



## PERMANENT MISSION OF NEPAL TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**Statement on behalf of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) by H. E. Ambassador Mr. Gyan Chandra Acharya, Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations at the First Inter-Sessional Meeting of UNCSD (New York, 10 January 2011)**

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of Least Developed Countries (LDCs). My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by Yemen on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Today, the LDCs face multitude of challenges towards sustainable development due to both internal structural constraints and external shocks. The extreme state of poverty, hunger and malnutrition, illiteracy, diseases, low level of human development, lack of productive capacity and agrarian nature of economy have been the characteristic features of LDCs. This has gravely undermined the efforts of these countries towards sustainable development. The countries facing huge poverty challenges must be supported strongly with the supportive transfer of new technology and new adaptive capacity building assistance. The social impacts of environmental degradation should be offset with respect for social justice and inclusive development approach.

The crises of global economic and financial, food and energy as well as the adverse impacts of climate change have posed serious challenges in the LDCs in all three fronts of sustainable development. The LDCs are bearing the brunt of these crises, although they contributed least to the problem. It is therefore particularly important that adequate priority should be given to them in allocating funds. The desertification, extreme weather events, glacier melting, fragility of mountains, and floods and submergence of coastal areas and sea level rise have now become a regular phenomena. They have become more devastating now than ever before.

The progress of LDCs towards sustainable development has been slowed down due to the lack of the proper and timely implementation of the commitments made by the international community in the earlier summits, including the landmark Conference of 1972, the Earth Summit in 1992, and the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002. The LDCs are unlikely to attain all internationally agreed development goals in time due to the unmet ODA commitments, lack of substantial debt relief measures, continued marginalization in international trading system, negligible share of FDI inflows, and lack of transfer of appropriate and required technology and lack of holistic approach to development. The development partners are yet to fulfil the commitment of 0.15-0.20 per cent of their GNI as ODA to the LDCs, and of providing the duty-free and quota-free market for all LDC products. Resources and capacity building are critical to face the ever growing challenge of sustainable development in LDCs.

The review of the BPOA shows that the international support measures are not fully effective and adequate, in specificity, scale, scope and quality. There has also been a persistent lack of appropriate reflection of the LDC categorization and specificities of needs and targeted special treatment in the development cooperation policies and strategies of the development partners including in the IFIs. This would help concentrate the efforts and the required focus on the most vulnerable countries

**Against this backdrop, we would like to underline the following:**

1. The sustainable development, especially the economic development, in the LDCs can be achieved only with the fulfillment of all commitments, particularly to ODA and providing of additional support in a transparent, predictable and accountable manner by adopting multi-year aid planning budget allocation system in the donor countries. Poverty is the greatest obstacle to sustainable development in LDCs.
2. Likewise, in view of the special needs of the LDCs, the developed countries must take concrete steps to increasing financial assistance, reducing and canceling debt, curbing trade barriers, opening their markets, transferring technology and building capacity in these countries in order to realize the agenda of sustainable development at the global level in an inclusive manner.
3. There is no doubt that all countries need to produce the goods and services necessary to satisfy the fundamental needs of their populations, but the special attention should be given to the countries facing numerous challenges and struggling to achieve the MDGs. It is crucial that we address these issues within the limits of our already stressed natural systems as meeting the MDGs requires production and consumption of more goods and services to meet our basic needs.
4. We attach high importance to an early conclusion of the Doha Round of negotiations that is ambitious and equitable with strong development dividend to all, in particular to LDCs with the early harvest of DFQF with flexible rules of origin and special provisions on services sector. We believe that this will trigger economic growth which will have a positive impact on reducing poverty in LDCs.
5. The international community must also come forward with additional, substantive and secure funding and technology to the LDCs for adaptation and mitigation of the climate effects together with legally binding and ambitious climate mitigation measures.
6. A genuine global partnership is required to strengthen the main pillars of sustainable development namely economic, environmental and social sustainability in the LDCs through a partnership in which the national ownership of development is matched with commensurate international support. There is a strong need for a coherent and concerted approach to addressing the issues of the sustainable development in a holistic manner in place of the piecemeal approach.
7. We believe that resources and support structure will be critical to attain all our bio-diversity protection goals.

Finally, while preparing our work for the Rio+20, we should make pragmatic and constructive analysis of achievements, constraints, lessons learned in order to enrich and accelerate the implementation of Sustainable Development agenda more effectively and efficiently in the context of poverty alleviation. The Conference and its preparatory processes should ensure effective inputs from all, including from the vulnerable groups such as LDCs, as these countries are specially looking at the conference with great expectations. This would help us to come up with comprehensive approach as well as effective institutional mechanism to deal with the regular as well as new challenges of sustainable development in the second decade of twenty first century.

I thank you.