

## **Strengthening Climate Action in LLDCs: Nepal's experience and expectations on adaptation, mitigation and resilience building**

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*Moderator of this session: H.E. Mr. Collen Vixen Kelapile; Excellences, colleagues and friends,*

Recent scientific assessment reports by IPCC, IPBES and ICIMOD amply demonstrate that mountain countries are facing the combined impact of global polycrisis. Nepal being located in the central Himalaya is perhaps a few among the LLDCs where interacting crises of climate change, atmospheric and cryospheric pollutions, biodiversity loss, persistent poverty and hidden hunger as well as pandemics are dangerously interacting creating multidimensional vulnerabilities and impacts. The estimated temperature increase during the last 45 years is already above 2 degree Celsius in our high mountains. Severe events of frequent droughts, floods, landslides and climate-induced disasters including extreme unseasonal floods are becoming new normal. Around 37% of the total land area is degraded resulting in food crisis, biodiversity loss, invasion by alien species, river siltation, and food and water shortages. The rapid melting of Himalayan glaciers besides creating climate induced hazards is also contributing to sea level rise and expected to cause water shortages for over 1.5 billion people.

Nepal has recently approved its NDC Implementation Plan and Long-term Climate Finance Strategy for meeting our huge finance gaps to fund our enhanced NDC, National Adaptation Plan and Long-term Mitigation Strategy. Our estimated financial need is USD around 46.4 billion by 2050, bulk of which will be used to build climate resilient communities, ecosystems, infrastructure development and institutional capacity enhancement. Nepal's huge water and hydro energy resources, rich mountain biodiversity and forests will play a key role in Nepal's adaptation, mitigation and resilience building plans to attain our net zero goal by 2045.

Nepal, besides being the water tower and clean energy source for South Asia, has globally recognized success stories of community based natural resources management, local adaptation action plans (LAPAs) and community based nature conservation to scale-up our adaptation, mitigation and resilience building plans. Scaling-up of these experiences will help us achieve net zero deforestation, reduce methane production by 30% and replace 25% fossil fuels by clean energy sources.

Therefore, it is critical to conserve, restore and sustainably manage Nepal's forests, water, range lands and protected areas to support scaled up adaptation and mitigation

activities – nationally and regionally. Since the climate and other crises are of trans-boundary nature, regional cooperation among HKH and LLD Countries is vital to build resilient mountain communities and ecosystems. For this, proper leveraging of scaled-up and transparent international climate finance is critical. Equally vital need is to develop and launch transformational trans-boundary and regional resilience building approaches. Cross-regional knowledge and experience sharing is always necessary to fill in the constantly emerging knowledge, information and data gaps as the dangerous interaction of multiple crises have high degree of uncertainty, unpredictability and extreme behaviors.

Excellences, in closing allow me to stress that High Mountains of most of the LLDCs are the “water towers” of the world and global hotspots for biodiversity. The true values of the ecosystem goods and services derived from these LLDC Mountains are under-recognized, under-valued and poorly compensated. I therefore, call upon our national, regional and global development partners to help LLDCs to scale-up adaptation, mitigation and resilience building projects leading to sustainable mountain development for achieving shared prosperity and protection of our people and planet.

Thank you.