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NWP on Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change (SBSTA) View on Potential Future Areas of Work of the NWP

Recognizing the specific needs of countries having fragile ecosystems, including mountain ecosystems as per Article 4, paragraph 8 of the Convention, Nepal takes this opportunity to submit its views on potential future areas of work of the Nairobi Work Programme (NWP) as per paragraph 2 of decision 6/CP.17. In this regard, Nepal also recalls paragraphs 210–212 of *The Future We Want*, the outcome of Rio+20 Conference, that recognizes the importance of mountains and calls for greater efforts and international support for sustainable mountain development in developing countries.

Mountain ecosystems provide vital goods and essential ecosystem services. They play a crucial role in water, food and energy nexus as the world's 'water towers' and biodiversity hotspots. Mountain watersheds serve as the source of water to more than 50% of world's population and support the livelihoods and food security of billions of people.

Despite the significant role that the mountain ecosystems play and given their high fragility, the mountain agenda has not been addressed adequately in the international environmental agreements and negotiations including the UNFCCC COPs. The Prime Minister of Nepal, during COP-15 at Copenhagen, called upon all the mountain countries and stakeholders to come together to form a common platform to ensure due attention to mountain concerns associated with climate change in international deliberations.

As a follow up to this, the Government of Nepal launched the Mountain Initiative (MI) in 2010 in order to provide a framework within which mountain countries and international institutions working on mountain issues could collaborate for achieving greater recognition of the critical role of mountain ecosystems. The objectives of the MI are:

- Mobilizing meaningful support and ensuring solidarity to achieve the goal of sustainable development of mountain ecosystem, mountain people and their livelihoods
- Filling the knowledge gaps and better communicating the anticipated impacts of climate change on mountains to global community
- Analyzing and documenting specific climate change scenarios and impacts on the mountains as well as surrounding plains
- Documenting best practices and data and information about local knowledge and adaptation activities, and sharing this with national and international stakeholders

In line with the above, the Government of Nepal also organized an International Conference of Mountain Countries on Climate Change on 5–6 April 2012 in Kathmandu. The

conference brought together participants from 30 mountain countries and was successful in adopting the *Kathmandu Call for Action (KCA)* to carry forward the Mountain Initiative (MI). Having established a MI Unit within the Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology, the Government of Nepal is now in the process of formulating the global work programme as well as the national action plan to implement the MI. In this connection, we recognize the need for a dedicated fund to move the mountain initiative forward.

Considering the above mentioned facts, Nepal would like to submit the following view:

1. While appreciating the activities undertaken within the NWP, and considering the increasing vulnerability and climate adaptation needs of mountain ecosystems, Nepal is of the view that the mountain ecosystems and mountain communities including indigenous peoples and marginalized communities, especially women, need particular attention while framing adaptation programmes through the international convention processes. In this regard, Nepal proposes to establish *Mountain Ecosystems and Climate Change* as a potential new area of work under the NWP.
2. This area of work should address the concerns specific to mountain ecosystems and its people in relation to the impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change. This new area of work will also provide insights to integrate community and ecosystem-based adaptation while ensuring a sustained supply of goods and services to the people living in the downstream areas.
3. The new area of work should be guided by the existing tools, modalities and methodologies under the NWP.