

Government of Nepal
Ministry of Forests and Environment
Nepal Status on Talanoa Dialogue

Nepal welcomes the opportunity to provide its input to the Talanoa Dialogue as part of achieving the aspirational goal of the Paris Agreement.

1. Where are we?

IPCC Special Report (SR)¹ on 1.5°C has clearly indicated that the global temperature has increased approximately by 1°C above pre-industrial level with a likely range of 0.8°C to 1.2°C and is expected to reach 1.5°C between 2030 and 2052. This has led to the increase in intensity and frequency of climate and weather extreme events in many regions of the world. Furthermore, the report pinpointed that the climate related risks for natural and human systems are higher for global warming of 1.5°C than at present. With the increasing risks, the report also clearly pinpointed the limits to adaptation and adaptive capacity for some human and natural systems at the global warming of 1.5°C with associated losses.

The world witnessed the increase in climate extremes in the recent decades. Nepal also witnessed the increase in the frequency, intensity and magnitude of the climate and weather extremes in recent years. Being a landlocked and mountainous, with diverse physiographical characteristics and rugged terrain, Nepal is at risk to the climate related extreme events. Nepal is observing a temperature increase of 0.056°C/year² with the rate higher in the High Himalayas (0.086°C/year) whereas the precipitation is decreasing at a rate of 1.3mm/year with rate higher in the High Himalayan (3.17mm/year).

The blizzard in the Annapurna Himalayan region in the central part of Nepal in 2014 caused the death of 43 people of various nationalities. Floods, landslides, drought incidents are more pronounced lately. The year 2016 witnessed extreme drought conditions resulting in the worst forest fires incidents where as in the year 2017, the country suffered from deadliest floods with incessant rainfall in just 3 days (August 11-14, 2017) affecting more than 1.7 million people (48.2% females), destroyed 190,000 house and taking 134 lives (National Planning Commission, 2017). The sectoral (social, productive and infrastructure) loss and damages incurred was worth USD 584.7 million and the recovery need totalled to USD 705.1 million (National Planning Commission, 2017). Besides devastating landslides that caused huge economic loss, 2018 also resulted in the flooding of one of the historic cities in the capital of the country-Bhaktapur, causing losses and damages worth USD 119 million (Rastriya Samachar Samiti, 2018).

A recent study on economic assessment of climate change in key sectors (agriculture, hydropower and water-induced disasters) has estimated direct cost of current climate variability and extreme events equivalent to 1.5% to 2 %of current GDP/year (approximately USD 270-360 million/year) and could be much higher in extreme event conditions (Ministry of Science Technology and Environment, 2013).

Despite the country's contribution of 0.027% of global emissions, (Ministry of Science Technology and Environment, 2014), Nepal is embarking towards low carbon pathway. Nepal is in the final stage of finalizing its Low Carbon Economic Development Strategy. Nepal's commitment has also been highlighted in its NDC that has been submitted to UNFCCC in 2016. In addition, Nepal also undertook

¹ <http://www.ipcc.ch/report/sr15/>

² Observed Climate Change Trend Analysis of Nepal, Department of Hydrology and Meteorology, 2017

several other initiatives to address the exacerbating impacts of climate change in Nepal. Nepal has gained successful experiences and examples on community-based forestry, climate change adaptation: LAPA, biodiversity conservation, renewable energy and mitigation, however, its climatic vulnerability has not substantially decreased given the need for a stronger global ambition to deal with climate change both on the adaptation and mitigation fronts.

2. Where do we want to go?

The analysis of the NDCs that have been submitted were found to be grossly insufficient to achieve the emission reduction target to maintain the temperature goal at 1.5⁰C. Thus, Nepal strongly call for ratcheting up action to maintain the global temperature increase to below 1.5⁰C in line with the findings from the IPCC SR on 1.5⁰C.

While calling for stronger action globally, Nepal, based on its National priorities and international commitments, is committed to take domestic climate action by implementing its commitment, plans and policies:

- i) Reduce poverty and mainstream climate change adaptation simultaneously while achieving SDGs and putting in place institutional mechanisms to address disaster risk reduction by 2030.
- ii) Diversify its energy mix based on renewables and making efficient its energy consumption patterns thereby following a low-carbon development pathway while integrating climate adaptation and improving the livelihoods of climate vulnerable communities.
- iii) Establish a scientific basis to plan and implement adaptation actions under its NAP process and conduct studies associated on the potential losses and damages that could incur based on the impacts of climate change to envisage Nepal's adaptation needs for future through NAPs while also promoting ecosystem-based approaches to adapt to climate change. Maintain at least 40% of the total land-use under forest cover and enhance sustainable management of forests and REDD+.
- iv) Decrease of air, wastes, and industrial pollution and provide clean solutions by promoting public-partnership and convert waste to energy.
- v) Promote clean transportation at scale powered by renewables and slowly phase out fossil fuel vehicles by 2050.
- vi) Achieve 80% electrification through renewable energy sources having appropriate energy mix by 2050 and also reduce its dependency on fossil fuels by 50%.

3. How do we get there?

Nepal believes, addressing climate change requires a collective efforts from all the stakeholders' be it government, donors, academia, scientific community, right groups, CSOs, media, youth group and networks. In the case of Nepal, Nepal will;

- i) develop, update and align the policies with respect to the international commitment and national priorities to act climate action locally by raising climate finance (mostly the grant support) to implement the adaptation and mitigation activities
- ii) work on developing the political will and commitments to mainstream climate change into development process that integrates DRR and SDGs

- iii) build national capacities to account, monitor and report emissions and undertake vulnerability and risk assessments to assisting in taking mitigation actions and formulating and implement NAP and LAPAs addressing the needs of vulnerable communities and ecosystems
- iv) conduct studies on loss and damage associated with climate change impacts and develop and implement measures to reduce climate vulnerabilities
- v) address drivers of deforestation and forest degradation to enhance carbon sequestration, sustainable management of forests and REDD+ and ensure an equitable benefiting mechanism and maximize benefits at the local level
- vi) adopt climate-appropriate agricultural technologies to reduce climate change impacts and improve livestock management to reduce emissions from the agricultural sector
- vii) engage as appropriate in carbon trading that has additionally, promotes SDGs and a better price for renewable energy and forestry projects ensuring to avoid double counting of carbon credits while also promoting non-market-based approaches
- viii) strengthen governance structures and build local capacities to deal with impacts of climate change
- ix) maximize the use of existing international institutional mechanisms to realize continuous technical and financial support for means implementation for adaptation and mitigation actions on the ground
- x) forge partnerships through south-south cooperation and north-south collaboration to enhance learning and actions on climate change