

Nepal: Country Statement (79th session of the session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific on the theme “*Accelerating climate action in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable development*”

15 May, 2023

Madam Chair, Excellencies, and Distinguished Delegates,

Namaste! Good afternoon to everyone. First of all, I would like to congratulate you Madam Chair for being elected as chair to the seventy-ninth Commission Session.

Let me also extend my delegation’s gratitude to the Royal Thai Government and the ESCAP Secretariat for the successful convening of the Seventy-Ninth Session of ESCAP.

It is an honor for me to share perspectives on the theme of “***Accelerating climate action in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable development***”. Climate change is a major global challenge that has affected countries around the world amidst the ongoing geo-political conflicts and COVID-19 pandemic. It is essential to resolve these issues for peace, harmony and prosperity. Accelerating climate action in Asia and the Pacific is a priority for sustainable development and prosperity of the people in the region.

Madam Chair, Excellencies, and Distinguished delegates,

Nepal has made remarkable progress towards achieving Sustainable Development goals in many areas including poverty alleviation, education, gender empowerment and health. Climate change measures have been integrated into development plans and strategies in all layers of the government.

The government has made notable progress in reducing disaster risk, with direct economic loss due to disasters at 2.5 percent of GDP in 2019. The government's efforts to alleviate poverty, reduce inequality, increase institutional capacity in education, health, energy, environmental protection, public service delivery and increase people's access to basic services have been successful.

Nepal has integrated climate action in its 15th periodic plan and its national policies and programs to achieve net zero carbon neutrality from 2022-2045. It also aims to reduce deforestation and increase forest cover to 45% by 2030. Nepal has committed to protecting vulnerable people from climate change by 2030 and has implemented conducive policies for the use of electric vehicles. The country has also raised issues related to climate change adaptation, losses and damage, climate finance, food security, indigenous people and agriculture.

Nepal faces challenges in climate change, such as lack of research, data, and institutional capacity, leading to poor mainstreaming of climate change issues and hindrances for the country.

Nepal is graduating in 2026 from the Least Developed Country (LDC) category. The crucial task of preparing a robust and smooth transition strategy is essential to attain climate action and resilience.

ESCAP is an important initiative to promote environmental sustainability and mitigate climate change. It is a way to strengthen regional cooperation and engage in inclusive dialogue on interrelated issues. The 79th Session of ESCAP provides an avenue for people to partake in the collective journey of development and sustainability in the Asia and the Pacific region and around the world.

Thank you very much.