



Government of Nepal  
**National Planning Commission**  
Singhadurbar, Kathmandu, Nepal

## **Press Release**

The Regional Meeting on Sustainable Energy for Asia-Pacific Least Developed Countries (LDCs) was jointly organized by the Government of Nepal and the United Nations Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS) on March 22-23 in Kathmandu. The Regional Meeting brought together multi-sectoral sustainable energy experts, senior government officials, UN officials, civil society representatives and policy experts to have a meaningful dialogue on the similar sustainable energy challenges existing in the Asia-Pacific LDCs.

The inaugural session was chaired by Hon'ble Dr. Min Bahadur Shrestha, Vice Chairman, National Planning Commission of Nepal and the keynote address was made by Hon'ble Janardhan Sharma, Minister of Energy, Government of Nepal. In his address, the Hon'ble Vice Chairman highlighted that availability of adequate and reliable energy was a prerequisite for the economic development of a country. Similarly, the Hon'ble Minister Sharma said that Nepal is working with a vision of achieving sustainable development and prosperity through a rapid development of hydropower. Other speakers in the Session including the Foreign Secretary Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi; UN Under-Secretary-General H.E. Mr. Gyan Chandra Acharya; Ms. Ciatlin Wiesin-Antin from UNDP; Mr. K.M. Abdus Salam, Additional Secretary of Ministry of Power of Bangladesh on behalf of the LDC Group; and EU Ambassador to Nepal H.E. Rensje Teerink, also highlighted various aspects of sustainable energy in the Asia-Pacific LDCs.

The Regional Meeting included four different session that focused, among others, on sustainable energy investment plans in national development strategies specifically with regards to accessing finance and scaling up of current plans; successful initiatives and business plans with a view of possible replication across Asia-Pacific LDCs; various regional and global energy initiatives; and project preparation skills required to attract more investment in the sustainable energy sector. In addition, an informal Business to Business Dialogue focusing on effective



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financing mechanisms and business models in developing sustainable energy projects, specifically by the private sector was organized. The Dialogue was moderated by Hon'ble Dr. Swarnim Waglè, Member, National Planning Commission of Nepal.

The closing session summarized the key messages on required interventions, initiatives and investments towards increasing energy access, clean energy solutions and improving energy efficiency. In his concluding remarks, the chair of the session, Hon'ble Dr. Arbind Kumar Mishra, Member, National Planning Commission of Nepal, said that the transition to sustainable energy would require critical rethinking by governments, strong support from the development partners and active participation of the private sector and civil society together with the global initiatives like effective carbon pricing within the framework of the UNFCCC.

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