

NEPAL

Country Statement

Delivered by Honorable Dr. Min Bahadur Shrestha
Vice Chairman, National Planning Commission,
and the Leader of the Nepalese Delegation to the 73rd Session of the
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(UNESCAP)

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**Mr. Chair of the 73rd Session of the UNESCAP,
Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,**

1. At the outset, on behalf of the Government of Nepal, my delegation and on my own, I would like to express sincere gratitude to the people and the Royal Government of Thailand for their warm hospitality and logistical supports. Also, allow me to thank the ESCAP Secretariat and Executive Secretary of ESCAP for excellent arrangements.
2. The large and diverse Asia-Pacific region, which can become the hub of global economic growth for the next couple of decades, comprises of economies that are at different stages of development. One of the most significant challenges confronting all of us is to take strides towards the economic prosperity in a way that ensures the sustainability of our energy supply. This calls for a shift to low carbon, nonpolluting energy methods with increased efficiency that ensures affordable, accessible and reliable supply of energy for all.
3. Acknowledging the strength of comprehensive energy partnership, we all have gathered today to create an enhancing mechanism that would overcome regulatory hurdles, technological barriers and financial insufficiencies which are particularly prevalent in the least developed economies in the region, such as Nepal.
4. The wave of technological progress and innovation has had a tremendous effect in the economic progress of the Asia-Pacific region in the recent past. Its ripples also brought some encouraging positive impact in the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) as well. However, the technological capability and needs of the LDCs are drastically different from those of the advanced economies in the region. A sub-regional cooperation between the countries in the same stage of development could foster localized innovation. The innovation strategies addressing the energy issues and opportunities in the third-world economies would allow us to contribute to the global green growth goals.
5. Acknowledging the ability of sustainable energy resources to directly contribute to the Sustainable Development Goal Number 7 (SDG7), and its potential to have spillover benefits to other 2030 goals, the Government of Nepal has prioritized the use of renewable energy for sustainable

economic development in the country. Our efforts particularly in promoting biofuel, solar energy system, and micro and mini hydropower in the rural areas of Nepal have directly benefited 18% of the national population. The ongoing 14th Periodic Plan includes strategies to promote renewable energy within the country; the target is to reach out to additional 9% of the households within the next 3 years.

6. The clean hydropower has the potential to suffice the whole of the energy demand in Nepal. Yet, we have only been able to exploit less than 2% of the economically viable amount. However, Nepal is on course of achieving some encouraging progress in hydropower sector in the near future. Some big power projects are nearing their completion, the transmission lines are being set up or upgraded, the private power producers are making encouraging contributions and the electricity management system has seen a marked improvement. The Government of Nepal envisions an increase in hydropower production capacity to 2300 Mega Watt (MW) within the next three years, and the amount sufficient enough to export to the South Asian region within the next decade. Trading hydropower through regional power grids would open up immense prospects for economic, social, and low-carbon development of Nepal's sustainable energy future.
7. Despite a consensus among the countries to move towards a sustainable energy system, the diverse circumstances we face means that there is no single hard-and-fast method for us to achieve this. The policy mechanisms that the countries need to adopt could vary across the region and each country should calibrate its own peculiar response. This further highlights the need for cooperation within the region.
8. The adoption of a regionally coordinated market mechanism by the public and private sectors to collectively take a strong, ambitious and rapid action to accelerate green growth could address the challenges relating to technology transfer, finance and the capacity building needs. Consequently, this would help us achieve the global public good we all have longed for, namely the climate change mitigation.
9. Before I conclude Mr. Chair, on behalf of the Government of Nepal, my delegation and on my own, I would like to express our gratitude to UNESCAP and its members of the Asia and the Pacific Region. These few

days have provided rare opportunities for my delegation to share ideas, experience and lessons learnt. Thank You!