

Climate and Development Dialogue  
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# REFLECTION REPORT 2020



# Foreword

Climate change impacts have become apparent across different sectors in Nepal. Agriculture and food security, forest and biodiversity, disaster risk reduction, water resources and energy are among the sectors being impacted by climate change. It is high time the policy makers, planners, experts and researchers, practitioners and all other stakeholders engaged in these diverse sectors converged for comprehensive discourse on climate change from multi-dimensional lens. Participation of poor and vulnerable groups such as women, indigenous peoples and others, who are hit hardest by the impacts of climate change, must be part of such discourse. Pluralistic discourse on climate change is highly essential to correct problem diagnosis and prescriptions of solutions. Bearing this mind, Climate and Development Dialogue was initiated in 2017 to engage multiple stakeholders across different disciplines and build a comprehensive discourse on climate change.

The Dialogue has organized several capacity building events among its members and other stakeholders and engaged in key policy processes on climate change, namely National Climate Change Policy 2019, the 15<sup>th</sup> Plan and Second Nationally Determined Contribution of Nepal. The Dialogue has been constructively engaging in these policy process and continuously providing collective feedbacks in these processes. It would be too early to expect C&D Dialogue, which is into the third year of its journey, to bring about big changes. And policy influencing, which is the key part of its work, takes time.

However, it is in its own interest and that of its stakeholders to pause and look back at it has been able to accomplish so far. This is expected to help them reflect on its trajectory and collectively chart their desired course. This is for this purpose this reflection report has attempted to highlight some of the platform's accomplishments so far.

The Dialogue thanks all the member organizations for keeping the platform vibrant and actively engaging in the Dialogue activities. COVID 19 pandemic has put the brakes on the Dialogue activities in 2020 but it aims to bounce back in 2021 and continue to play a watchdog role in climate change policy process in Nepal with collective support of all the members.

**Prakriti Resources Centre**



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# CHAPTER 1: ABOUT CLIMATE AND DEVELOPMENT DIALOGUE

## BRIEF HISTORY

**Climate and Development Dialogue** came into being as a result of the commitment of three organisations - Prakriti Resources Centre, Helvetas Swiss Inter Cooperation Nepal and Oxford Climate Policy- which were working jointly on a research project—and an advisory group that supported the research in 2017 to continue their collaboration in Green Climate Fund (GCF) issues even beyond the research project.

On completion of the research on ‘Devolving Adaptation Finance and Action: Lessons from Nepal's Local Adaptation Plans for Action’, they proceeded with information sharing and knowledge building on GCF process in Nepal among themselves. Later, they decided to expand the scope of learning and sharing covering diverse issues related to climate change and development. Climate and Development Dialogue, now commonly known as C&D Dialogue, thus evolved organically and grew into a vibrant civil society platform with 11 national and international non-governmental organisations associated with it.

## OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of C&D Dialogue is to contribute to policy processes as a pathway to well-resourced climate -sensitive development actions that are participatory, transparent and accountable.

Specific objectives:

- To build the knowledge and capacity of C&D Dialogue members on climate and development related issues by sharing information, good practices and learning.
- To build the understanding and advocacy capacity of grassroots CBOs, particularly women’s groups and marginalized communities on climate change, climate and development financing and allocation of resources for climate-resilient local development activities.
- To engage with governments at all levels focusing on influencing policy and planning process, and resource mobilisation for inclusive and accountable climate and development actions at sub-national level.
- To strengthen lobby and advocacy work based on well evidenced position papers, statements, and research report also informed by grassroots realities and learning.

*“C & D Dialogue is a platform for us to collaborate with Environment and Women’s Rights Organizations so as to work on the intersections between women’s rights and environment justice. We learn, share our experiences and knowledge, build up our capacity, transfer the information on climate change and create opportunities for our grassroot partners to learn different aspects of climate finance and justice at both the local and the policy levels.”*

**- Anuja Shrestha**  
Grant Making Manager, Tewa

## MEMBERS OF CLIMATE AND DEVELOPMENT DIALOGUE

C&D Dialogue represents a confluence of rich experience, practical knowledge and learning in the areas of climate change, environment, women's rights and sustainable development that its members bring with them. The members include the following non-government and non-profit organisations:

1. Action Aid Nepal
2. CARE Nepal
3. DanChurch Aid Nepal
4. DidiBahini Nepal
5. Helvetas Swiss Inter cooperation Nepal
6. Himalayan Grassroots Women's Natural Resource Management Association (HIMAWANTI)
7. Karnali Integrated Rural Development and Research Centre (KIRDARC)
8. Pratical Action Nepal
9. Prakriti Resources Centre
10. The Group of Helping Hands (SAHAS)
11. TEWA – Philanthropy for Equitable Justice and Peace

We are delighted to be part of this initiative of Prakriti Resources Centre (PRC) to create a common platform - "Climate and Development Dialogue (C & D Dialogue)", which has brought together multiple stakeholders to discourse on the pathways of climate change, climate-induced disasters, gender equality and the role of state as well as non-state actors. The C & D Dialogue has recognized the values of its 11 member organizations in order to create collective policy interventions at the local and national level, mainly through the following:

- Encouraging the local and national stakeholders to invest more in low-carbon and climate-resilient technologies
- Enhancing the knowledge and understanding of state/non-state actors on climate change and its impact
- Advocating for local authorities' partnership and collaboration towards building resilient community
- Understanding the gender lens of climate adaptation and mitigation practices
- Reflecting upon the national and international instruments on climate change
- Networking and alliance building at sectoral and sub-sectoral level for better climate outcome

**Samjhana Bista, Head of Programme**  
**DanChurch Aid Nepal**



## CHAPTER 2 : MAJOR ACTIVITIES

In last three years, Climate and Development Dialogue organized several events that contributed to policy discourse on climate change and ultimately to climate change policy formulation and implementation processes in Nepal. The events brought together policy makers, planners, researcher and experts, practitioners, national and international non-governmental organisations, development agencies and women and vulnerable groups in a common platform and initiated pluralistic dialogues on pertinent policy issues on climate change. The feedbacks and conclusions of these events were fed into key national policies and plans such as National Climate Change Policy 2019 and the 15<sup>th</sup> Plan. This section summarizes some of the major events organised by Climate and Development Dialogue.

### National Roundtable on Climate and Development



*Figure 1: Member of Parliament, and the representatives of National Planning Commission and Ministry of Forests and Environment participating in an event organised by C&D Dialogue.*

A national roundtable meeting on Climate and Development was organised by Climate and Development Dialogue in January 2019 with the aim to provide inputs to the government of Nepal on the 15<sup>th</sup> Plan and revised National Climate Change Policy. The meeting brought together policy makers, planners and practitioners in a single platform to discuss different facets of climate change such as gender inclusion in climate actions, financing climate and development actions and building adaptive and resilient communities. Both experts and practitioners deliberated on the themes, facilitated discussion and came up with specific recommendations.

The recommendations were submitted by C&D Dialogue delegate to Min Bahadur Shahi, Member of National Planning Commission (NPC) for consideration while finalising the 15<sup>th</sup> Plan, which was under way. He assured the delegate that NPC will discuss the recommendations and incorporate them.

## Workshop: Building Global Cooperation for Enhancing Climate Actions in Nepal



*Figure 2: Experts sharing their views on Nepal's priorities on UN Climate Summit 2019.*

C&D Dialogue organized a civil society consultation on “Building Global Cooperation for Enhancing Climate Actions in Nepal” on 10 September 2019 in Lalitpur on the eve of the 74th session of the UN General Assembly and the UN Climate Action Summit. The objective of the event was to discuss and finalize a Nepali CSOs’ joint statement on climate change pledging CSOs’ own contribution and calling for government efforts to draw global attention to the urgency of enhanced climate actions in Nepal.

Various experts and practitioners from government and non-governmental sectors significantly contributed to the discussion by highlighting ground realities and global perspectives to the issue of building wider cooperation for enhancing climate actions in Nepal. They were unanimous in the need for global cooperation and urgent action to address the growing and multifaceted impacts of climate change in Nepal. They also emphasized localization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and climate actions to realistically address the impacts of climate change Nepal and the Nepalese communities are experiencing.

The workshop adopted ‘Nepali CSOs Call for Action on Building Global Cooperation for Enhancing Climate Actions in Nepal’ endorsed by 33 civil society organisation working in Nepal. The Call for Action was handed over to the Ministry of Forests and Environment.

### National Conference of Practitioners on Climate Change: Linking Practices to Policy

Nepal already has a decade long experience of implementing several climate change projects. The projects have generated immense knowledge and learning that help understand different facets of climate change. Often they are not document and widely shared among the stakeholders. They are least reflected in climate change policies and plans.

Recognizing and building on the knowledge through the “doing” of the practitioners, C& D Dialogue organized a day-long conference on November 22, 2019 in Kathmandu. The conference brought together climate change practitioners with first-hand experience and learning on the following sub-themes related to climate change.



- Climate vulnerability and risk assessment
- Tracking climate finance
- Mainstreaming gender and social inclusion in climate change and
- Mainstreaming climate change in the municipal plans and budgets.



*Figure 3: Representatives of community women's groups participating in a national event organized by C&D Dialogue.*

The conference reflected on good practices on the ground and thereby sought to influence policy and practice in Nepal and expand this knowledge internationally as well.

### **Webinar Series on ‘Climate and COVID-19’**

Lockdown and restrictions on movement and gathering following the COVID 19 Pandemic impeded the activities of Climate and Development Dialogue. As an alternative to physical gathering and in-person interactions, C&D Dialogue decided to organise virtual interactions among the members and stakeholders through webinar series on ‘Climate and COVID’. Till date, five episodes of webinar on diverse topics related to climate change have been successfully conducted. These webinars have been instrumental in continuing engagement and interaction among climate change stakeholders on contemporary and pertinent issues on climate change during COVID 19 pandemic. They were as follows:

1. Accessing Climate Finance for Resilient Development in Nepal
2. Addressing Gender Issues in GCF related Intervention
3. Mobilizing GCF Resources for Green Enterprises and Green Recovery via Micro-, Small-, and Medium- Sized Enterprises
4. Climate and Disaster Risk Management in Nepal: Building Coherent and Compatible Governance
5. Enhancing Renewable Energy in Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) of Nepal

## CHAPTER 3 : POLICY LOBBYING

Climate and Development Dialogue is engaging in several policy and planning processes related to climate change in Nepal. In the past few years, the C&D Dialogue continued constructive engagement with the Ministry of Forest and Environment, and National Planning Commission. It provided its inputs and feedback in the process of formulating the National Climate Change Policy, the 15<sup>th</sup> development plan and enhanced Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) of Nepal. The government has recognized the C&D Dialogue as an important stakeholder and has sought and acknowledged its inputs on policy processes. The following list highlights some of the key submissions made by Climate and Development Dialogue on different policy process of the government of Nepal.

### Statement by the Climate and Development Dialogue on the Occasion of World Environment Day

*5<sup>th</sup> June 2018*

Skewed focus on rapid economic development has since long pushed environmental issues to the back burner leading to multiple crises of unprecedented dimensions. This holds true for Nepal as well. The deteriorating air quality, unclean water and intolerable sound pollution are reducing the quality of life, especially in the urban areas. Over congestion of fossil fuel-powered vehicles, unplanned urbanization, unregulated industrial pollution and uncontrolled application of chemical pesticides in crops and vegetables are putting the lives of people at great risk. Human-induced pollution of these kinds is not limited to human settlements; it has started severely affecting pristine forests, rivers, lakes, wetlands, mountains and oceans, thereby jeopardizing the flora, fauna and the entire ecosystems. There is a clear need for greater awareness and actions on environmental protection.

The United Nations started observing ‘World Environment Day’ since 1974 with a special focus on addressing urgent environmental concerns. Every year a new theme is chosen. The theme for 2018 is “Beat Plastic Pollution”. Overuse of plastics has become a real threat to humans and the environment around the world including Nepal. On this occasion of ‘World Environment Day’, members of the Climate and Development Dialogue (C&D Dialogue) and the undersigned strongly demand that the Government of Nepal consider the following actions in order to address plastic pollution and protect the environment as a whole.

- Plastics have become a big problem in the country, especially the ones that cannot be recycled or are made for single use. Plastics have been a huge source of water and air pollution, including blockage of drainage systems. In April 2015, the Government of Nepal banned the import, storage, sale, distribution and use of 20 x 35 inches - plastic with up to '40 micron' thickness in the Kathmandu Valley. However, these measures have not been strictly followed. The government should introduce and strictly implement a stringent policy to ban the non-recyclable plastics and single-use plastic bags throughout the country.
- Air, water and noise pollution is posing detrimental impacts on human health. According to the latest global Environment Performance Index, Nepal ranks 176th, one of the least performing among the 180 countries. Similarly, according to Green City Index (GCI), the international standard for noise pollution is 60 decibels, but in the case of Nepal, especially in the urban areas, it is higher than 80 decibels. It is urgent that these issues become the priority of the Government of Nepal. While enforcing already existing policies like vehicle emission standards, the government should further introduce regulatory measures to control air, water and noise pollution. Raising awareness for behavioural change and promotion of sustainable consumption and production is the country's urgent need of the hour.
- Greenery, public parks and open space have greatly shrunk in the urban areas over time. It is internationally recommended that Metropolitan Cities should have at least 40% of the area covered by trees and greenery, however, in the case of Kathmandu Valley greenery has been squeezed to a mere nine per cent of the Valley area. There is an urgent need to plant trees along the roadside, make space for open and green areas and build public parks in the urban areas throughout the country.
- Development actions such as building infrastructure, housing, industrial area and other efforts that bring social and economic benefits must be environmentally friendly. Thorough Initial Environmental Examinations (IEE) and Environment Impact Assessments (EIA) must be made mandatory and implemented for all the projects as envisioned by the Environment Protection Act. Further, Environmental Management Plan (EMP) must be implemented as suggested by IEE and EIA processes for these projects.
- Climate change impacts have become a new threat to the sustainable development of the country. It urgently calls for investment in climate resilient and low carbon development pathway with concrete policies and actions, especially, focusing on the poor and vulnerable communities, including mountain peoples.
- The Government should make the right policy choices as laid out in the constitution of Nepal 2015, to address environmental and climate change issues and strengthen environmental governance in the country.



## Inputs to National Planning Commission on the 15<sup>th</sup> Plan



*Figure 4: Members of C&D Dialogue meeting with the member of National Planning Commission.*

We, the undersigned group of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) working actively in the field of climate change, environment conservation, gender and women's empowerment, and development sectors highly appreciate the National Planning Commission's wise and timely initiative of incorporating climate change section in the country's 15<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan (2076/77 – 2080/81). On 23 January 2019, policy makers, planners, experts and practitioners from over 60 organizations participated in a National Roundtable Discussion on Climate Change and Development held in Kathmandu to discuss and share their respective experience, learning and ideas for a way forward. The learning and ideas emanating from in-depth discussion have been captured in the form of the round-table discussion proceedings.

As the following recommendations generated as an outcome of the roundtable discussion are aimed at contributing to achieving the goal and objectives of the five year plan, we hereby request the National Planning Commission to sincerely consider them.

### **Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Building**

1. It is crucial to conduct a nationwide detailed vulnerability assessment to understand the risks posed by climate change to different ecological zones of Nepal.
2. It is an opportune moment to integrate climate change in the planning processes at the Federal, Provincial and Local Government levels so as to achieve sustainable development. For this purpose development of clear policy and institutional frameworks is urgently called for.
3. Climate change issues cannot be dealt with in isolation, rather they should be integrated into the overall development planning in conformity with the Sustainable Development Goals and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.
4. It is imperative to promote a mechanism of tracking successful and good practices in the areas of climate change adaptation and mitigation for replication and for scaling up adaptation and mitigation actions.

## Climate Change and Gender

1. Climate change impacts are not gender neutral. It is of utmost importance to ensure meaningful participation of women in climate change related policy and decision-making, and design and implementation of adaptation and mitigation programme and projects at all levels. Development and implementation of clear guidelines and action plan for this purpose is highly crucial.
2. As women are the best custodians of natural resources the Government must prioritize and invest in building women's leadership in management of natural resources. Design and implementation of natural resources management programme and projects with women at their centre would go a long way towards harnessing women's leadership potential, utilizing their experience and knowledge in this area and addressing their specific needs in view of the disproportionate impact of climate change they are experiencing.
3. It is equally crucial to support women farmers with less labour-intensive innovations and technologies that help reduce the burden of women and girls' unpaid care work and contribute to addressing climate change issues.

## Climate Change Financing

1. The Government of Nepal should prioritize accessing international climate finance from all available sources including the Green Climate Fund to fund programmes and projects prioritized in the development plan. Nepal must prioritize and strengthen national institutions to access these available resources through national entities.
2. The Government should ensure transparency and accountability in mobilizing climate finance at national and sub-national levels. It is important to further improve National Climate Change Budget Code and expand similar coding measures to Provincial and Local Government levels.
3. 'Environment and Disaster' hardly find space in the Local Government's priority list. But the current acceleration of environment degradation and the growing frequency and magnitude of disasters in the country calls for a mechanism that places equal weight on environment and disaster as in other five priority sectors in Local Government plans, programmes and budgets.
4. National Planning Commission's leadership role is called for in coordinating with concerned line ministries for integration of climate change into the planning process as well as for allocation and prioritization of dedicated climate finance at all levels. One of the most effective ways of doing this is establishment of separate climate related Fund at all levels of Government.
5. Adequate budgetary allocation for translating policies and plans regarding climate change, natural resource management and disaster risk management into real actions on the ground with women at every stage of the policies and plans is the key to bringing good results.

## Common Issues

1. The five year plan must encourage development and implementation of a national plan for promoting green economy and renewable energy to curb the use of fossil fuel and thereby combat climate change.

2. It must also develop appropriate mechanism of promoting climate justice and facilitate effective engagement in international climate change process. At the same time, enhancement of the capacity of multiple stakeholders in the country i.e. Government, civil society and the private sector is the need of the day.

## Nepali CSOs Call for Action

### Building Global Cooperation for Enhancing Climate Actions in Nepal

#### Preamble

Acknowledging the fact that climate breakdown is wreaking havoc across the world, particularly in poor and vulnerable developing countries and communities. The IPCC 2018 Special Report on 1.5 °C warns of a climate crisis that we have only about 12 years to address should we really want to save our planet. However, in stark contrast to what is required to do the current plans of developed countries are rather likely to bring the level of global heating to more than 3 °C - a precipice of deeply tragic disasters beyond the coping capacity of most of humanity and the ecosystem. The recent IPCC Special Report on climate change and Land (2019) calls upon all countries to take account of inter-linkage between climate, land and food production and take “coordinated action to address climate change which can simultaneously improve land, food security and nutrition, and help to end hunger.” Similarly, IPCC is to bring out another report ‘Ocean and Cryosphere in the Changing Climate’ in September 2019 highlighting climate induced vulnerabilities and risks in the Himalayan region.

Nepal is already facing dire consequences of climate impacts. Recurrent floods, which killed scores of people and caused a loss of property and infrastructure worth millions of rupees in 2017 and 2019, and the unpredicted tornado that hit some districts of south eastern Nepal in March 2019 are just the precursors of what is to come. These impacts of climate change are reversing our development gains, increasing poverty and multiplying vulnerability. Should this situation continue unabated even more severe consequences such as breakdown of ecosystems and a large-scale displacement and migration seem to be just around the corner.

We applaud the UN Secretary General’s call for ambitious commitments from all countries to address the escalating crisis urgently with ambitious and urgent actions. The International community, especially the developed countries who created this problem in the first place, should come up with a concrete plan for rapid de-carbonization of the economy (moving away from fossil fuel based economy to renewable energy based economy) and enhance their support for poor and vulnerable countries to deal with the devastating impacts. Other countries with high carbon emission trajectory should also take a strong ambition in tackling climate crisis.

Recognizing the need for urgent, collaborative and effective actions of all stakeholders at different levels to combat climate change, we, Climate and Development Dialogue and group of multiple stakeholders gathered in Kathmandu on 10th September, 2019 are committed to:



- Scaling up our climate actions, providing support and constructively engaging with the government of Nepal in formulation and implementation of people-centered policies, plans and programmes, meanwhile contributing to meeting the international commitments made by the government.
- Localizing climate actions and informing national policy processes with the learning generated through local actions.
- Amplifying community voices and sharing our research findings to wider stakeholders (government and international donors) to show why increased investment in climate resilient and risk informed development is urgently needed.
- Working to minimize disproportionate impacts of climate change on women and girls, children, indigenous people, people with disability, other marginalized social and ethnic groups and people living in different geographic regions through our programming.
- Continuing policy and people-centered advocacy and building capacity of civil society organizations and grassroots communities to make sure climate financing is transparent and accountable, and such finance is devolved to the local levels.
- Aligning our actions to contribute to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the objectives of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

While spotlighting the impacts that countries such as Nepal are faced with, we urge the Government of Nepal to make a strong and earnest commitment to working domestically and globally to combat climate change during the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly and the Climate Summit on 23 September 2019. We hereby urge the Government of Nepal to consider and reflect upon the following points while affirming its commitments.

- Reaffirm earlier international commitments and urge all nations to enhance their mitigation ambition through Nationally Determined Contributions in line with the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities so as to limit the global temperature rise to below 1.5 degree Celsius.
- Raise a strong concern about increasing financing gap for climate actions, particularly for adaptation and urge the developed countries to present a clear roadmap of fulfilling their global commitment of US Dollar 100 billion/year by 2020 (new and additional) with dedicated and equal share for mitigation and adaptation actions.
- Demand for rolling out of ‘enhanced direct access’ that provides easy and direct access for developing countries to climate funds. Only 10% of the global climate finance reaches the grassroots due to limitations within existing climate funding mechanisms.
- Draw international community’s attention to the climate induced loss and damage that Nepal has experienced, particularly in mountain ecosystems and communities in the recent past, and demand accelerated support to address Loss and Damage with dedicated and separate funding stream.
- Inform the global communities about affirmative and progressive actions Nepal has initiated to mainstream gender in climate actions, its willingness to enhance these efforts and call for immediate rolling out of the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan with dedicated means of implementation.

Recalling the commitments made by the Government of Nepal in different national forums, we request the Government of Nepal to consider the following points for enhancing climate actions:

- Strengthen engagement and collaboration with broader civil society organizations in formulation of national policies, plans and programmes to address climate change and build resilience so as to protect the lives and livelihoods of communities.
- Formulate transparency and accountability mechanism to monitor and report on climate actions and build a workable mechanism of tracking the flow of climate finance in the country.
- Build the capacity of municipal and provincial governments to work in and mainstream climate change and disaster risk reduction in their policies, plans, programmes and budgets.
- Align existing laws, policies and institutional structures across sectors, systems and geographies to integrate comprehensive climate risk reduction measures into development plans and programmes to generate multiple dividends and advance sustainable development goals.
- Equip and strengthen hydro-meteorological forecasting system for sustainable, predictable and reliable early warning.
- Integrate Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation in policies and institutional structures to reduce duplication of efforts and resources, and build resilience in a more integrated manner.
- Ensure wider civil society participation in the planning and organization of the ‘Sagarmatha Dialogue’ on climate change.
- Put in place national policies and dedicated finance (domestic and international) to fulfill the international commitments such as Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans.

## **Feedback and Inputs to the Enhanced Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) Process of the Government of Nepal**

*Date: 5 February 2020*

We, the undersigned group of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) working actively as a group named Climate and Development Dialogue (C&D Dialogue) in the areas of climate change, environment conservation, gender and women’s empowerment, and development sectors highly appreciate the timely initiation of Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) revision process and public call for feedback and inputs from relevant stakeholders to enhance the process by the Ministry of Forests and Environment (MoFE).

While the call for feedback and inputs to the NDC enhancement process is laudable, we note that the ministry has not provided a structured basis or framework for providing inputs. With the understanding that the NDC enhancement process is at an early stage and there will be several opportunities in near future to provide further inputs to determine overall targets and specific sectoral targets, we make following recommendations to shape the process and determine the elements of enhanced NDC rather than providing wish list of asks. We hereby request the MoFE to sincerely consider them.

## Principles for the NDC Enhancement Process

1. The process that the MoFE sets to enhance the NDC will be crucial not only to establish the contributions that Nepal wants to make for global climate cooperation but also to lay the groundwork for long-term strategy that will lead to sustainable, equitable and just society with real positive impact to the lives of people and communities at the front line of climate change impacts.
2. We urge the MoFE to consider adopting *a Whole of Society approach* in the NDC enhancement process. This means that the MoFE works towards;
  - a. Securing high-level buy-in from the highest tier of government of Nepal and sectoral ministries at the early stage of the process to ensure ownership of the climate action measures to be set.
  - b. As the lead institution for the NDC enhancement process, establish the intra-governmental coordination mechanism given that NDC crosses across different sectors.
  - c. Given the fact that implementation of the enhanced NDC will largely depend upon the proactive role of provincial and local governments, involve them in setting up priorities and contributions.
  - d. Stakeholders including civil society actors need to be involved and engaged in the core process in addition to mere attendance in workshops and written submission. For this establish a thorough engagement plan that includes different forms of consultation, participation and cooperation so that marginalized groups can make their voices heard and bring forward solutions that address needs of those affected by climate change.
  - e. Ensure that the climate action plans of development partners, civil society organizations and private sector are accounted for in the enhanced NDC.
3. Climate change exacerbates economic inequality and increase economic burden to the poor and vulnerable. NDC must promote investment in green economy that reduce the existing economic inequality by expanding opportunities, creating decent jobs and promoting rights and justice.
4. Take stock of the progress and shortcomings of the first NDC submitted in 2016 and build on the learning.

## Elements of the Enhanced NDC

1. Alignment with National Development Objectives and International Commitments
  - a. The enhanced NDC should be coherent with the national development vision and planning process. The enhanced NDC needs to be compatible with the national vision of ‘Prosperous Nepal – Happy Nepali’ and Nepal’s ambition to graduate from least developed country to developing country, this should be geared towards strong national consensus on transition to low carbon and sustainable economy.
  - b. Maximize the synergy with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by assessing how climate actions to be set in the enhanced NDC can contribute to the implementation of the SDG targets of the country.
  - c. The sectoral policies, plan and targets should be coherent and made clear channels of implementation in coordinated ways to achieve the enhanced NDC targets.

## 2. Gender Responsiveness

Gender and Social Inclusion is a critical cross-cutting issue that needs to be addressed by the enhanced NDC. The enhancement NDC process should rectify the blunder of being gender-blind in the 2016 NDC by;

- a. Establishing mitigation and adaptation contributions that account for the gender implications in all sectors of economy including agriculture, energy, water resource, forestry and transport.
- b. Including a plan for capacity building support for women and marginalized groups for implementation of mitigation and adaptation plans.
- c. Including plans for supporting women farmers with less labour-intensive innovations and technologies that help reduce the burden of women and girls' unpaid care work and contribute to addressing climate change issues.

## 3. Raise overall mitigation ambition and low carbon sectoral development

- a. The enhanced NDC should establish overall mitigation ambition to reduce greenhouse emission by committing for a net zero target by 2050 and that is consistent with Nepal's contribution towards 1.5 degree pathway which was missing in 2016 NDC.
- b. Establish clear targets in key economic sectors for 2025 and 2030 that lead to the reduction of fossil fuel use, improved energy efficiency and sustainable consumption.

## 4. Include measures for tackling Climate Impacts through Resilient Development Plan, Adaptation and Loss and Damage

- a. Ensure the enhanced NDC incorporates cross-sectoral policies that align with National Adaptation Plan (NAP), National Policy for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development Goals by conducting nationwide detailed vulnerability and risk assessment.
- b. Planned adaptation and disaster risk reduction targets should incorporate targets on disaster preparedness including holistic coverage of multi-hazard early warning systems for all at-risk communities.
- c. Incorporate plans to integrate climate change in the planning processes at the Federal, Provincial and Local Government levels so as to achieve sustainable development.
- d. Include plans and support required for averting, minimizing and addressing Loss and Damage associated with climate change impacts.

## 5. Emphasis on Nature Based Solutions

- a. Nepal's enhanced NDC should embrace Nature Based Solutions to protect and restore ecosystems and biodiversity which has direct linkages to people's livelihood and wellbeing.
- b. Plans for ecosystem restoration and protection should have elements of partnership and cooperation with indigenous people and local communities.

## 6. Climate Finance

- a. Conduct a thorough assessment of climate finance needs and develop a clear investment plan to implement mitigation, adaptation and loss and damage plans to be included in the enhanced NDC.
- b. Indication of national budgetary allocation to achieve the targets and contributions in the enhanced NDC.



- c. Clearly spell out the international public finance need to implement the enhanced NDC.
- 7. Technology and Capacity Building
  - a. Determine country's climate technology and capacity building needs including the international support required for this.
  - b. Define the timeline to implement climate technology and capacity building programs.
  - c. Assess the need of vulnerable communities and populations, so that such programs can be tailored-made in a way to address their needs and culture, leaving no one behind.
- 8. Monitoring, Review and Verification System
  - a. Develop Monitoring, Review and Verification (MRV) or accountability system important to ensure the pledged targets in the enhanced NDC are met and also to verify whether global cooperation is geared towards achieving the long term objectives of Paris Agreement. This was missing in the 2016 NDC.
  - b. Include indicators for comprehensive follow-up as well as establish mechanisms for tracking successful and good practices for replication and for scaling up.

### Statement on the draft enhanced Nationally Determined Contribution

1. The draft enhanced Nationally Determined Contribution (eNDC) document published by the Ministry of Forests and Environment (MoFE) falls short in reflecting Nepal's current realities and climate change context. As one of the lowest carbon emitting countries in the world and with no historical responsibility, the draft eNDC gives an impression that Nepal has the responsibility of burden sharing by prioritizing it from mitigation lens. By focusing primarily on sectoral mitigation targets, it misses to articulate escalating climate impacts and the need for enhanced efforts on climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, addressing loss and damage and resilience building. This seriously jeopardizes Nepal's opportunities to derive benefits from the international climate policy processes towards achieving national vision of poverty alleviation and prosperity.
2. The Paris Agreement clearly states in its objective that it aims to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change, in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty. This objective is even more relevant to Nepal that has low capacity and needs to advance its development actions while pulling one fourth of its population out of chronic poverty and food insecurity. It would be a sheer flaw of Nepal's eNDC to adopt a mitigation centric climate action with commitment to international stakeholders.
3. NDC revision and enhancement must be a country-driven and country owned process reflecting the highest political commitment and encompassing the whole of society approach. The 15<sup>th</sup> Periodic Plan, Sustainable Development Goals Roadmap, sectoral policies that have identified adaptation and climate resilient development issues must be the key priority on climate action for Nepal. Similarly, it also appears that ambitions already reflected in sectoral policies and strategies have been downscaled. Thus, the draft eNDC document has not internalized the national priorities.
4. The Paris Agreement emphasizes mitigation, adaptation, loss and damage and Means of Implementation (finance, technology transfer and development and capacity building) as major pillars to combat the climate crisis. The eNDC needs to internalize the essence of the Paris

Agreement holistically and provide equitable weightage to all the major pillars given the country's national circumstances.

5. The scope of the eNDC should not be limited by the template provided which is primarily relevant for high carbon emitting countries. For Nepal, mitigation commitments should be taken in light of achieving food security, energy security, poverty eradication and socio-economic development.
6. The eNDC must reaffirm Nepal's position on adaptation and loss and damage presented at the international negotiations which have been a long standing priorities for Nepal and Least Developed Countries in the UNFCCC negotiations.
7. The current draft estimates the cost of mitigation (US\$25 billion) without any articulation of cost estimation. It further says the NAP process will determine the adaptation costs, however, the current processes under 15th periodic plan and SDG process already helps determine such costs to a large extent. No costs related to loss and damage has been mentioned when the slow onset and extreme climate induced events are escalating in the country.
8. The draft eNDC has rightly stated the principles of equity, ensuring equal access to women, Indigenous Peoples, and marginalized groups in decision making and benefit sharing during NDC implementation. However, these principles have not been taken into account during the formulation of the eNDC. We urge MoFE to seriously address above points in finalizing the eNDC and enhance dialogue with all concerned stakeholders. The process should build a strong consensus on contributions and targets, outline robust implementation mechanisms and recognize the cooperation of all relevant stakeholders including the vulnerable and marginalized sections of society.

# Members of Climate and Development Dialogue



**Practical  
ACTION**



## Secretariat:



107/22 Aruna Lama Marg,  
Naryan Gopal Chowk, Kathmandu, Nepal  
Tel: +01-4428602, [info@prc.org.np](mailto:info@prc.org.np) | [www.prc.org.np](http://www.prc.org.np)