

Climate Summit for A Living Himalayas, Bhutan, 2011: 'Adoption of Ministerial Declaration'

We, the Ministers meeting here in Thimphu on the 19th of November 2011 hereby adopt the Ministerial declaration for the Bhutan Climate Summit for A Living Himalayas, 2011.

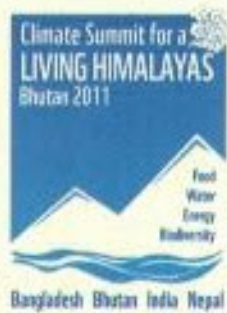
On behalf of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
State Minister for Environment and Forests
Dr. Hasan Mahmud

On behalf of the Royal Government of Bhutan
Minister for Agriculture and Forests (also Minister-in-Charge of Environment)
Dr. Pema Gyamtsho

On behalf of the Government of India
Secretary to the Ministry of Environment and Forests
Dr. Tishya Chatterjee

On behalf of the Government of Nepal
Minister for Environment
Mr. Hem Raj Tater





Climate Summit for A Living Himalayas, Bhutan, 2011: Ministerial Declaration

His Excellency, Dr. Hasan Mahmud, Minister of State, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh; His Excellency, Dr. Pema Gyamtsho, Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests and Minister-in-Charge of Environment, Royal Government of Bhutan; Dr. Tishya Chatterjee, Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India; His Excellency, Mr. Hem Raj Tater, Minister, Ministry of Environment, Government of Nepal; attended the 'Climate Summit for A Living Himalayas' in Thimphu, Bhutan on the 19th of November, 2011;

Stressing the high priority attached to Climate Change by the Leaders of SAARC at successive Summits;

Recalling the Thimphu Statement on Climate Change adopted at the 16th SAARC Summit in Thimphu, Bhutan on April 28 – 29th, 2010;

Concerned that climate change will have adverse impacts on the lives of millions of people in the southern watersheds of the eastern Himalayas in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal;

Convinced that regional cooperative actions can promote and strengthen national level adaptation plans and drawing inspiration from the SAARC process fostering and encouraging sub-regional partnerships to address shared challenges and common concerns;

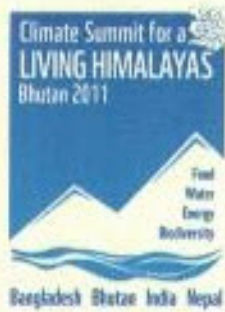
Reiterating that sustainable development and poverty eradication are the first and overriding priorities for developing countries;

Reemphasizing that while the sub-region's contribution to causing climate change is minimal, the impacts of climate change on this sub-region are likely to be severe and far reaching;

Reiterating full commitment to the principles and provisions of the UNFCCC, in particular the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities for a comprehensive, equitable and fair response to climate change;

Concerned over the slow progress in the implementation of the UNFCCC, in particular the weak political will of developed countries to fulfill their obligations under the Convention;





Mindful that climate change will severely impact the critical sectors of food, water, energy and biodiversity with serious challenges for sustainable development and poverty eradication in the sub-region;

Welcoming that partner countries would endeavour to implement their own plans and programs in the areas of energy, food, water and biodiversity as per their national policies, priorities and circumstances;

Hereby agree to adopt a 'Framework of Cooperation' (Annexure A) to build resilience to climate change in the southern watersheds of the eastern Himalayas by: Ensuring energy security and enhancing alternative technologies; Securing the natural freshwater systems of the Himalayas; Ensuring food security and securing livelihoods; and Securing biodiversity and ensuring its sustainable use.

Further agree to a mechanism to ensure implementation of the 'framework of cooperation' (Annexure B).

Further agree to meet as necessary to review the progress on this initiative.

