

Intervention/Statement made by Mr. Atma Ram Pandey, Member of the Nepalese Delegation and Joint Secretary of the Secretariat of the National Planning commission of Nepal, at the thematic interactive discussion on Waste Management in the Eighteenth Session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (New York, 5 March 2010)

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

I thank the distinguished panellists for their useful presentations.

Mr. Chairman,

The socio-economic situation of the people along with the environment and natural resources has negatively been affected by the ever increasing amount and diversification of waste. This has been particularly caused by the economic growth, urbanization, industrialization, and unsustainable production and consumption patterns. The rapid increasing trend of such waste has resulted in land, water and air pollutions. The impact is more adverse in the least developed countries like Nepal, undermining even the progress to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

The management of waste has become further challenging with the increase in hazardous waste as the situation becomes more complicated when it is intermixed with other waste. Today, we have been confronting the continuing and worsening effects of the e-waste as well. Therefore, it has been more critical to effectively implement the Basel Convention (on the Control of Trans-boundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal).

The increase in waste due to unsustainable consumption habits at the global level has also hindered our progress towards sustainable development. As mentioned in Agenda 21, sustainable development involves the effective management of solid waste, hazardous waste and sewage.

Mr. Chairman,

Since 1980, we laid a particular emphasis towards sustainable development in Nepal. Starting with the sixth five-year plan and we have included this topic in all subsequent periodic plans. Nepal has been applying her best practices in sustainable community development programs in

line with preserving traditional knowledge of environmental protection. The technologies based on the traditional knowledge are still extensively used by rural communities for growing foods, managing natural resources and providing health services in Nepal. We prepared a fifteen year Sustainable Development agenda in 2003 aiming to guide national level development plans and policies up to 2017, which is consistent with government's more detailed plans of action such as periodic plans, development strategies at sectoral level. It is also compatible with the objectives of attaining the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

We have been experiencing some difficulties in waste management in our country. Due to huge collection of scattered waste inside communities, footpaths and along the streets, the problem in managing the waste has been particularly acute in Kathmandu Metropolitan City as well as in other densely populated cities of Nepal. Efforts are underway to collect and recycle the waste with a view to produce energy and fertilizer. Likewise, an effective and environment friendly waste management requires immediate attention from national and local governments. We believe that the public private partnership can also be taken as one of the appropriate models for sound waste management in this connection.

Mr. Chairman,

The lack of low economic and technological base and the structural impediments has mired our efforts towards sound waste management. The global economic and financial crisis, food crisis, energy crisis and the adverse impact of climate change have severely constrained our efforts towards sustainable development. These multiple crises have eroded the potentials of achieving the goals and commitments of 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development as well.

The sound waste management is costly and beyond the reach of the poor communities and countries like ours. We need investment in building our sustainable capacities to manage waste in the long-run perspective. For this, an enhanced and predictable flow of resources together with affordable flow of technology is a must. In this context, a coherent and concerted approach is needed in addressing the issues of the sustainable development in a holistic manner, particularly in the least developed countries, taking into account of their special needs.

I thank you.