



# PERMANENT MISSION OF NEPAL TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Tel: 212 370 3988/89; Fax: 212 953 2038; E-mail: [nepal@un.int](mailto:nepal@un.int); Website: [www.un.int/nepal](http://www.un.int/nepal)

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Statement on behalf of the Least Developed Countries by H.E. Ambassador Mr. Gyan Chandra Acharya, Permanent Representative of Nepal, at the Opening Session of the CSD-19 Inter-Governmental Preparatory Meeting (New York, 28 February 2011)

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of Least Developed Countries (LDCs). My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the Republic of Argentina on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. I thank the Secretary General and his team for the preparation of various reports for our substantive discussions during the current session.

The LDCs highly value the work of CSD-19 as it provides us with the opportunity to consider on the five vital themes, namely Transport, Chemicals, Waste Management, Mining, and 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns, and also aims at taking decision on policy options and practical actions to advance implementation in the thematic area of the cluster.

Mr. Chairman,

**Transport and mobility** are the essential factors of sustainable development which highly contribute to social and economic development and are closely associated with the environmental aspect as well. The situation of the availability of adequate and affordable transport system determines the pace of development of a nation and welfare of its common mass. The LDCs are lagging behind in their attempts to achieve sustainable development due to the unavailability of proper transport infrastructures and transport services, lack of expansion of road networks and access to affordable transport services, particularly in rural and remote areas, and lack of adequate technology and skilled manpower working in this sector. The high transport costs, difficulty in building railways, road infrastructures, bridges, tunnels and paved roads have further complicated the transportation system in these countries, perpetuated poverty and hunger, and constrained their efforts to progress towards attaining the internationally agreed development goals including the MDGs.

The report of the Secretary-General E/CN.17/2011/4 states that **1 billion people in developing countries do not have access to an all-weather road and that around 1.2 million people die each year in road accidents, 90% of these deaths occur in the developing world.** This tells of the grim picture of the situation of transport accessibility and road safety in the developing countries. The situation is more severe in the LDCs in this connection. The LDCs, many of the SIDs and other mountainous and landlocked countries often experience transport and trading cost disadvantages caused by relatively small maritime and other transport services and face particular challenges in development of transport infrastructures as well as in their effective participation in international trade. The situation of physical isolation and lack of market integration has greatly contributed to poverty and marginalization of the rural and vulnerable communities, and has highly affected the small-scale subsistence farmers, women and children living there. Likewise, most of the urban areas, majority of them lacking proper city-planning and being disorganised, lack public transport services and have caused economic losses and growing health hazards due to high consumption of fuels, congestion and air pollution. Therefore, there is an urgent need of providing enough support in capacity-building, technology transfer and financial assistance along with enhanced level of investment in transport infrastructure and services and sharing of expert information to address the critical transport requirements in the LDCs. It is also critically important for them to have the arrangements of all modes of transport and their efficient integration, including road, rail and air transport.

Mr. Chairman,

Sound management of **chemicals** is also critical for sustainable development. The chemical products are frequently used in a range of sectors connected with the daily life of people such as agriculture, health care, energy, industry, cosmetics, preservatives, mining and mineral processing, plastic production and so on. As chemicals are essential in having multiple inputs on human well-being ranging from economic to environmental, they still have severe negative impacts on both human health and environment. Therefore, it is important to maintain chemical safety to prevent and reduce the risks arising from the chemicals, especially the toxic chemicals and pesticides, hazardous chemicals and radio-active wastes.

The lack of financial resources and capacity to handle such materials as well as the lack of adequate information of potential health and environmental risks associated with them have resulted in the improper management of chemicals in developing countries,

particularly in LDCs. The majority of the people in these countries are, therefore, vulnerable to adverse effects of hazardous and toxic chemicals as they work in agricultural sectors and even lack the basic knowledge of properly handling them. It is, therefore, an imperative to have regular exchanges of information on chemical safety and the potential hazardous chemicals in products as well as to strengthen cooperative action on the issues such as biotechnology, e-waste and others for sound and sustainable chemical management. The LDCs should be provided with the adequate financial support, transfer of appropriate and affordable technology and technical cooperation in this connection. Concerted efforts are also required for reducing the risks of toxic chemicals in their entire life cycle with cooperation and support of the international community for the Sound management of such chemicals.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The entire human life, overall economy, environment and natural resources have been greatly affected by the ever increasing amount and diversification of **waste**, which has been caused by urbanization, industrialization, and unsustainable production and consumption patterns. The lack of proper management of waste has resulted in land, water and air pollutions undermining our progress towards the achievement of MDGs. There is also a growing unsustainable pattern of creating waste in the consumption habits, which must also be changed at the global level. In this context, it is important to implement the Rio principles including the 'common but differentiated responsibility; including the precautionary approach, 'the polluter pays' principle. Sustainable development requires the effective management of solid waste, hazardous waste and sewage. The management of waste involves collection, disposal, waste minimization, recycle and energy generation. In this context, the particular attention should be accorded to the management of hazardous wastes and e-wastes. For this, an effective and environment oriented waste management calls for immediate attention from national and local governments. As such management is costly and beyond the reach of the poor communities and poor countries as LDCs, they need investment in capacity development, along with other financial and technical supports. It is also essential to effectively implement the Basel Convention (on the Control of Trans-boundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal) as most of the developing countries have been confronting the continuing and worsening effects of the e-waste at present.

**Mr. Chairman,**

**Mining**, minerals and metals are significantly important for the economic and social development of many countries, including LDCs. Mining activities have in a number of cases generated few or limited benefits to producing countries in terms of economic growth and poverty reduction. The process of mining itself has caused critical social and environmental impacts on communities living next to extraction sites and sometimes at the country level. International cooperation is a must to deal with these problems.

We attach high significance to the issues relating to assessing the options for a **10-year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns**, which is an important component to achieve progress towards sustainable development. We believe that the development needs and aspirations of the LDCs would be taken into account while framing this important process. The 10 YFP should foster the programs related to Sustainable Consumption and Production in accordance with the developmental aspirations of the developing countries, particularly the LDCs, without imposing any kind of conditionality and extra-burdens to them as they are already vulnerable and poor countries affected by both the internal and external shocks. Moreover, the 10 YFP should address the special challenges faced by LDCs and provide an enhanced level of international support, including in capacity building and making substantial progress towards sustainable development.

**Mr. Chairman,**

We must be mindful of the **inter-linkages** among the issues that are going to be considered. There is no doubt that all countries need to produce the goods and services necessary to satisfy the fundamental needs of their populations, but the special attention should be given to the countries facing numerous challenges and struggling to achieve the MDGs. Growth and poverty reduction cannot be undermined as it relates to the physical survival and wellbeing of the people. It is crucial that we address these issues within the limits of our already stressed natural systems as meeting the MDGs requires production and consumption of more goods and services to meet our basic needs.

Today, LDCs face the multiple challenges of crises of global economic and financial, food, energy and the adverse impact of climate change which have posed a serious threat in the efforts of these countries in all three fronts of sustainable development. The LDCs are unlikely to achieve the economic sustainability of development without the increased level of support for their economic growth and sustainable economic development. This requires an enhanced level of financial support from the development partners along with the sincere implementation of the agreed commitments made earlier in the international conferences and meeting the pledged commitment of 0.15 to 0.20% GNP as official development assistance to the LDCs. In view of the special needs and vulnerabilities of the LDCs, the developed countries must take concrete steps to increasing financial assistance, reducing and canceling debt, curbing trade barriers, opening their markets, transferring technology and building capacity in these countries. There is a strong need for a coherent and concerted approach to addressing the issues of the sustainable development in a holistic manner, particularly in the LDCs. We hope that the developed countries, the UN system, multilateral financial institutions and other related stakeholders will adopt such an approach to sustainable development taking into account the special needs of the vulnerable countries.