Chairperson,

Honorable Ministers,

Excellences,

Distinguished participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen!

Good morning and Namaste!

At the outset let me thank the High-Level Forum on South-South Cooperation on Climate Change, The Southern Climate Partnership Incubator (SCPI), for organizing this important meeting. I believe this meeting will provide guidance in paving the ways to future cooperation for the effective implementation of the Paris Agreement and achievement of sustainable development goals. .

Within reach of entry-into-force of the historical Paris Agreement, the world is entering a new stage of pursuing low carbon sustainable development. At the same time, the leadership and contributions from developing countries have become widely recognized, and South-South Cooperation on climate change has been gaining momentum as an important modality for international cooperation. This new initiative is expected to foster partnerships among developing countries to assist one another to implement the Paris Agreement on climate change and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Chairperson and Excellences,

We are aware that the Paris Agreement is the outcome of the hard work put together by the parties and many stakeholders across the world. As it is a historical milestone on the way to better collaboration among nations for low carbon economies and cooperation, our efforts need to be focused on this landmark agreement in days to come. It is in this sense that early entry into force, its implementation and global partnership for actions are all critical parts of Paris Agreement. Nepal has ratified the Paris Agreement through national process and already submitted the instrument of ratification to UNFCCC on October 5, 2016.

Being one of the most vulnerable countries in the world, Nepal has experienced increased number of landslides, floods, melting of glaciers, erratic rainfall and loss of biodiversity causing huge loss of our natural assets and posing threat to ecosystems in recent decades. As the impacts of these natural disasters vary on topographic gradients in a country like Nepal with rugged and diverse terrain within a small area, it is very difficult to devise one-size-fit solution to assess the causes and address them with urgent and longer term interventions. When we were gearing up to tackle with the impact caused by human-induced climate change, last year a devastating earthquake made our physical and economic condition more fragile.

However, with the limited resources available and with support from bilateral and multilateral agencies, Nepal is making arduous efforts to combat climate change through policy formulation, institutional strengthening, capacity building, action planning and project implementation. Building on the past lessons, we are planning to coordinate for financial resources for implementing suitable climate change adaptation and mitigation measures, that will also contribute to sustainable development.

Chairperson/ Excellences,

Nepal's emission level is considered negligible. Nonetheless, we would like to be a part of climate solution at regional and global level with actions and examples. Our future lies in remaining a low carbon society for which we want to progressively reduce the use of fossil fuels and replace the use of biomass-based energy by that of renewable and alternative sources of energy such as hydropower, solar and wind. In order to realize this mission, we are also in a final stage of approval of Low Carbon Economic Development Strategy and National REDD+ strategy, while at the same time we are also formulating National Adaptation Plan. We have also identified actions on climate change as an essential prerequisite for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and intend to highlight the importance of south-south cooperation to tackle climate change. We believe that the adoption of the Paris Agreement sets a historic turning point in global efforts to address climate change. It delivers a much-needed victory for multilateralism, and creates renewed political momentum and an expectation of broad participation. When we are here, we should also not forget that there is much work to be done to interpret and elaborate the Paris Agreement and to build further political momentum by engaging in the rule making process and devising concrete activities to address the needs of most vulnerable countries facing serious threat to humanity.

Chairperson/ Excellences,

It is expected that the Southern Climate Partnership Incubator (SCPI), as a new initiative will foster partnerships among the Global South in the areas of renewable energy, climate resilience, smart cities and big data application. Nepal would like to learn more from this initiative and participate in its collaborative actions. Nepal would like to underscore the importance of South-South cooperation on climate change and welcome this new initiative. Nepal is ready to work with all stakeholders in the field of South-South cooperation and wants to stress on solidarity, ownership, country-driven process, and cooperation for mutual benefits, as the essence of south-south cooperation.

At the end, I wish this meeting very successful and productive. This meeting will identify the future course of priority actions in implementation of the Paris Agreement and help country like ours to speed up the interventions. I believe, this meeting will also encourage us to prepare ourselves for the implementation of the Paris Agreement and realize its positive outcomes at local, national, regional and global levels. I do appreciate once again this initiative and hope for realistic and meaningful actions in future.

Thank you very much.