertainty and knowledge gaps in all sectors and geographical areas. Meanwhile, we also need to bring the climate change adaptation program down to the local level by demystifying and de-jargonizing its notion and approaches. We need to make climate adaptation as people-friendly as possible.
11. When I look around the world I see that many countries are being seriously challenged, with or without mountains. Last year was an unprecedented year for extreme climatic events in Asia and elsewhere. The long-term predictions and scenarios that have been set out by the IPCC are becoming increasingly obvious and serious year by year. We are not talking about 2050; our problems are here and now. We have a responsibility to ensure that climate change does not irreparably damage the progress we have made in our development path to date. This means that we have to radically change our development thinking, factoring in not only environmental issues which no doubt are of critical national importance, but also social and economic issues in a holistic manner.
12. In my address to the UN General Assembly Meeting in New York in September last year, I had stressed the recurrence of financial, energy and food crises, but more importantly the deeper structural crises. These multiple crises have vindicated the need for seriously reviewing the current economic paradigm. Climate change has clearly added new dimension in this challenge requiring urgent action. But we also should recognise that it offers new opportunities for undertaking alternative development models and more equitable and cleaner global development pathways that we all can envision with robust global partnership, both north-south and south-south.

Honourable Ministers and Distinguished Participants,

13. Ongoing international negotiations on climate change and sustainable development in 2012 offer us all a major opportunity to have a collective voice and platform that can ensure that we are not only heard, but our issues are taken on board. Therefore, there is an urgent need to make progress in climate negotiations and to ensure enhanced and predictable financing, especially for the developing and vulnerable countries. This calls for urgent action by all to reduce greenhouse emissions based on the principle of equity to address the root causes and support the developing

countries to adapt to climate change, and impact mitigation. This needs new and additional financial resources, expedited provisions for climate and environment-friendly technologies and support for capacity building. It is in this context that this conference outputs hold high significance as these can feed into the Rio+20 Summit which will be critical in defining a more sustainable development path and reducing poverty in the LDCs and mountain countries. The sustainable development agenda to be charted in Rio must encompass all environmental, social and economic considerations, including the crucial issue of sustainable mountain development, with a clear global vision and strong framework of action.

In conclusion,

Let this conference set the pathway for the mountain countries and people for a holistic and sustainable mountain development and a new development paradigm.

Let this conference highlight and effectively mainstream the mountain agenda into all the global development processes.

Let this conference ensure that we come up with a global compact for a stronger framework of cooperation that promotes concrete collective action in a spirit of strengthened and renewed global partnership.

Let us concentrate on the long-term sustainable approach collectively, away from the parochial short term interests.

Let the Kathmandu conference give a clarion call for sustained and decisive action of all mountain countries to achieve our collective vision in the days ahead.

I wish you all a memorable and comfortable stay in Kathmandu and that you will also enjoy our cultural diversities. I wish the Conference a grand success.

I thank you all for your kind attention !

Annex 6.6

Chair's Remark

Bijaya Kumar Gacchedar

Honorable Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs

Right Honourable Prime Minister of Nepal, Dr. Baburam Bhattarai,
Honourable Ministers,
Excellencies,
Dr. Rajendra Pachauri,
Distinguished Participants,
Friends from Media and the Non-governmental organisations,
Representatives from the development partners,
Ladies and Gentlemen !

It gives me a great pleasure to be here with you all this morning. I am aware that you have had a very productive discussion yesterday. Your participation here is a testimony of increased concerns and commitments to address the adverse impacts of climate change on the mountains, people and their livelihoods. This Conference has special meaning for all of us. Our joint efforts could lead us to reduce adverse effects and benefit from the initiatives taken.

Nepal is one of the countries at the risk of climate change effects. The Climate Change Risk Atlas 2010 ranks Nepal as the 4th most climate vulnerable country, out of 170 countries. The poor and disadvantaged people are highly vulnerable and its impact would be worst. Climate-induced disasters such as floods, landslides and droughts have claimed over 4,000 people in the last decade with an economic loss of over USD 5.34 billion. Every year more than a million people are directly impacted by such disasters. Impacts will particularly be felt by over 10 million people already vulnerable in rural Nepal. Many of them are women and socially disadvantaged and marginalised people.

We all are in the same page in realizing that climate change is adversely affecting the fragile mountain ecosystems. They are among the early and most serious victims of climate effects. We, therefore, see greater need for pursuing our common challenges together. Our efforts should guide common understanding on climate impacts, state of vulnerability, possible response measures and finance, technologies and skilled human resources required to address these challenges.

Just before the Copenhagen Climate Conference in 2009, we held a Cabinet meeting at an altitude of 5,542 meter, in Kalapatthar which is the base camp of Mount Everest. We had a chance to see and realize the impacts of climate change in the Himalayas and mountains. This calls for urgent action such as greening the planet Earth to keep the majestic Himalayas, the Alps, and the Andes white under the snow. If we fail to act now and decisively, future generations will be deprived of experiencing the

beauty of the snowy mountains and the livelihoods of billions of people residing in the great river basins originated from the mountains will be seriously affected.

There is a strong need for handling this issue at different levels. I believe that translation of commitments into action will provide a basis for institutionalizing evidence-based approaches in climate adaptation and resilience planning and implementation.

Nepal considers the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol as the foundational instruments to deal effectively with global challenge within the broader principles of common but differentiated responsibility and respective capabilities.

Nepal's contribution is only 0.025 percent to the global greenhouse gas emissions. Our Climate Change Policy including sectoral policies focus on forests management and their sustainable use. We adopted several models for natural resource management and found the people-centric model most effective. Over 30 years of experience in engaging user groups in forest management has proved that community user group model works well. Over 15,000 community forestry users groups are now managing around 1.65 million ha (28 percent) of forests by involving 35 percent (2.18 million household) of the total population. In addition, the buffer zones around the protected areas are also managed through buffer zone forest user groups. This has contributed greatly for carbon sequestration and it has prompted us to expand people's participation in development sectors. This has prompted us to implement community-based climate adaptation activities.

Given our huge potential of hydropower, solar and wind energy, we have already adopted for low carbon development path. We need substantial finances and technologies to tap and best utilize the renewable energies.

At the end, let us make this Conference a milestone of hope and success for present and future generations to harness the bounty and beauty of our green planet with white snowy mountains, and pristine blue seas and skies. Let us stop doing anything that converts the 'snowy mountains' into 'black' ones. Let us work together to bring a positive change and make our efforts productive and sustainable our efforts. The Conference outputs will guide us in that direction.

I wish for every success of this Conference.

Thank you all.

Annex 6.7

Vote of Thanks

Mr. Krishna Gyawali

Secretary

Ministry of Environment

Right Honorable Prime Minister of Nepal Dr. Baburam Bhattarai,
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs Mr. Bijaya Kumar Gacchedar,
Honorable Minister for Environment of Nepal Mr. Hem Raj Tater,
Honorable Minister for Environment from State of Qatar
Honorable Ministers, State Ministers, Vice Ministers and other dignitaries,
Members of Parliaments, Heads and Members of Constitutional Bodies,
Keynote Speaker Nobel Laureate Dr. R.K. Pachauri, Chair of the IPCC
Honorable Vice Chair of the National Planning Commission,
Chief Secretary and Secretaries of the Government of Nepal,
Excellencies, Heads and Members of the Delegations, Diplomatic Missions and Development Partner
Organizations,
Distinguished Guests and Ladies and Gentlemen !

On behalf of the Ministry of Environment, Government of Nepal and also the distinguished participants to this international conference on climate change, I would like to express a deep sense of gratitude to the Right Honorable Prime Minister who is the chief guest of this special session today. We are so happy to have you with us here this morning, Right Honorable Prime Minister, because you inspired us by your illustrious presence and enlightening address. Your remarks are a key message to lead us toward what we are aiming to achieve through this conference: and that is, a consensus framework for cooperation reflected through the Kathmandu Call for Action on Mountains and Climate Change. We hope you will be successful to achieve that. Your drawing attention to the plight of the people who are most affected by the climate-induced risks and vulnerabilities and your call for acting urgently and collectively to mitigate those risks were very appropriate. The fact that you could make it to being here despite your extremely hectic schedule amidst a pool of pressing priorities of public concern, shows that you care for climate change and also that you are committed to fighting climate battle by keeping focus on issues that concern mountains and mountain people most.

I am also thankful to the Honorable Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister for Home Affairs for agreeing to participate in this session as a chair. We know how much occupied you are with your job in your very responsible capacity, but your care and concern to us, the mountain lovers and climate stakeholders, drew you toward us here. As a Home Minister, you are equally concerned that climate-induced natural disasters and calamities have been causing huge loss to human lives and physical assets, and we are discussing here how we can mitigate such impacts by focusing more and more

on appropriately suited adaptation strategies both upstream and downstream, or the mountains and plains.

Now I take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to Nobel Laureate Dr R.K. Pachauri for his participation in this conference. Even if we missed you during the inaugural session yesterday, owing to the unavoidable technical circumstances, your presence this morning with the keynote presentation has made us fulfilled. You agreed to extend your stay today to enable us to have this opportunity, and we are grateful to you for your kind gesture. Your presentation was a rich blend of academic and practical information and science-based facts and evidences on climate change and mountains. Thank you Dr. Pachauri !

We are equally thankful to the Honorable Minister for Environment, State of Qatar for being able to attend the later part, the most important part, of this conference and also delivering your very thoughtful address with important messages to all of us. As a host to the next COP meeting of climate change, you have immense responsibilities to weather through the hiccups of climate change negotiations and lead them to successful and agreeable conclusions. We have full faith in your leadership, Honorable Minister, and hope that you will be able to fulfill your role in keeping with the needs, expectations and priorities of not only developing countries but also the mountain countries which form over 20 percent of the earth's land surface and provide shelter to 12 percent of the world population. We are ready to extend every possible support to you and wish all success. Also, as a thriving nation with accelerated pace of economic growth, your support to countries needing investment in mitigating climate vulnerabilities through renewable energy, biodiversity conservation and eco-tourism will count a lot.

My special thanks are due to the Honorable Minister of State for Environment and Forests, Government of India for her message to the conference sent in the form of statement that was just read out by the Joint Secretary Rathore from the Government of India. Even if you could not join us, and made us miss you, Honorable Minister, we will remain thankful to you for your kind words of support and encouragement. We acknowledge the very effective role that India has been playing globally with its firm and just stance on so many intricate issues of climate change negotiations.

Finally, like in yesterday's session, I want to thank all the distinguished guests and participants today as well, and appeal for your continued participation to the remaining sessions today until we bring this conference to a successful closure with a concrete achievement. Please assure us that you will not leave the conference before that happens, because together we can make it, and so we will make it.

Thank you !!

Closing Session

Annex 7.1

Statement

Narayan Kaji Shrestha

Honorable Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs

Honorable Minister for Environment Mr. Hemraj Tater
Hon. Ministers,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Friends from the media,
Ladies and gentlemen.

At the outset, let me extend my warm felicitations to all the distinguished delegates and participants who have actively participated in this International Conference of Mountain Countries on Climate Change to share mutual experiences and forge a common agenda for global action. I would also like to express my gratitude to the organizer for providing me an opportunity to address this important meeting.

I am pleased to note that constructive deliberations over the last two days have led to satisfactory conclusion of this international conference. The Kathmandu Call for Action which was adopted by this Conference a short while ago, is a momentous step forward in order to create a common understanding among mountain countries in matters related to impacts of climate change on mountain ecosystems and mountain communities. This Call, I believe, will create a platform for coordinated and unified efforts to integrate mountain issues into the global development agenda. The world community needs to acknowledge that the mountain countries, though at a disadvantaged position socio-economically, do possess a good reservoir of accumulated knowledge and best practices which can be shared and applied at the national, regional as well as international levels for achieving sustainable and people-centric development. Enhanced cooperation and a true spirit of partnership among the development partners and the mountain countries under the global framework such as UNFCCC and other sustainable development platforms are necessary to abate the impacts of climate change on the ecological systems, and reduce vulnerabilities on life and livelihoods. A commitment for the flow of adequate financial resources, knowhow and technology on the part of developed nations will ensure a healthy and balanced development for all those living on the planet earth. I thank you all for your candid and constructive inputs on the common issue. I strongly believe that there is a strong need to

develop a common framework for effective collaboration that would allow mountainous countries and regions to make joint efforts to reduce risks, vulnerability and build resilient mountain communities through long-term adaptation actions that can ensure vital ecosystem resources for human well-being.

Mountains cover around 25 percent of the Earth's land surface and host about 13 percent of the world population. They provide essential ecosystem goods and services to the billions of people living in the up-stream and downstream areas. There is a close nexus between the mountains and water resources, bio diversity, and livelihoods.

Climate change poses a grave threat to the global mountain systems. And, mountains are getting more and more vulnerable to global warming taking place at an alarming pace. The rate of warming on the mountains is faster than in the plains due to increased emissions of Green House Gases. High-elevation plants and the bio-diversity are declining. Availability of freshwater for environment cycles and for human uses is seriously affected. Frequency and ferocity of extreme events such as floods, drought, and crop failures are increasing. These phenomenon necessitates the mountain countries of the world to come together in the interest of preserving and protecting mountains, mountain ecology, the livelihoods of the peoples as well as their customs, traditions and cultural heritages associated with the mountains. In the light of this, the Government of Nepal is privileged to host this first ever conference of Mountain countries on climate change to discuss myriad of issues confronted.

In my own country, one of the least developed Himalayan countries, scarce resources are to be devoted to raise the status of the common people from a state of poverty, deprivation and underdevelopment. But climate change and its multidimensional risks, threats and implications, particularly related to the poor and the vulnerable ones, have become new challenges and additional causes of serious concern for us. A large majority of our people derive their livelihood from agriculture and related activities. Anything that affects our agriculture has direct bearing on our people. We have been facing not only delayed monsoon but less and skewed precipitation as well. The result is that food scarcity is hitting us harder these days. Flash floods, threat of glacier lakes outburst, changing weather patterns, landslides, untimely rainfall, new strains and virulence of diseases are some of the visible impacts we have been experiencing.

Although our own share in the global Green House Gas emission is less than 0.025%, we have already been made to bear the brunt of global warming. Climate change, therefore, is a very serious issue for us. The adverse impacts of climate change have even threatened to reverse the gains we have made in the socio-economic development process if we do not take comprehensive and collaborative efforts at a broader global level.

I believe that this Conference is able to appropriately place the concerns and issues of mountain countries on the international agenda and vindicate the imperatives of the international community for giving a strategic attention to the concerns and expectations of mountainous countries. There are not only problems and challenges but tremendous opportunities and potentialities available in

the mountains. The international community needs to recognize the interdependency among various ecosystems and come up with enhanced policies, institutional structures, funding mechanisms and support systems that promote multi-stakeholder involvement in managing the resources available in the mountainous countries.

Let me thank the UN agencies, development partners, civil societies, I/NGOs, academia, private sector and the media for their strong support and solidarity to make this conference a success and in raising the issues of impacts of climate change on mountain regions in the international fora.

As we conclude the Conference, let's collectively resolve ourselves, once again, to effectively raise our common priorities in international climate change negotiation under the aegis of UNFCCC and other similar platforms including the upcoming Rio+20 Summit which is crucial to bring qualitative change in the lives of millions of people living in the mountain countries.

I thank you all for your kind attention !

Chair's Remarks

Hemraj Tater

Honorable Minister for Environment

Honourable Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Narayan Kaji Shrestha
Honourable Ministers,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates and participants,
Representatives of the development partners and civil society,
Friends from the media,
Ladies and gentlemen !

We are at the closing session of the International Conference of Mountains Countries on Climate Change. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your active participation and contribution to make the Conference successful and productive.

The last two days have seen a monumental shift in how countries come together to find a common ground on mountain issues. We have, now, with us the Kathmandu Call for Action on mountains and the climate change – the outcome of the efforts of all of us. This provides additional opportunities to collaborate amongst all of us and with other mountainous countries, development partners and institutions, and implement activities to address the adverse impacts of climate change on the mountains, its resources, people and their livelihood.

Honourable Ministers, we know a great deal of work lies ahead for all of us but I believe our joint commitment and collaborative efforts to act together will lead us to a prosperous future and guide us towards destination. We have listened to the voices of representatives from across the world. Some urgent and important messages have also been received and I consider that they will be the strong building blocks for our future works. We heard consistently about the need for the voices of mountain people to be better recognized in the climate negotiation and other multilateral environmental agreements.

I would like to thank you all the participants, development partners, government colleagues, scientists and especially the Minister! Thank you very much for your active participation and strong commitment! All of your presence has made this Conference a great success.

Now, I would now like to officially close the International Conference of Mountains Countries on Climate Change. I wish you all the safe journey back home, and hope to welcome you again in Nepal.

Thank you all.

Annex 7.3

Vote of Thanks

Batu Krishna Uprey
Joint-Secretary (Tech.)
Ministry of Environment

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Minister for Environment
Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Chief Guest of this program
Hon'ble Ministers
Excellencies
Secretaries of the Government of Nepal
Distinguished participants
Representatives from development partners, NGOs and media
Colleagues
Ladies and Gentlemen !

Now we are close to the end of this two-day International Conference of Mountain Countries on Climate Change. We can now agree, I believe, that the Conference went off very well and participants agreed on a very meaningful way forward - Kathmandu Call for Action on Mountains and the Climate Change.

Speaking on behalf of the organiser, my role is to offer vote of thanks. Let me take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to the Right Honourable President of Nepal Dr. Ram Baran Yadav for inaugurating this Conference and giving thought provoking statement despite his busy schedules. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to the Right Honourable Prime Minister of Nepal Dr. Baburam Bhattarai for addressing this august gathering this morning with clear and very strong message for our future course of actions. We are grateful to Honourable Madhav Kumar Nepal, Former Prime Minister of Nepal who had put forward this idea in Copenhagen during the COP15 and given a very strong message for working together for the cause of mountains and climate change.

Similarly, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Mr. Bijaya Kumar Gacchedar, Honourable Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs for sparing his valuable time to chair the Special Session and for valuable statements. Similarly, I express my sincere gratitude to you, Honourable Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, for being with us in this closing session of the Conference and inspiring us to move ahead in this venture.

Let me take this opportunity, Mr. Chairman of this session, Honourable Minister for Environment, to express my sincere gratitude for your commitment and guidance to organise this Conference and also being with us for the whole of two days. I would also like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to Honourable Durga Devi Mahato, State Minister for Environment for launching of

the Nepal Climate Change Support Program and the National Framework on Local Adaptation Plan for Action (LAPA) - a framework developed to implement climate adaptation activities all over the country.

We are very grateful to Dr. Rajendra Pachauri, Nobel Laureate and Chair of IPCC and Director General, TERI for sparing his valuable time and providing insights through keynote speech and providing reflections during the Ministerial Panel. His contribution on the science of climate change and to the climate change processes is always high inspiring to us engaged in this process.

We are extremely grateful to Mr. Madhav Prasad Ghimire, Chief Secretary of the Government of Nepal, for guiding us in finalising the Kathmandu Call for Action.

Let me also take this opportunity to thank Ms. Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary to the Climate Change Convention and Mr. Appa Sherpa, 21 times Mount Everest Summitteer for their enlightened video messages to the conference.

I would like to appreciate the role played by Honourable Ministers, Heads and members of delegation, and representative of the international organisations for your very active participation and inspiring statements as keynote speakers and panellists. Your participation and commitment is a clear indication for collective actions and guidance towards meeting our desired objectives of addressing the impacts of climate change in the mountain ecosystem and other ecosystems. I would like to express our sincere appreciation and acknowledgement to you, Your Excellency, Gyan Chandra Acharya, Nepal's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, for moderating the panel discussion and steering the process of finalising the Kathmandu Call for Action. I would equally like to appreciate Mr. Kul Chandra Gautam, former Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations, Dr. Young-woo Park, UNEP Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific and Mr. Quamrul Islam Chaudhary, Climate Change Negotiator for your excellent moderation at different sessions. Similarly, I would like to thank you Your Excellencies, representatives of the donor agencies and development partners, participants of the national governmental and non-governmental organisations, and media for accepting our invitation and actively participating in the Conference.

I would like to appreciate the continued support and thank the Conference partners, namely UK Aid/DFID, European Union, Royal Norwegian Embassy, USAID, SNV, UNDP, ICIMOD, ADB, World Bank, and CDKN for your support to organize the Conference. The ICIMOD and IDS - Nepal are thankfully acknowledged for the technical support provided to us. Furthermore, ICIMOD is acknowledged for joining the Government in organizing the International Expert Consultation whose outcomes have been very helpful in concluding the Conference. I have pleasure to appreciate Clean Energy Nepal (CEN) and Climate Action Network, South Asia (CANSAs) for joining hands with the Ministry of Environment to organize the South Asian Parliamentarian's Workshop on Climate Change. Recommendations of these events were shared with the participants in today's afternoon session in order to finalise the Kathmandu Call for Action.

I do hope you have enjoyed the exhibition. It was organized in partnering with the NGO Federation of Nepal. Let me also thank all institutions who actively participated in sharing their information through exhibition.

As you know journalists have a greater role in translating our products into simple and people-friendly manner. It has been done with the support from the Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists (NEFEJ) as a media partner. I would like to acknowledge and appreciate your support in the Conference.

There are many people involved in organizing the conference. The remarkable role played by our liaison officers, and young volunteers is greatly acknowledged.

Let me also appreciate the Hotel Management for the best service you have offered for the conference and our international participants.

There are many institutions and friends engaged directly or indirectly to make this Conference successful. I wanted to name many persons, but due to limited time, it would be possible for me to take only a few names who were in always contact with us, namely, Mr. Simon Lucas, Ms. Sabita Thapa, and Ms. Clare Shakya from UK DFID, Mr. Ranjan Shrestha from EU, Ms. Claudia Saddof and Ms. Stephanie from World Bank, Mr. Bibek Chapagain from the Royal Norwegian Embassy, Mr. Saroj Rai from SNV, Mr. Netra Timsina from USID and Haryoban Programme team, and Ms. Cindy Malvinci from ADB. I would also like to appreciate the role of Mr. Brian Hardin and Ms. Anupa Rimal from UNDP, and Ms. Elizabeth from CDKN. Sometimes moral support also counts a lot to initiate activities. I value and count on your support.

Dr. David Molden and Dr. Madhav Karki and their professional team from ICMOD and Dr. Dinesh Chandra Devkota, Visiting Professor, CDES, TU and Ms. Prabha Pokhrel and her team from IDS - Nepal are also highly appreciated. I would also like to appreciate the contribution of Mr. Laxman Uprety and Mr. Kosmos Bishwakarma and their team in NEFEJ and other personalities from media, and Mr. Manjeet Dhakal from Clean Energy Nepal. Let me take this opportunity to thank and appreciate you, Ms. Naina Shakya, for your melodious voice and wonderful announcement skill.

It would be unfair if I did not appreciate my colleagues in the Climate Change Management Division, Ministry of Environment who might have not met their families for at least two weeks as I found them fully engaged in the Conference preparatory activities right from early morning to late night. I applaud their hard and professional work. Can I advise Mr. Arjun Thapa and your team to stand up to make you all visible! Let us give them big hands. At the end, Mr. Rudra Bahadur Raya - I like your working culture and appreciate your efficiency in handling issues within a short time that is really commendable.

I thank you all.

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