

*Presentation by the Hon'ble Minister Ambika Sanba
Ministry of Population and Environment
His Majesty's Government of Nepal
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Madam President, Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

First of all, allow me to congratulate you on your election as the president of this COP4 of the UNFCCC. I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to the organizers and the people and government of Argentina for the generous hospitality extended to us in this beautiful city of Buenos Aires.

At the outset, I would like to reiterate Nepal's commitment for the environment-friendly activities to contribute to sustainable development in the spirit of the Earth Summit. Let me cite a few examples: a Ministry for the Environment has been established, Environmental Act has been legislated and enforced, State of the Environment report has been published, over 15 % of the land area ^{has been} ~~is~~ set aside ^{under} ~~more~~ protected area system, and the current five-year Plan has accorded high priority on the environmental resources.

Madam President,

We know that climatic system is regulated by the nature which is now threatened by human's folly. The folly has further threatened our mountainous ecosystem and the unique and abundant biological diversity we have in the Himalayan Kingdom of Nepal. ~~But~~ These resources, in a context of impending climatic change, are at risk to their existence. This becomes the matter of serious concern in terms of economic growth in Nepal, and the well-being of the Nepalese at large. The loss of many Himalayan biodiversity also foresees the future of humankind itself. We feel, therefore, that it is the duty of the world citizens, that the Himalayan biological resources be conserved for the future generations of humankind.

Madam President,

It is remarkable and understandable with reference to the existing realities that the standard of living built up amongst the rich nations captures essentially huge quantum of resources whereas the poor nations having degraded and meager resources crave for basic needs of life.

These two worlds are placed in unmatched and different economic levels, and naturally their objectives, thinking pattern, implementation realities and the

nature of ethical exercises reflect differing perspectives. We must, therefore, consider strengthening the developing nations in their capacity of resource management and industrial establishment, and to promote them as active participants at the regional and global levels; and minimization of exploitative attitude which might impede essential growth of the developing nations.

Madam President,

We have been making exercises at the national level to build up regional cooperation. As such, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) has presented our voice in the climate change issue. We would also like to promote regional cooperation in natural resources conservation and utilization for economic development through sub-regional initiatives known as Growth Quadrangle Approach.

Madam President, Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me restate the points as the following and put for your considered attention:

1. The responsibility of reducing industrial emission lies primarily on the developed nations;
2. The developing nations need maximum environmental space for its economic development, and there should not be undue constraints on the use of energy;
3. Inequities must be minimized for the enhancement of understanding and cooperation;
4. Institutional setting, research collaboration and industrial promotion need to be supported to promote the capabilities of the developing world; and
5. Rights and entitlements of developing countries must be elaborated clearly for willful participation and for initiating political commitment by the concerned nations.

Finally, I would like to assure you, *Madam President*, that we would most seriously consider the outcomes of this meeting.

Thank you for your patience and attention.