

Statement made by His Excellency Dr. Durgesh Man SINGH, Royal
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European Union

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Change

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We stand very much alive to this potential problem of climatic change notwithstanding the fact that, as Nepal stands today with largely underdeveloped economy, her present contribution to total existing emissions currently stands at a negligible level.

The Convention clearly stipulates that the single most important cause of widespread CO₂ gas emission is largely industry-induced. It has been a logical consequence of improper handling of the issues of development and environment, manifested in irrational consumption patterns, a dogged over-emphasis on consumerism without consideration of its benefits to the person, the society or the environment and the over-exploitation of the natural resources thereof in what is known as the industrialized affluent societies. To that extent the major brunt of responsibility to ameliorate this naturally lies on the shoulders of this category of industrialized affluent countries. This may, in the view of my delegation, lie in the observation of the followings:

- i) streamlining extravagant irrational consumption pattern now manifested in the emphasis on consumerism
- ii) promotion of efficient system of industrial production and transportation which takes due cognizance of the need to streamline wasteful wrongly-priced energy, and
- iii) extending necessary and adequate cooperation to developing countries by technical and financial support, transfer of technology and, in the ultimate analysis, development of sustainable technology.

At the same time, Madame President, let me submit that, in the ultimate analysis, the issue of climate change is not to be limited about the control of greenhouse gases alone. Tackling the problem of existing level of poverty and sustainable development are the decisive issues which have given rise to frightening environmental scenario in many developing countries. Therefore, this deserves all seriousness that we could give. Also, what has been accepted here in a spirit of compromise by participating countries the "principle of common and differentiated responsibilities" warrant our appreciation.

It is important to see that what has been done in terms of commitments here to reduce gas emissions to a level of 1990 by 2000 needs to be fulfilled in sincerity. We also record our sense of appreciation some of those countries which have indicated their country programmes to make larger reductions of CO₂ gas emissions at pre-1990 levels as a step forward.

I thank you.