

NEPAL
Country Statement

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And

Leader of the Nepalese Delegation

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Madam President,

Hon. Ministers,

Excellencies and distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen!

- It is my honour to speak, on behalf of the Government of Nepal, at this important Forum this year and share our perspectives on the implementation of 2030 Agenda, having presented our Voluntary National Review at this Forum last year.
- Before I highlight some points from my national perspective, I align my statement with those of the Groups of 77 and China, LDCs and LLDCs.
- *Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in 2015, Nepal's continuous focus has been on its timely, effective and full implementation in synergy and coherence with other specific programs of action like the IPOA for LDCs and the VPOA for LLDCs.*
- *This year the Forum has a key business of reviewing Goals 6, 7, 11, 12, 15 and 17. As the central platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda, this year's theme, 'Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies' rightly captures our common vision and the sole purpose of the 2030 Agenda.*

Madam President,

- Nepal as a land-locked, mountainous and least developed country emerging from conflict, and from the devastating earthquakes of 2015 and suffering from other natural disasters, pins great hope and confidence on this Forum.
- At our VNR last year, we had highlighted Nepal's status in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda as well as its unique and special challenges. In recognition of special challenges facing Nepal, the Committee for Development Policy in its report this year recommended to defer the consideration of Nepal for graduation until 2021. As the country is only just about half way in the income threshold, and since vulnerabilities of different types are high, our focus has always been smooth and sustainable graduation.
- The country today is making all-out efforts to fully implement the inclusive and rights-based Constitution promulgated in September 2015. Accordingly, three-tiered elections for local, provincial and federal levels have been completed and a stable government in decades is currently in place. With political stability, our focus has now shifted to economic prosperity with the Government's vision of "Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali".

Madam President,

- Nepal is serious for achieving the SDGs. Nepal set a target to increase basic water supply and improved sanitation coverage to 95 percent by 2030. The Government has recently established a dedicated Ministry for Water Supply to holistically deal with water and sanitation issues.
- Various targeted programs are in place for reducing all forms of inequalities and it aims to increase the households living in safe house to 60 percent in 2030. Ensuring sustainable consumption and production pattern is in high priority of the government. On sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystem, Nepal aims to maintain 45 percent of its total land under forest, 23 percent land area under protected area, and protect the endangered flora and fauna species.
- *Financing gap for achieving SDGs looms large and is estimated to be 18 billion till 2030 annually. ODA contribution is less than 15 percent of budget expenditure; FDI as a proportion of national budget is below 2 percent; and outstanding debt to GDP ratio is about 28 percent. Potentially available resources within the country are about USD 13.5 billion and Nepal has net shortfall of USD 4.5 billion per year for SDGs implementation. So, the development partner should not lose sight of such special and critical situations of a landlocked LDC.*
- When it comes to global partnerships, current level of global efforts and business-as-usual cooperation falls far too short. All means of implementation for development, including ODA, trade, technology and capacity building need to be employed specially for the countries and peoples of LDCs and LLDCs.
- While Nepal is committed to doing all it can, including in forging partnerships among public, private and social sectors at home, it looks forward to increased cooperation and partnerships with all our international partners for necessary resources, technology and other policy supports as agreed in development outcomes such as 2030 Agenda, Addis Ababa Action Agenda, IPOA, VPOA etc.
- To conclude, Madam President, the credibility of this Forum will be defined by its ability to provide leadership, guidance and recommendations to implement the 2030 Agenda effectively. For this, HLPF must seek to ensure that the UN has system-wide coherence in sustainable development programs and policies, particularly in the context of the repositioning of the UNDS, so that it can 'deliver as one' on the ground.

I thank you all!