

**Statement by Honourable Minister for Environment Mr. Hem Raj  
Tater,  
Government of Nepal  
on the  
Bhutan Climate Summit for A Living Himalayas, Bhutan, 2011**

19<sup>th</sup> November 2011

Mr. Chairman,

Rt. Honourable Prime Minister of Bhutan Lyonchhoen Jigme Y. Thinley

Honourable Ministers

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates from the four countries,

Donor Representatives

Media Representatives,

Ladies and Gentlemen

First of all, on behalf of the Government of Nepal, I would like to express our highest appreciation to the Royal Government of Bhutan and the Bhutanese people for the warm hospitality extended to me and my delegation and the excellent arrangements made for the *Climate Summit for the Living Himalayas, Bhutan, 2011*. I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation to the Honourable Minister for Agriculture

and Forests and Minister- in- charge, Environment, Bhutan Lyonpo Dr. Pema Gyamtsho for initiating and taking lead on preparing the 10-year road map “*Framework of Cooperation*” among the four Eastern Himalayan countries i.e. Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal lying on the southern watersheds of Eastern Himalayas in our efforts to combat and adapt to the growing impacts of climate change in this region.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Himalayan mountains- the highest and largest mountain system in the world that harbour our civilization and support lives and livelihoods of millions of people in our region are not only places of recreation, sacred places of pilgrimage and aesthetic landscape – but the source of freshwater, biodiversity, food and energy for the survival of more than billion people in the region. It is evident that climate change is happening in an alarming rate in this region. It combined with other drivers of change is having a serious and negative impact on the ecosystems and livelihoods of more than 1.3 billion people living in the Himalayan countries.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The climate change and larger environmental problems are regional in nature and its impacts transcend national borders. Thus the impacts of climate change will be felt both on upland and lowland ecosystems which will have severe socio-economic, physical and environmental implication in our region.

In this context, we need to develop and strengthen mechanisms and platform of cooperation in our sub-region and act collectively to adapt the adverse impact of climate induced disasters in order to secure and sustain our energy needs, conserve biodiversity, promote equitable access to food, and secure water needs of our region.

**Mr. Chairman,**

We believe that sustainable development and poverty alleviation are our main priorities in the sub-region which can be solved only through sustainable and effective management of our natural resources. I am confident that through our united efforts,

collaboration and partnership we will be able to address the implications of climate change by undertaking suitable actions under the framework of cooperation.

We are gathered here today for a historic “*Climate Summit for A Living Himalayas, Bhutan, 2011*” whose main focus is to endorse sub- regional roadmap of “*Framework of Cooperation*” for ensuring sustainable energy needs, securing natural freshwater systems of the Himalayas, ensuring food security and security biodiversity in our eastern Himalayan Region especially in the face of rapidly changing environmental change.

**Mr. Chairman,**

I and my delegation would like to congratulate you and your minister for successfully concluding the Bhutan Climate Summit by facilitating the process of arriving at the Regional Cooperative Actions that we have collectively decided to undertake through this historic climate summit. This agreement can promote and strengthen urgent climate change adaptation measures in our sub-region. We believe that for fulfilling the

spirit of this declaration and for the effective implementation of the actions under the agreed framework and cooperation, there is a great need to boost financial and technical resources by mobilizing effective partnership and collaboration among parties, and between national and international actors. I believe that the roles of inter-governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, community-based organisations, media, local bodies, scientific and academic institutions, farmers and women are equally important for the effective implementation of actions under the framework of cooperation.

**Mr Chairman,**

Recalling the commitments of the Heads of the States and the Governments during the Rio Summit in 1992, the Millennium Summit in 2000, UN Conference on Sustainable Development at Johannesburg in 2002, as well as the 2005 World Gender Summit Outcomes, Thimphu Statement on Climate Change, 2010, we strongly believe that *Climate Summit for A Living Himalayas, Bhutan, 2011* will be a milestone on addressing climate change induced impacts in our sub-region. In this

respect the leadership shown by the Rt. Honourable Prime Minister of Bhutan is praiseworthy indeed.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Nepal being a mountainous country has also been working to draw the attention of the world communities to the issue of climate change that mountainous countries are facing due to global climate change. To this end, Nepal has made a decision to host an International Ministerial Conference of Mountainous countries during the spring of 2012. I would like to take this opportunity to request you all to support the summit from your respective capacity. The Government of Nepal has already prepared the National Adaptation Plan of Actions (NAPA) identifying several projects that will help in addressing the adverse impact of climate change.

We have initiated the process of piloting adaptation actions in partnership with the local communities and development partners. We have learnt that integrated actions based on the

scientific and local knowledge only can help on building the resilience of the communities and the ecosystems.

In our effort to conserve the rich forests of the Himalayan slopes in perpetuity, the country is gearing its efforts to enshrine the provision of protection of 40% of the area of the country under forest cover. Similarly, the Government of Nepal has initiated a sub national REDD plus project to introduce financial mechanism in addressing the drivers of deforestation in the forest ecosystems of Nepal.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Nepal has developed the climate change policy for the country. Although, the quantity of our greenhouse gas emission is far below to the global context, Nepal has initiated several voluntary actions leading towards low carbon development process. I would like to assure this august gathering that Government of Nepal is fully committed to the “*Framework of Cooperation*” under the *Climate Summit for A Living Himalayas, Bhutan, 2011*” and will do our best to implement

regional projects on climate adaption through partnership and coordination among the member countries and development partners.

Finally, I would like extend my sincere thanks to all the experts, technical partners, donor agencies, Bhutan Climate Secretariat and those who are involved in the process for their contribution to make this event successful.

**Thank you for your kind attention!**