

The Convention after 10 Years:
Accomplishments and Future Challenges

By:

**The Hon'ble Minister for Population and
Environment, Nepal
Mr. Bachaspati Devkota**

Madame Chair person

Mr. President

Honorable Ministers

Your Excellencies

Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen:

First of all, let me take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to The Government of Republic of Argentina for the excellent arrangement made for this Tenth session of the Conference of parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. I feel most indebted for acknowledging our participation in the Conference.

Mr. President,

Nepal ratified UNFCCC on May 1994. During ten years we have tried fulfilling the specified obligations of UNFCCC as a signatory country by reflecting, UNFCCC's obligations into our national legislation and policy formulation. Nepal's development plan strives for a balance between economic development and environmental responsibilities. Initiatives have been taken both from the Government and the private sector, together with reforms in the energy sector to accelerate the economic development and increase the energy efficiency. In the last few years several measures relating to environmental issues have been introduced by the government including renewable energy installations; improving the air quality in major cities; and enhancing afforestation.

Mr. President,

Kindly allow me to highlight the key accomplishment of Nepal under the convention during the past 10 years

1. General Accomplishments

- Preparation of Initial National Communication to UNFCCC
- Establishment of the Designated National Authority (DNA) within MOPE.
- National Strategy on CDM
- Formulating and updating of national programs to mitigate the effects of climate change;
- Incorporating climate change considerations into national policies;
- Cooperating to exchange informations related to the climate system, climate change and its consequences;
- To raise general public awareness towards climate change by encouraging the widest participation, including that of NGO sector;

2. Research and Systematic Accomplishments

- Support intergovernmental efforts to define, conduct, assess and finance researches, taking into account the need to minimize duplication of effort;
- Support intergovernmental efforts to strengthen national capacities to handle the problem of climate change and facilitate free access to national database;
- Promote endogenous capacities and capabilities in resisting and adapting climate change.

3. Educational, training and public awareness accomplishments

- The development and implementation of educational and public awareness programs on climate change and its effects;
- Public access to information on climate change and its effects;

- Public participation in addressing climate change and its effects and developing adequate responses;

Mr. President,

Determining climate change impacts on Nepal's unique mountain systems will be an incessant venture in the coming decades. However, temperature trends showing greater warming at higher altitudes, coupled with increased precipitation variability, will surely impact glaciers and runoff significantly. Nepal's vulnerability to climate change is clearly tied to its water resource management over the next several decades.

Mr. President,

Nepal is now moving towards integrating climate change and other environmental concerns with development planning. As relatively little of Nepal's water resource potential has been harnessed, there is a great opportunity to incorporate climate information into future developments. This would help create more flexibility in programs and infrastructure designs to enhance the adaptive capacity of communities.

As a country with minimal fossil fuel deposits but substantial renewable energy resources, including hydropower, we believe that Nepal's sustainable development future can be based on a low-carbon path. We look forward to active participation in the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) to reduce greenhouse gases and to attract much needed investment into clean energy infrastructure into our country.

Mr. President,

I would like to take this opportunity to announce that His Majesty's Government of Nepal is committed to ratification of the Kyoto Protocol. Our cabinet has already made the decision to ratify and we expect to send in our instrument of ratification very soon.

Thank you all for your kind attention.

Technology and Climate Change

By:

**The Hon'ble Minister for Population and
Environment, Nepal
Mr. Bachaspati Devkota**

Mr. Chairman;

Let me use this forum to bring forth some more views of Nepal.

We believe that building the capacity of countries like Nepal to implement the commitments made during global environmental conventions has to be recognized as one of the priority challenges to achieve the long-term objectives of the convention. There is a growing need for the international community to invest in strategic and coherent activities that build developing Nations' capacity to implement conventions in a coordinated and comprehensive manner. The success of the implementation of the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol require that developed countries take a leading role in reducing domestic Greenhouse Gas emissions. They also need to provide financial assistance and facilitate technology transfer to developing countries. We urge them to do so to the best of their abilities.

Mr. Chairman;

Integrating climate change with Millennium Development Goals considering issues of food security, water security, health and disaster prevention. Nepal feels the poverty alleviation is the most urgent need of the hour. Environmental deterioration due to rampant poverty is a matter of great concern for us. The problem of poverty is so enormous that we cannot solve it with domestic resource alone. Therefore, much of the financing for the transfer of technology to alleviate poverty and to improve the environment will have to come from external sources, particularly developed countries. The quality of life and good health depend upon the quality of the environment.

Therefore, if environmentally sound sustainable development is to bear any meaning at all, it must relate to requirements for the survival of the poor through meeting their basic needs.

Mr. Chairman;

I would also like to mention that we have a wealth of indigenous practices especially in the areas of community forestry and use of clean renewable energy technologies. We are willing to share our experiences in community forestry, farmer-managed irrigation, micro and mini-hydropower, biogas, and low cost electrical transport with countries for whom this may be relevant.

Thank you all for your kind attention.

Mitigation of Climate Change: Policies and Their Impacts

**By: Mr. Dev Raj Regmi, Ministry of
Population and Environment, Nepal**

Madam chair
~~Mr. Chairman;~~

Let me share some of the views of Nepal .

Although several policies and laws in Nepal may impact climate change, only a very few have been formulated to support Nepal's commitments and obligations to the UNFCCC. We believe that our national plans should fulfill our commitments as defined by the UNFCCC. However, we lack the necessary database, know-how and resources to develop a national plan and concrete programs to mitigate climate change. I believe that similar plight is shared by the majority of developing countries.

madam chair
~~Mr. Chairman;~~

Allow me to highlight some issues that will have to be considered when strengthening existing policies and preparing new policies for positive mitigation impacts:

The need for building up a database: The available data has not been sufficiently collated and analyzed. This has to be done as a matter of priority. At the same time the data gaps have to be identified early and steps taken to fill the gaps. We require technical, financial and human resource to carry out such activities.

The need to provide incentives/disincentives: Based on the experiences of other countries, it is clear that some of the most innovative experiences in climate change mitigation have come in the form of new incentive and disincentive mechanisms to encourage reliance on renewable energy and co-generation. Hence appropriate financial incentives and disincentives need to be worked out for country like Nepal to support these activities.

The need to consider the cost-effectiveness of policies: The policies need to be reviewed in terms of cost-effectiveness taking into account the socio-economic impacts as well. There are many mitigation technologies which may be least cost but which are not adopted because of a number of barriers. It will be the task of the government of private sector to overcome these barriers. At the same time there are likely to be mitigation measures which are expensive compared to the alternatives and adopting them may lead to adverse impacts on the government's poverty alleviation strategy.

The need to promote stakeholder participation: It is critical to have the participation of local stakeholders in order to make sure that mitigation measures do not have an adverse impact on the local environment.

The need to increase the awareness of climate change: Awareness of mitigation measures and potential CDM projects is inadequate in Nepal. Industries, municipalities, investors, and entrepreneurs need to be able to understand the problems and challenges of climate change and to recognize opportunities for mitigation. The government needs to play a role in raising awareness about the potential for CDM projects and the government's rules and regulations for approving them.

Madam Chair
~~Mr. Chairman;~~

Successful implementation of climate change projects depends on the ability to mobilize local and external resources. Like any other least developed countries, one of the critical obstacles to Nepal's ability to implement climate change projects is the lack of adequate financial and human resources. These resources are needed for transfer of knowledge and technology, training, social mobilization, and infrastructure development. I believe that the need identified above reiterates the plight of majority of the developing nations. They need to be adequately addressed by the international community.

Thank you all for your patience and hearing the voice of Nepal.