

Mr. Chairman, Excellences, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.

On behalf of my delegation, I would like to express our sincere gratitude and thanks to UNESCAP for inviting and providing this opportunity to make statement in this very important meeting.

In Nepal, the Constitution provides conducive framework for democratic and rights based development. Nepal's current federal structure also provides enough environment for macroeconomic stability and propelling inclusive growth.

With this, our focus has now been on economic development under a broad national vision of "Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali".

In alignment with this broader aim of the country, the Government of Nepal has adopted the 15th Periodic Plan along with the 25 year Long Term Vision of Nepal which aims to lay out a transformational inclusive

development pathway and bring about structural changes in the economy with the double digit growth.

Furthermore, graduating the country from the LDC status to a developing one by 2022, becoming a middle income country and achieving SDGs by 2030, and subsequently a high income country in next 25 year is also one of the major goals of the long term vision of Nepal.

Mr. Chairman,

Since the landmark, transformative and ambitious 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development were adopted, Nepal's focus has been on it's timely, effective and full implementation in synergy and coherence with other specific programs of action like the Istanbul Program of Action, Vienna Program of Action and Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

Nepal has mainstreamed SDGs into the national and Sub National Government level plans and programs. They are now being localized. We have laid a special focus on achieving the targets of SDGs.

Nepal, in 2017, presented Voluntary National Review that realistically highlighted the status of the implementation of 2030 Agenda and our

unique and special challenges. This year Nepal again registered for presentation of VNR in HLPF, 2020 and will present our status and progress on Implementation of 2030 Agenda.

The SDGs are not mutually exclusive. In order to address the key development challenges, we policymakers should identify interrelationships and synergies between the 17 SDGs and 169 targets.

In Nepal, there has been significant progress towards poverty alleviation as a result of several efforts. However, about one-fifth of the population is still below the national poverty line and prevalence of inequality exists among certain geographical area, social groups and strata of the society. We are committed to reducing all forms of inequalities. Various targeted programmes are in place for leaving no one behind in both local and national levels. The wealth based Gini Coefficient is decline to 0.31 in recent year.

Various programs have been implemented to enhance access, retention and quality education, particularly for the poor and disadvantaged groups. The Net Enrolment Ratio (NER), as a result, reached almost 96 percent in primary education.

The Government of Nepal launched contribution-based Social Security Scheme, which is a historical step towards promoting sustainable and inclusive economic growth for people working in all sectors of economy, and achieving decent work for all.

Being a mountainous country, Nepal lies at the hotspot of climate change. The adverse impacts of climate change disproportionately affect us despite our negligible emissions.

In order to reduce vulnerabilities to Climate Change and its impacts, the Government of Nepal is taking on a number of initiatives to integrate mitigation and adaptation of climate change at the national and sub-national levels. Climate change adaptation plans in rural municipalities, climate smart farming are some of the initiatives proposed. The forest cover is increasing and now covers about 45% of our territory.

We are increasing supply of clean energy each year through hydropower development. Also Country is focusing its investment on big infrastructures including roads, airports and railroads.

Nepal has come a long way to participatory democracy, and elements of good governance like transparency and accountability. Nepal has been constantly working towards improving the status of women, and children and eradicating all forms of violence against them. We recognize that a

strong justice system is essential in the formation of a peaceful society and has been constantly working towards that.

Mr. Chairman,

In addition, we have also prepared the SDGs: Needs Assessment, Costing and Financing Strategy. The document identifies the financing gap for SDGs, patterns of available resource allocation against investment requirement in major SDG areas, and the interventions and strategies needed for achieving the goals.

In Nepal's, about 18 billion USD per year is required to achieve the sustainable development goals. All modes of financing --public as well as private, and domestic as well as international-- must be leveraged on.

To conclude, Mr. Chairman, we must match our words with our action to truly ensure that no one is left behind. We have the capacity, means and resources to address the challenges, what we need here is a strong commitment, vision, partnership and collaboration coupled with intensive investment. And, we have to optimize them from all quarters.

So, It would be instrumental, if UNESCAP can make some rigorous country specific analytical studies and capacity building training and workshops on

the mainstreaming, localization and institutionalization of SDGs in LDCs ,LLDCs and SIDS with appropriate financing strategy and make recommendations for generating, sharing and sustaining the prosperity in the region.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman!