

Presentation by the Hon'ble State Minister Mr. Bhakta Bahadur Balayar  
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**United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change  
(UNFCCC)-Fifth Session of the Conference of the Parties  
2- 4 November, 1999, Bonn, Germany**

Mr. President, Hon'ble Ministers, Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

First of all let me to congratulate you, Mr. President personally and on behalf of my delegation for guiding the deliberations, in an excellent manner in this high level segment of the fifth session under UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, held at this historic and beautiful city Bonn, of the Federal Republic of Germany, a famous nation of cultural and scientific heritage, which has been a generous partner in Nepal's economic development efforts. I hereby, take the pleasure and honor of assuring you of my full co-operation, in your guiding and conducting of our deliberations to productive end of this extremely important gathering on climate change.

Mr. President !

Himalaya is the major Resource Centre of Asia, nourishing the whole continent with its ramifying river systems and the extensive wealth of biodiversity. The region is presently lacking in the development of hydropower and industrial growth. Being a high potentiality of hydropower, Nepal has not been able to harness its abundant water resources to supply necessary energy to our emerging industrial sector that would also limit the green house effect and supplying the energy through a regional power grid can abate the emissions made by thermal power stations.

Mr. President !

Our records since 1968 indicate that there has been progressive rise of  $0.5^{\circ}$  Celsius temperature for the globe in every decade. Comparative observations during 1974 to 1994, reveal that due to such global warming the glaciers of the Hidden Valley located in-between Dhaulagiri and Tibetan highland of the eastern Himalayan region, are melting to a depth of 200 meters more during a period of two decades interval: The glacier-fed lakes are increasing in numbers. Their outburst can cause immense devastation downstream bringing great sufferings to the people.

The wave of viral influenza spreading as natural calamity in the western mountain districts of Nepal, has been judged as the impact of failure of rain and snow fall in time: furthermore, extensive fog cover in the lowland frontier is interfering in the growth of cash crops due to the impact of climate change.

Mr. President !

In our pursuit to minimise urban air pollution in Nepal we banned the new registration of two-stroke engine transport effective from 30 August, 1999; and, diesel-fueled 3 wheeler vehicles have been finally prohibited to operate in Kathmandu Valley since 18 September, 1999. People have experienced by now perceptible level of fresh air on the roads.

Mr. President !

Nepal has reciprocated continuously to the UN's call for the improvement of global environment ever since the 1970s. We have been the party to the Climate Change Convention from its very beginning. Nepal remains encouraged by the Kyoto Protocol (December, 1997), and COP 4 Session (Buenos Aires, November, 1998) specially as there has been emphatic coverages to implementation of commitment :

- to the fragile and land-locked countries in availing fund and technology, and,
- to implement policies and measures for minimising adverse effect of emissions on socio-economic life and human health.

Mr. President !

Developing countries are subject to the vicious circle of degradation and mismanagement of environment due to lack of know how and financial resources. Therefore we feel it obligatory for the developed countries enlisted in Annex - I to support the developing nations through joint implementation (JI), emission trading, sinks and clean development mechanism (CDM) projects. Technology transfer, institutional strengthening and capacity building are the areas where the support to the non Annex - I countries is most desirable.

Finally I would like to assure you, Mr. President and this august gathering that we are committed and ready to contribute up to our best possibilities for the cause and the objectives of this conference.

We look forward for the useful outcome of this global conference on climate change.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.