



## Report

# National Consultation on Nepal's Graduation from LDC Category: Implementation of Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



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## Overview

The Least Developed Countries (LDCs) represent the poorest and weakest segment of the international community. They comprise more than 880 million people (about 12 per cent of world population), but account for less than 2 percent of world GDP and about 1 percent of global trade in goods (UN-OHRLLS, 2017). The LDC category was introduced in 1971 by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly with a view of attracting international support for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged members of the UN family. The UN defines LDCs as “low-income countries confronting severe structural impediments to sustainable development with high vulnerability to economic and environmental shocks and having low levels of human assets.” There are currently 47 LDCs in the world: 33 in Africa, 13 in Asia Pacific, and 1 in Latin America and the Caribbean. The list is reviewed every three years by the Committee for Development Policy (CDP), a subsidiary advisory body of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Nepal has been in the list of least developed country since the inception of the LDC category in 1971.

Least Developed Countries (LDCs) have been facing several structural challenges impeding their progress towards poverty eradication and achieving various globally set development goals. In response, the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Decade 2011-2020 (IPoA) was adopted by the Fourth UN Conference on the LDCs with an aim to overcome such structural constraints faced by the LDCs in order to eradicate poverty, achieve internationally agreed goals and enable graduation from the LDC category. The IPoA charts out the international community's vision and strategy for the sustainable development of LDCs for the decade 2011-2020 with a strong focus on developing their productive capacities. Based on the lessons learned during the ten-year implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action (BPoA), the IPoA develops a number of goals and objectives, principles as well as priority areas for action. Four years after the adoption of the IPoA, in 2015, the heads of states adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with the objective to fight poverty and achieve sustainable development during the next 15 years. SDGs have been built on the success of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which helped to lift more than one billion people out of extreme poverty. However, the world still experiences high rates of poverty and inequality and the SDGs have been introduced to achieve the unfinished business of the MDGs. Nepal, as a member of the UN, is committed to achieving the SDGs.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development focuses on all dimensions of sustainable development with a special focus on the LDCs as the most vulnerable countries. It also focuses on equality under the headline "Leaving no one behind", which implies giving priority to the



LDCs. The SDGs, with 17 goals and 169 targets, provide a broad and integrated development framework and aim to support the implementation of relevant strategies and programmes of action, including the IPoA. Similarly, the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the IPoA held in Antalya, Turkey in 2016 also stressed the coherence of the IPoA with the 2030 Agenda agreed in 2015. So, both the IPoA and the SDGs share the common objectives of enabling LDCs to overcome their current high poverty and make their development sustainable.

The IPoA has 47 goals and targets. Besides, LDCs committed to undertake 126 actions and development partners committed to implement 109 actions. LDCs and development partners will jointly undertake 16 actions to implement the eight priority areas. Several of the goals and targets of IPoA coincide with those of the SDGs. In fact, there is a strong overlap between the IPoA and SDGs. The IPoA could be understood as the focussed priorities of LDCs going towards SDGs. Hence, an effective implementation of the eight priority areas of the IPoA will significantly contribute towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.

The IPoA has set an ambitious goal to enable half of the LDCs to meet the criteria for graduation by 2020. However, since the introduction of LDC category, only five countries have graduated from the LDC category, namely Botswana (1994), Cape Verde (2007), the Maldives (2011), Samoa (2014) and Equatorial Guinea (2017). There are currently three criteria for the graduation of LDCs into developing countries: Per capita Gross National Income (GNI), Human Asset Index (HAI) and Economic Vulnerability Index (EVI). The required thresholds for graduation are: GNI of above USD 1,242, HAI of 66 or above, and EVI of 32 or below. For graduation, an LDC has to meet two of the three criteria, or it should have GNI double of the threshold, that is USD 2,484, if it were to graduate using 'income only' criterion.

Nepal envisions graduating from LDC category into a developing country by 2022 and into middle income country by 2030. Nepal met the eligibility criteria for graduation for the first time during the 2015 triennial review. If it meets the criteria for graduation during the 2018 triennial review, it may be recommended for graduation by the Committee for Development Policy (UN-OHRLLS, 2017). It is likely to meet two (human assets and economic vulnerability) of the three criteria for graduation but is likely to miss the per capita GNI criterion. According to 2015 triennial review, Human Asset Index of Nepal (HAI) is 68.7 (threshold for graduation being 66 or above) and Economic Vulnerability Index (EVI) is 26.8 (threshold for graduation being 32 or below) but its per capita GNI (only USD 659 as of 2015) is inadequate to meet the requirement for graduation.



In six decades of planning history of Nepal, thirteen periodic plans have been implemented and currently, the fourteenth periodic plan is in effect. The Government of Nepal (GoN) for the first time included graduation in its policy in the twelfth periodic plan (2010/11 – 2012/13) and set 2030 as the deadline for the same. However, the thirteenth periodic plan (2013/14 – 2015/16) preponed the deadline from 2030 to 2022. The thirteenth plan envisioned to graduate Nepal from a least developed country into a developing country by 2022 and improve the quality of life of the Nepalese by reducing the population living below poverty line from 23.8 per cent to 18 per cent (Government of Nepal, National Planning Commission, 2016). In the second year of the implementation of the Thirteenth Plan, the country had to face two unfortunate events: the devastating earthquake in April 2015 and the economic blockade. These events not only made difficult the country's plan to graduate into a developing country by 2022 but also adversely affected its aim to reduce absolute poverty to 18 per cent. Consequently, by the end of the thirteenth plan, poverty rate reduced only by 2 per cent to 21.6 per cent. The Fourteenth Three Year Plan (2016/17 – 2018/19) continues the spirit of the thirteenth periodic plan to graduate Nepal into a developing country by 2022 and has also set an ambitious goal to become a middle income country by 2030. With regards to graduation, the National Planning Commission has also drafted an Approach Paper to graduate Nepal from LDC category to a developing country by 2022.

Nepal's progress in Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which were implemented during the period 2000 – 2015, has been encouraging. Reduction in poverty rate; improvement in primary school enrolment and girls' participation rate in school; reduction in infant, child and maternal mortality rate; and progress in the areas of drinking water and cleanliness are some of the achievements under MDGs. The MDGs set the base for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be achieved by 2030. SDGs have been mainstreamed into the fourteenth three year plan (2016/17-2018/19) of Nepal. High trade deficit, negative impacts of climate change, lack of infrastructures, and low economic growth which is insufficient to uplift overall social and economic indicators are some of the challenges for Nepal. The earthquake of April 2015, the five month long trade economic blockade in 2015 and the flood of 2017 further added woes to Nepal's efforts towards graduating from the LDC category and meeting the SDGs. Sustaining the achievements of MDGs, achieving the unmet goals of the MDGs, and tackling the above challenges are important for attaining the targets of SDGs. Besides, Nepal invested larger amount of resources in social sectors during the implementation period of MDGs and as a result, it could make significant improvements in the same. So, during the SDGs period, it is needed to invest significant resources in the infrastructural sector to build productive capacity.



However, Nepal has limited resources, skills and access to technology which pose challenges against achieving SDGs.

Nepal promulgated a new constitution in September 2015. An important part of implementation of the constitution is institutionalising federal system in the country. Accordingly, local level election was recently held and the country now has local governments after a long gap of twenty years. There is also a constitutional deadline to hold provincial and state elections by January, 2018. Since the implementation mechanism of government is the local government, it is essential to localise IPoA and SDGs to the local and the provincial bodies. Steps in the direction of mainstreaming SDGs into national and local level planning have been initiated. The annual programmes and budgets of 2017/18 have been aligned with the SDGs by introducing SDGs coding to each and every programme. However, since the new provincial and local government levels are under formation, SDGs are yet to be fully aligned and incorporated at the sub-national level planning and budgeting processes. However, LDC specific IPoA has not yet been integrated into national planning processes. Hence, as of now, the major challenge is to cascade national efforts to sub-national levels by mainstreaming the IPoA and the SDGs agenda into the provincial and local level planning and budgeting, as these new levels of government are in the formative process.

Several stakeholders have joined hands with the government to implement the SDGs. The private sector has committed to support the government in attaining SDGs through job creation and infrastructure building. The cooperative sector has taken initiatives under the slogan of 'Cooperatives for Sustainable Development.' Civil Society Organisations are involved in awareness raising and advocacy on SDGs and is aligning its programmes with national programmes. The development partners have also shown interest in supporting government's efforts. This indicates that the government, private sectors, civil society, cooperatives and development partners are all on board for attaining the SDGs and an increased cooperation among them is vital for Nepal to generate resources for realising them.

Mainstreaming IPoA and SDGs into national level planning and their localisation into provincial and local level plans and programmes are crucial for their effective implementation. Equally important is a meaningful partnership among the government, development partners, private sector, civil society, cooperatives and other stakeholders for the country's planned graduation by 2022 since it requires large amount of resources. Moreover, the government needs to come up with a transition strategy to plan the post-graduation scenario with the objective of sustaining the graduation after achieving it and subsequently progressing into Middle Income Country by 2030. Nepal also needs to maintain peace, tranquillity and political stability for the





much needed sustained economic growth. Lastly, all concerned stakeholders should make best of use the new constitutional foundations to effectively implement and integrate all the National Plans of Action related to SDGs, IPoAs and other Internationally Agreed Development Goals (IADGs) for the graduation from LDC category and building Nepal as sustained and prosperous Middle Income Country by 2030.

### **About the Programme**

The Thirteenth Periodic plan (2013/14 – 2015/16) envisioned Nepal graduating from LDC status to a developing country by 2022. Nepal is projected to graduate by fulfilling two of the three criteria needed for graduation – Human Asset Index (HAI) and Economic Vulnerability Index (EVI). In this context, the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA), a Least Developed Countries specific programme of action, aims to enable LDCs' graduation from the LDC category. Similarly, the Sustainable Development Goals are transformational as well as inclusive as they highlight the importance of taking the LDCs ahead along with the rest of the countries under the banner 'Leaving no one behind.' There are several areas of complementarity between the SDGs and the IPoA which will lead the LDCs towards sustainable development.

Against this background, LDC Watch and Rural Reconstruction Nepal (RRN), the focal organisation of LDC Watch, jointly organised the National Consultation Programme on August 21 2017 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The Programme expected to raise the level of awareness and importance of IPoA commitments including the acceleration of SDG development agenda in the context of Nepal. The program comprised of discussion and presentations vis-à-vis development plans and processes for Nepal in the context of its graduation.

The key objective of the national consultation was to increase understanding and awareness of the IPoA among government officials, policymakers, civil society organisations and ensure its effective implementation through synergy and coherence with Sustainable Development Goals in Nepal. The consultation aimed to foster fruitful discussion on questions such as: (i) What are the main obstacles for Nepal to obtain graduation from LDC Category by 2022?; (ii) What are the key components of a smooth transition strategy for Nepal?; (iii) How can the civil society of Nepal work together with government in regard to graduation and meeting the targets of the IPoA and SDGs?; and (iv) Of the key priority areas of action highlighted in the IPoA and SDGs, what are ones that have the most important role in attaining graduation in respective countries?



The National Consultation was held at Hotel Himalaya, Kupandol and comprised of around 50 participants, including representatives from the government, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and private sectors.

### **Welcome Remarks by Mr. Gyan Bahadur Adhikari, Executive Director, Rural Reconstruction Nepal (RRN)**

Executive Director Gyan Bahadur Adhikari, on behalf of Rural Reconstruction Nepal and LDC Watch International Secretariat, welcomed all the participants to the National Consultation. He initiated his welcome speech by sharing his dissatisfaction over having to represent oneself as an attendant from a least developed country (LDC) while participating in international conferences and events.

Mr. Adhikari briefed the participants on the status of graduation of Nepal from an LDC into a developing country. In the thirteenth periodic plan, Nepal aims at graduating into a developing country by 2022. Out of the three criteria (Gross National Income (GNI), Human Asset Index (HAI) and Economic Vulnerability Index (EVI)), Nepal meets two criteria (HAI and EVI) but falls short of the required GNI. So, he expressed his hope that the speakers in the half-day long National Consultation would delve into whether Nepal will be able to meet the target of graduation by 2022.

He also highlighted on three important events that adversely affected Nepal's graduation efforts: The Great Earthquake of April 2015, the economic blockade in 2015 and the recent flood in 2017. He expressed his remark that if these unfortunate events had not taken place, the path to graduate Nepal into a developing country would have been much easier.

He concluded his deliberation by expressing the willingness of the civil society to partner with the government in its efforts to graduate Nepal into a developing country and also meeting the Agenda 2030. He stated that civil society and private sectors are also helping partners to government and called on the government to take them along while meeting the development goals of the country.

*Key point: Civil society is willing to partner with government in its efforts to graduate Nepal into a developing country and also meet the Agenda 2030.*



### **Remarks by Gauri Pradhan, International Coordinator, LDC Watch**

International Coordinator Mr. Gauri Pradhan initiated his remarks referring to the categorisation of countries by the United Nations into three groups: developed countries, developing countries, and least developed countries. Unfortunately, Nepal belongs to the category of Least Developed Countries (LDCs). In total, 47 countries belong to the LDC category. Classification of a country into LDC category is done on the basis of three criteria: per capita Gross National Income (GNI), Human Asset Index (HAI) and Economic Vulnerability Index (EVI). In 1971, when the first conference of the LDCs was held by the United Nations, there were 25 LDCs but thereafter, within the span of 45 years, it reached 50. With this trend, he questioned the current development process in the world leading to rising inequality among countries. The rich countries are becoming richer while the poor countries are still struggling to become a developing country. Armed conflicts and natural disasters further add woes to their development efforts.

He acknowledged that Nepal, in the process of graduating into a developing country, has made significant progress in different social and economic indicators. Nepal has made considerable progress in reducing the percentage of population living under absolute poverty. However, the efforts have not been adequate and Nepal is still included in the group of least developed countries. On women's issues, he stated that after the promulgation of constitution in 2015, Nepal lies in the group of ten important nations with commendable progress in gender equality, women leadership and women's role in politics. However, the gain from politics has not translated into socio-economic empowerment of women as expected and Nepal is still backward from the perspective of social equality.

He expressed his dismay over LDCs not being able to graduate from the LDC category as planned by them. Over the span of around 45 years, only five countries, namely Botswana (1994), Capo Verde (2007), the Maldives (2011), Samoa (2014) and recently Equatorial Guinea (2017), have graduated into a developing country. Many LDCs have been planning for their graduation but the evaluation by Committee for Development Policy (CDP), a subsidiary of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), shows that there are considerable challenges for the LDCs to meet the three set criteria.

The challenges faced by LDCs in their graduation process are unique to the geographical region in which they are located. Mr. Pradhan discussed the region-wise causes for LDCs' vulnerable condition. Geographically, LDCs are divided into several categories by the UN. Africa comprises of the largest number of LDCs (32) and most of them are situated in Sub-Saharan Africa. Although many countries in Africa are very rich in natural resources, problems such as poverty,





famine, epidemics and armed conflicts adversely affect economic development and political stability in the region. In Latin America, no country was included under the LDC category until 2011. But in 2011, there was a powerful earthquake in Haiti which brought massive destruction of infrastructures including houses, roads and bridges. It was then given the LDC status and categorised alongside Africa. Haiti is the only LDC from Latin America. Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal and Yemen are included in the list of LDCs from Asia. Bhutan and Bangladesh are in the graduation process. Meanwhile, Nepal follows along and plans to graduate by 2022. LDCs in South Pacific region include the island countries: Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Comoros, Vanuatu, Tuvalu, Timor-Leste, and Sao Tome and Principe. These small countries are prone to natural vulnerabilities which combined with their low population size have caused difficulty in their graduation from LDC category. On a brief note, he also expressed his dissatisfaction that the term 'least developed country' itself is humiliating and it should be replaced with some dignified term.

During the graduation process, the UN has divided LDCs into two stages: the countries graduating between 2017 and 2024, and the countries graduating beyond 2024. The countries included in the first stage are Afghanistan, Angola, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Djibouti, Kiribati, Laos, Myanmar, Nepal, Sao Tome and Principe, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Timor-Leste, Vanuatu and Yemen. The second stage includes the countries that are still under-performing and graduation is not possible within 2024. Most of these countries lie in Africa such as Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, the Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Haiti, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi and Sierra Leone among many other African nations. He blamed the inability of the LDCs to utilize their natural resources, human resources and the imported technology to enhance their productive capacity as the main culprit for their slow pace of development. He cited the example of water resources in Nepal which are not utilised well. Similarly, many countries in Africa have diamond and gold mines which are not rationally used for development.

He further went on to explain the export capabilities of LDCs due to their rich natural and human resources. LDCs are perceived to have foreign dependency on food, but countries such as Guinea Bissau, Malawi, Solomon Islands and Somalia have been exporting food. They are viewed as agriculture and food exporting countries. Meanwhile, Angola, Chad, Equatorial Guinea and Yemen export oil because of the availability of vast oil reservoir in these countries. Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Haiti and Lesotho export garments and are the manufacturing exporters. Among the LDCs, Mali, Sierra Leone, Mauritania and the Gambia are the mineral exporters. Likewise, Benin, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Lao PDR, Liberia and Madagascar export mixed goods. Among these five categories of exporting LDCs, Nepal is included in none of them.



Though Nepal has made some progress in garment exports, its performance is not so satisfactory to be included in the manufacturing exporting group. Compared to Bangladesh, Nepal is very backward in garment export. Hence, Nepal is labelled as service exporter; especially we export more human resources than goods. Remittance is the largest source of foreign exchange earnings for Nepal. Although remittance has helped to stabilise the economy in the short term, there are many challenges associated with the remittance-dependent economy. Ironically, the human resources who could contribute much towards the economic development, productivity and social empowerment of the country are abroad. We have not been able to utilize the available human resources. We have failed to take advantage of demographic dividend, which is very important for the development of any country. The proportion of youths that we have currently will not remain the same. By 2050, the percentage of youth population will fall while that of elderly people will increase. Even worse is that the labour force that we are sending to other countries is mostly unskilled due to which the return is almost half compared to that of the skilled labourers.

Mr. Pradhan also discussed in brief the path traversed by civil societies of LDCs over time. In 2001 when the number of LDCs reached 50, the Third LDC Conference was held in Brussels and the UN for the first time provided platform to civil society organisations (CSOs) representing LDCs. The Conference of the LDC CSOs ran simultaneously with the conference of the governments. The Chief Guest UN General Secretary Kofi Annan addressed the conference. During the Conference, Brussels Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 (BPoA) was declared. Since then, LDC Watch has been associated with the UN ECOSOC, Framework Conference on Paris, and other different processes. Also, in 2011, while drafting the Istanbul Programme of Action for LDCs for the Decade 2011-2020 (IPoA), LDC CSO Conference was held alongside the conference of the governments. The Conference had officially submitted its Declaration to the UN. In 2016, in Antalya, Turkey, the UN held the Mid-Term Review (MTR) of the IPoA. As a common platform for LDC civil society and NGOs, LDC Watch was granted the permission to organise a programme in Antalya during which an important declaration was passed.

He further highlighted the several options provided by the UN and the international agreements to improve the present status of LDCs, one of them IPoA. Currently, the world has agreed to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and we are in the process of nationalising it. Countries have also agreed to Paris Climate Accord which is expected to support LDC in tackling and overcoming the challenges brought by disasters induced by climate change. An important agreement associated with finance for development is the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA). Other agreements on international aid are Paris Agreement, Doha Round Table and Sendai



Framework for protection against natural vulnerabilities. These different international agreements provide different opportunities to LDCs. For instance, out of the committed ODA of 0.7 per cent of the GDP that is to be given by developed countries, 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of the GDP are to be allocated for LDCs towards sustainable development, poverty alleviation and social empowerment.

Despite these opportunities, we have different challenges. He applauded the latest progress in economic growth of the country and attributed it to the recent developments such as fewer strikes, regular power supply and relatively more stable political situation compared to previous years. This positive trend should continue in the coming years too. If the state could mobilise well all the stakeholders including private sector, cooperative and civil society, then we can meet the aforementioned three indicators of graduation within 2022 or 2024. However, we still have very low per capita income compared to the threshold requirement though we have made progress in other two indicators. He expressed his hope that the Government of Nepal would play a leadership role in bringing together private sectors and civil societies to attain the graduation target. On behalf of all the CSOs, he requested the government to widen the shrinking space of civil society in the country. He stated that the government and the civil society have differences in many instances such as in case of the issues on human rights, but in international platforms, while cooperating with development partners, demanding our rights in international platforms or implementing international agreements, we have common voice and would like to support the government.

In the end, he showed his optimism that though we have underperforming indicators in case of good governance, corruption and inequality, we can achieve the goal of graduating into a developing country by 2022 and into a middle income country by 2030 provided that we move ahead in the process of social and economic empowerment following the political and civil rights provided by the constitution. LDC Watch would support the plan made by the government in this regard and take it as a common responsibility. Lastly, he conveyed the regards sent by President of LDC Watch Mr. Demba Moussa Dembele from Senegal to all the participants and for the successful completion of the event.

**Lal Shankar Ghimire (Joint Secretary, National planning Commission)**

Nepal is a Low Income country (LIC), Least Developed Country (LDC) and Land locked developing country (LLDC). He stated that Nepal is in a phase of transition towards development. The government is not working alone and there is a sense of partnership with the stake holders to achieve the goal to reach to be a middle income country by 2030. The economic growth rate in the last fiscal year was 7% whereas, the expectation of GDP growth



was around 1%. Now sustaining the 7% is the priority. The recent local elections are likely to eliminate certain levels of political instability in Nepal. He was also a part of the delegation from Nepal to Turkey to attend the 4th UN convention on the Least Developed Countries also known as the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA). The government of Nepal has taken seriousness in following the eight interlinked priority areas of the IPoA. He also mentioned that the 13<sup>th</sup> Plan set by the Planning commission has aimed to graduate Nepal from LDC by 2022. The graduating strategy has been worked out by the government.

There are three criteria's necessary for a country to fulfill in order to graduate from LDC, they are: GNI (Gross National Income), HAI (Human Asset index) and EVI (Economic Vulnerability Index). The GNI is set at US\$1242, the HAI at 66 or above and the EVI at 32 or below. A single criteria of a country whose GNI is US\$ 2484 can be considered for graduation. In Nepal's context it looks highly unlikely to graduate through the GNI criteria only. In 2015 Nepal was reviewed by the United Nation committee for development policy and the figures were: GNI at US\$659, HAI at 68.7 and EVI at 26.8. He also stated the latest figures of Nepal for the fiscal year 2016/17 figures show GNI at US\$862, HAI at 70.1 and EVI at 26.3.

In reference to Nepal, over the years, the HAI and EVI targets has been achieved but the GNI threshold is unlikely to be met. Even if Nepal achieves the GNI threshold the difficulty would arise in being able to maintain it. The next review by the United Nations Committee for development policy will be held in 2018, similarly the qualifying review for graduation will be held in 2021. He also questioned the fact that is qualification without GNI going to be meaningful? If Nepal opts for graduation from the two criteria's (HAI and EVI) then two matters need to be looked at carefully, the implication on ODA (Official Development Assistance) and implication on trade. He assured that efforts are being made to achieve the GNI criteria as well. It has been inbuilt to the 2014 plan and to the vision 2030 plan. He emphasized that it isn't impossible but to achieve a growth rate of 22 percent in per capita growth and earning 190 US\$ in per capita income in the next 2 to 3 years is highly unlikely. He also stated that sustaining the achievements will be challenging.

### **Remarks by Gopal Lamsal, President, NGO Federation Nepal**

Mr. Gopal Lamsal shared the perspectives of civil society organisations (CSOs) on implementation of IPoA and SDGs and graduation of Nepal from LDC category. His deliberation discussed on the issues and challenges that Nepal faces, and suggested possible solutions from the perspective of CSOs to ease Nepal through the graduation process and help meet the goals of Agenda 2030 and the IPoA. He reckoned that the first and foremost issue is the continued political instability that the country has been facing since long. The political conflict and



transition since 1996 has adversely affected development goals. The effect of the two decades of conflict and transition on the development of Nepal has not been measured in detail and has not been brought to light. During the time, the country also could not hold any local level election and was without local government. He stated that political stability is a prerequisite for meeting development goals and graduating Nepal into a developing country. He highlighted the need for stable government at all levels – local, provincial and central. Lack of accountability, indicated by poor corruption indicator, also poses challenge to development. He insisted to make system and institutions stronger and more accountable without which there is going to be no real change even after bringing the new federal system into effect.

He stressed on the need for an effective and timely implementation of the new constitution concluding the political transition to a logical end. Commissions dictated by Constitution of Nepal 2015 should be promptly established. For instance, Natural Resources and Financial Commission – an independent commission – was envisioned in the constitution but local level election was held without establishing the commission. Currently, the resource availability and financial sustainability in each province is not known. He opined that resource and financial aspect are as important as political aspect for the effective implementation of the new constitution.

While acknowledging improvement in several areas especially reduction in poverty rate and gradual increase in per capita, he termed it as inadequate and called for radical reform to make significant impacts. He stated that productive capacity of Nepal is weak as shown by huge trade deficit. Weak productive capacity hampers job creation and increases external dependency. Inability of the state to expedite the spending of development budget has been slowing down the progress although there are sound policies and programmes at place. He viewed the need for a tax reform. Although the amount of tax revenue and revenue target are increasing year by year, there is a need to expand the scope of tax since many sectors still remain untaxed. He also questioned the productive use of remittance. Money from remittance is being mostly used for consumption and not for investment, and this trend has been fuelling imports and contributing towards inflation. He called on the government for increasing investment in agriculture, food security and rural development. It is ironical that though Nepal is an agricultural country, it imports agricultural products worth billions of rupees.

Nepal has agreed to different international agreements, including Agenda 2030, IPoA and Paris Climate Accord. In this context, he calls for a common and coordinated strategy on the part of the government to achieve the objectives of the agreements. He also mentioned that there is similarity between IPoA and SDGs, and their coherence and synergy should be considered while



implementing them. Since all SDGs and IPoA targets cannot be achieved at once, he suggested they should be prioritized during implementation.

He also highlighted on financial challenges to achieve the planned graduation and meeting the SDGs and the IPoA targets. Productive investment in forms of domestic investment and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is low in Nepal. Meanwhile, due to economic slowdown in developed countries and the rise of right-leaning populist forces in countries like the US and Britain, the flow of Official Development Assistance (ODA) to developing countries and LDCs will be less in coming days. So, Nepal should also be skilled at tapping global aid. Issues of LDCs should be raised in international forums. Besides, government, along with CSOs, should logically raise the issue of debt cancellation. Even when a certain per cent, if not all, of debt is relieved, it would free up resources for other developmental activities. Also, shedding light on geopolitical challenges, he emphasised to further strengthen the negotiating capacity of Nepal at international platforms.

The role of bilateral and multilateral development partners in supporting the priority areas should be critically reviewed. He also raised questions over the utilization of aid. He claimed that there is no institution in Nepal which does not take foreign aid, be it army headquarter, Supreme Court, police headquarter, ministry or parliamentary committee. The magnitude of change brought by such aid should be carefully analyzed. He expressed his displeasure that very often, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are blamed for misusing aid, but this sector handles only 1 per cent to 5 per cent of foreign aid – more than 95 per cent aid is taken by different state mechanisms. Nevertheless, even among NGOs and CSOs, the need for reform in utilizing aid among the NGOs and the need to systemize it cannot be ignored.

On disaster management, he asked the government to invest its resources in precautionary measures to tackle disasters such as earthquake and flood, and not only in rescue and relief at times of such humanitarian crises. To have a sustained Economic Vulnerability Index (EVI) for graduation, focus should be on building resilience at local and national level to address vulnerability of economic shocks and natural disasters.

Recognizing state as the most important actor, he called on the government to create more space for private sectors and CSOs at policy level. The role of all three levels of state governance (local, provincial and state), development partners, private sectors and civil society towards graduation process and implementation of SDGs and IPoA should be discussed. The implementing mechanism of every government policy and programme is the local government and so, he stressed on the importance of the localization of IPoA and SDGs.





He briefly described the role of CSOs in development initiatives. Globally, the role of CSOs in design, implementation, follow-up and monitoring is well-recognized. Mobilization of CSOs and strengthening their roles in every development initiative is very important for graduating Nepal and also attaining SDGs. In conclusion, he reiterated that SDGs cannot be achieved without the development of LDCs and hence, graduation of LDCs should be a global concern to all, including the United Nations, and it should be a common subject of discourse.

**Remarks by Chandra Prasad Dhakal, Vice-President, Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FNCCI)**

Mr. Chandra Prasad Dhakal started by recalling his participation as a representative from private sector in the Mid Term Review of Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) in May 2016 and also in the Special Thematic Event on Building Synergy and Coherence in the Implementation of the IPoA in the context of Agenda 2030 in February 2016, both organised by the United Nations.

He identified several aspects affecting the ambition of Nepal to graduate into a developing country by 2022, mainly political instability, natural disasters like earthquake and the recent flood and supply disturbance. He stated that Nepal achieved a high growth rate of 7.5 per cent – the highest since 1993/94 – and this growth rate should be sustained for the next 2 to 3 years to ease Nepal through the graduation process.

He highlighted that agriculture and remittance are the two important parts of Nepalese economy. Agriculture contributes one-third of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) while remittance contributes around 30 per cent. He iterated that the money received from remittance should be spent in productive and employment creating sectors. He observed that the wave of people going abroad for earning is gradually declining accompanied with a new trend of expatriates returning home with skills which they use for self-employment activities and also creating jobs for others. The money and skills brought by emigrants, if used in productive sectors, would support Nepal in achieving graduation goals as well as the targets set by IPoA and SDGs. He stated that tourism sector can also be an important contributor to national economy. Tourism is such sector in which one tourist can provide employment to 12 to 13 people. In this context, international airports that are in the process of construction will further support development of the sector.

He blamed low investment in productive activities as not because of lack of resources or funds but because of dearth of investment opportunities and a favourable investment climate. He cited a case in which 220 million rupees equity was to be raised from the public by a



hydropower company promoted by Non-residential Nepalese (NRNs) and locals. It saw an investment commitment of 9 billion rupees. This reflects that Nepal has funds and resources that people are willing to invest but they are not utilised.

However, he acknowledged that investment environment in Nepal is gradually improving. For instance, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has increased and banking service has reached local level providing credits ranging from Small Medium Enterprise (SME) loans to big project loans. Provision of one door policy is also on discussion which is expected to simplify investment procedures. Through the government decision and the monetary policy by Central Bank, Infrastructure Development Bank has been established which would provide much needed impetus to the slow growing infrastructural development. He reiterated that an investment friendly policy by government can encourage domestic investments and FDI commitments. He also emphasised on the importance of political stability. He expressed his optimism that after the conclusion of all three levels of election (local, provincial and central), the transition phase would end giving way to political stability.

He claimed that the real actors in an economy are the private sectors. Government enacts policies and programmes but the actual party implementing it is the private sector. He reflected on the importance of private sector as a sector creating employment opportunities and paying taxes to run the state. He ended his remarks by citing a World Bank report which states that around USD 13 billion to 19 billion would be needed for graduation of Nepal into a developing country, and stated that private investments, both domestic investment and FDI, would be an important medium to fill the resource gap.

### **Vote of Thanks**

Ms. Mana Dahal, President of Rural Reconstruction Nepal (RRN), expressed her gratitude, on behalf of RRN, towards the speakers in the Consultation: Joint Secretary of National Planning Commission Mr. Lal Shankar Ghimire, Vice-President of FNCCI Mr. Chandra Dhakal, International Coordinator of LDC Watch Mr. Gauri Pradhan, President of NGO Federation of Nepal Mr. Gopal Lamsal and Executive Director of RRN Mr. Gyan Bahadur Adhikari. She also thanked all the participants from different government agencies, civil society organisations (CSOs), private sector and media for their participation in the event and their active contribution in finalising the declaration. She also stressed on the need to perform respective role from each stakeholder, including government, private sector, CSOs and development partners, for graduation of the country from LDC status.



## **Declaration**

A draft of Declaration was prepared ahead and circulated to the participants in the beginning of the event. Later, Dr. Netra Prasad Timisina, Regional Coordinator of South Asian Alliance for Poverty Eradication (SAAPE), facilitated the discussion session for finalising the Declaration. A meaningful discussion was held with active contribution from the participants. After incorporating the comments received from the participants, a twelve point Kathmandu Declaration was adopted in consensus on 21 August 2017.



## Annex: CSO Declaration

अतिकम विकसित मुलुकहरूको समूहबाट नेपालको स्तरोन्नति तथा  
इस्तानबुल कार्ययोजना र दिगो विकास लक्ष्यहरूको कार्यान्वयनको सम्बन्धमा आयोजित  
राष्ट्रिय परामर्श गोष्ठीद्वारा पारित

नागरिक समाज संगठनहरूको काठमाडौं घोषणा-पत्र

५ भाद्र २०७४, काठमाडौं, नेपाल ।

अतिकम विकसित मुलुकहरूको नागरिक निगरानी मञ्च (एलडीसीवाच) तथा यसको नेपाल प्रतिनिधि संस्था - नेपाल ग्रामीण पुनर्निर्माण संस्था (आरआएन)को निमन्त्रणामा यही २०७४ साल भदौ ५ गते हामी नेपालका नागरिक समाज संगठनहरूका सदस्यहरू भेला भई इस्तानबुल कार्ययोजना र दिगो विकास लक्ष्यहरूको कार्यान्वयनको सम्बन्धमा छलफल गर्‍यौं । यस छलफलको निष्कर्षका रूपमा नेपाललाई अतिकम विकसित मुलुकहरूको समूहबाट दिगो रूपमा स्तरोन्नति गर्नका लागि दिगो विकास लक्ष्यहरूका साथै अतिकम विकसित मुलुकहरूसँग सम्बन्धित इस्तानबुल कार्ययोजनाको कार्यान्वयन गर्न आवश्यक रहेको तथ्यतर्फ सबैको ध्यान आकृष्ट गर्दै नागरिक समाज संगठनहरूको काठमाडौं घोषणा-पत्र जारी गर्दछौं । हाम्रा चासो र सरोकारका विषय तथा क्षेत्रहरु निम्नानुसार रहेका छन्,

१. राष्ट्रिय योजना आयोगले आफ्नो १२औं आवधिक योजनामा निर्धारित सन् २०३० सम्मको लक्ष्यभन्दा अगाडि बढेर १३औं आवधिक योजनामा सन् २०२२ सम्ममा नेपाललाई अतिकम विकसित मुलुकहरूको समूहबाट स्तरोन्नति गर्ने लक्ष्य निर्धारण गरिसकेको छ । सन् २०२२ सम्ममा स्तरोन्नतिसम्बन्धी आयोगको दृष्टिकोण-पत्रले तीनवटा मापदण्डहरूमध्ये प्रत्येकका लागि 'रणनीतिक निर्देशनहरू तथा कार्यहरू'का साथै तिनको अनुगमन तथा मूल्याङ्कन समेतलाई समेटेको छ । नेपालले सन् २०१५ बाट 'कोही पनि पछाडी नपरुन्' भन्ने मूल नारासहित रुपान्तरणकारी तथा समावेशी अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय पहलको रूपमा रहेको दिगो विकास लक्ष्यहरूलाई पनि कार्यान्वयन शुरु गरिसकेको छ । सरकारले दिगो विकास लक्ष्यहरूलाई आफ्नो राष्ट्रिय योजना तर्जुमा तथा बजेट प्रणालीहरूका साथै १४औं आवधिक योजना (२०१६/१७-२०१८/१९)मा समेत मूलप्रवाहीकरण गर्न थालिसकेको छ । तथापि, हाल गठन हुने क्रममा रहेका नयाँ प्रदेश तथा स्थानीय सरकारको तहमा, प्रदेश तथा स्थानीय तहको योजना तर्जुमा तथा बजेट निर्माण प्रक्रियामा पूर्ण रूपमा तिनलाई आवद्ध गर्ने काममा चुनौति रहेको देख्दछौं ।

२. इस्तानबुल कार्ययोजना कार्यान्वयन गरी नेपाललाई सन् २०२२ सम्ममा विकासशील मुलुकको रूपमा स्तरोन्नति गर्ने नेपाल सरकारको प्रतिबद्धता रहेको सन्दर्भमा, दिगो विकास लक्ष्यहरूलाई स्थानीय तहको योजना तथा कार्यक्रमहरूमा मूलप्रवाहीकरण गर्नका लागि स्थानीय सरकारका नवनिर्वाचित पदाधिकारीहरूको दक्षता अभिवृद्धिका लागि अभिमूखीकरण गर्ने राष्ट्रिय योजना आयोग तथा सम्बन्धित मन्त्रालयहरूका प्रयासलाई सराहना गर्दछौं । अतिकम विकसित मुलुकहरूका लागि गरिएको एक अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय सम्झौताको रूपमा रहेको इस्तानबुल कार्ययोजनासँग तालमेल गर्दै दिगो विकास लक्ष्यहरूको कार्यान्वयनलाई सुनिश्चित गर्नु ज्यादै महत्वपूर्ण छ ।

- हामी दिगो विकास लक्ष्यहरूको प्रभावकारी कार्यान्वयनका लागि आवश्यक पर्ने आधारभूत तथ्याङ्कहरू उपलब्ध गराउन महत्वपूर्ण रहेको 'तथ्याङ्क विकासका लागि राष्ट्रिय रणनीति' निर्माण गर्ने कामलाई पूर्ण रूपमा समर्थन गर्दछौं ।
३. दिगो विकास लक्ष्यहरूमा आधारित योजना तर्जुमा तथा बजेट निर्माण प्रक्रियामा प्रदेश तथा स्थानीय सरकारको क्षमता बृद्धिका लागि नागरिक समाज संगठनहरूको महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका रहने हुँदा राष्ट्रिय विकास प्रक्रिया तथा निर्णय प्रक्रियाहरूमा नागरिक समाज संगठनहरूको सहभागितालाई सुदृढ गर्न र थप नीति निर्माण प्रक्रिया र कार्यान्वयन गर्ने संरचनाका सबै तहमा समावेश गर्न हामी आह्वान गर्दछौं । हामी इस्तानबुल कार्ययोजना तथा दिगो विकास लक्ष्यहरूको कार्यान्वयनको अनुगमन गर्ने प्रक्रियामा निरन्तर संलग्न रहनेछौं ।
  ४. नेपालले असुविधाजनक भनिएको अवस्थितिबाट बाहिर आउनका लागि आफ्ना स्रोतहरू तथा अवस्थितिको सदुपयोग गर्नु आवश्यक छ । नेपाललाई भू-सम्पर्कित राष्ट्र (landlinked country) को रूपमा परिणत गर्दै विश्व अर्थतन्त्रमा सक्रिय रूपमा सहभागी हुनका लागि भौतिक तथा गैर-भौतिक पूर्वाधार (hard and soft infrastructure) र राम्रो संपर्क सञ्जालको जरुरत पर्दछ । हामी,भूपरिवेष्टित अतिकम विकसित मुलुकको रूपमा यसको पारवहन अधिकारलाई प्रयोग गर्दै नेपाललाई सबभन्दा निकट सामुन्द्रिक मार्गको माध्यमबाट अन्य मुलुकहरूसँग जोड्नका लागि प्रक्रियाहरूलाई तीव्र बनाउन माग गर्दछौं । यस कार्यले अत्यावश्यक व्यापार विविधिकरणमा परिणाम देखाउनेछ, र बढ्दो व्यापार घाटालाई पनि घटाउनेछ ।
  ५. दैनिक रूपमा श्रम बजारमा प्रवेश गर्ने हाम्रा युवाहरूको ठूलो जनसंख्यालाई, खासगरी कृषि तथा गैरकृषि क्षेत्रमा मर्यादित रोजगारीका नयाँ अवसरहरूको सृजना गर्नका लागि नेपाललाई ठूलो मात्राको लगानीको आवश्यकता रहेको छ । हामी, उत्पादन तथा पूर्वाधार विकासमा लगानीकर्ताको रूपमा उनीहरूको भूमिकालाई माथि उठाउनका लागि निजी क्षेत्र र विकास साभेदारहरूलाई आह्वान गर्दछौं । लगानीका लागि स्थानीय स्रोतहरूको परिचालन, रोजगारी सृजना, सामाजिक सुरक्षा तथा सामाजिक संरक्षण र उद्यमको विकासका लागि सार्वजनिक-सामुदायिक-निजी साभेदारीलाई सुदृढीकरण लैगिक उत्तरदायी रूपले गर्न आवश्यक छ ।
  ६. दिगो विकास लक्ष्यहरू तथा इस्तानबुल कार्ययोजनाका लक्ष्यहरू हासिल गर्नका लागि आवश्यक पर्ने सार्वजनिक लगानीलाई पूर्ति गर्न र निजी क्षेत्रको लगानीको वित्तीय खाडललाई पूर्ति गर्न प्रत्यक्ष वैदेशिक लगानीलाई आकर्षित गर्ने उपयुक्त वातावरण सृजना गर्न हामी सरकारसँग माग गर्दछौं । त्यस्ता प्रत्यक्ष वैदेशिक लगानीहरू मुलुकको हितमा हुनेछन् र तिनले गरेको दायित्व लगायत कानून तथा नियमावलीहरूलाई पालना गर्नेछन् भन्ने कुरालाई सुनिश्चित गर्ने तर्फ सरकार चनाखो रहन आग्रह गर्दछौं ।
  ७. यसका साथै, निजी क्षेत्र र सम्बन्धित सरोकारवालाहरूलाई निर्यात र आयातको बीचमा विद्यमान ठूलो व्यापार असन्तुलनलाई घटाउन र राष्ट्रिय उत्पादनमूलक क्षमतालाई सुदृढ बनाउन, उत्पादनकर्ता, लगानीकर्ता र निर्यातकर्ता बीचको खाडललाई कम गर्नु आवश्यक छ । नेपालको संविधानले प्रति अवलंबन गरेको समाजवादी उत्पादनमूलक प्रणालीलाई केन्द्रित गर्दै आवश्यक सिद्धान्त अंगिकार गरि जनताको आधारभूत आवश्यकताहरू, जस्तै, शिक्षा, स्वास्थ्य, रोजगारी, आवास तथा निर्माण सामग्री आदिको परिपूर्ति गर्न हामी नेपाल सरकारलाई आह्वान गर्दछौं । मुलुकमा निकासी बृद्धिका लागि नेपाल व्यापार एकिकरण रणनीति २०१६ को प्रभावकारी कार्यान्वयनका साथै देशमा उत्पादित बस्तुहरू, लघु उद्यमहरूको संरक्षणकालागि हामी आह्वान गर्दछौं ।

८. संसारमा नै जलवायू परिवर्तनको सबभन्दा बढी जोखिम भएको चौथो मुलुकको रूपमा नेपाललाई चिनिन्छ । जलवायू परिवर्तनका प्रभावहरूले अत्यधिक मात्रामा मौसम परिवर्तनहरू, कृषिको ढाँचामा आएका परिवर्तनहरू र खाद्य सुरक्षाको आधारमा हेर्दा जनताका जीवन र जीविकामा प्रभाव पार्न थालिसकेका छन् । हामी सरकारलाई राष्ट्रिय अनुकुलन कार्ययोजना तथा स्थानीय कार्ययोजनाको कार्यान्वयनद्वारा अत्यन्त जरुरी कदम उठाउनका लागि आह्वान गर्दछौं । हामी, सरकारलाई नेपाली नागरिकहरूका निम्ति जलवायू न्यायको सुनिश्चिताको लागि अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय समुदायमा आफ्नो धारणालाई सशक्त बनाउनका लागि आह्वान गर्दछौं ।
९. उत्थानशीलता (रिजिलियन्स) को विकास गर्न, स्वास्थ्य अधिकार, दिगो कृषितर्फ अग्रसर खाद्य तथा जलसंप्रभुता, र हिमाली पारिस्थितिक प्रणाली, वनको दिगो व्यवस्थापन र जैविक विविधताको संरक्षण, दिगो भूउपयोगका लागि प्रभावकारी नीतिहरूको निर्माण र तिनको कार्यान्वयन गरी गरीबी निवारणतर्फ अघि बढ्न हामी सरकारलाई आह्वान गर्दछौं ।
१०. नेपाललाई आफ्ना दिगो विकास लक्ष्यहरू हासिल गर्नका लागि व्यापार, लगानीहरू र आधिकारिक विकास सहायताको माध्यमबाट बाह्य सहयोगको आवश्यकता छ । हामी, विकसित मुलुकहरूले आदिदस अबाबा (Addis Ababa) कार्यसूचीमा पुनर्पुष्टि गरिए बमोजिम तिनीहरूको कुल गार्हस्थ उत्पादनका ०.१५ देखि ०.२ प्रतिशत रकम अतिकम विकसित मुलुकहरूलाई उपलब्ध गराउने लगायत ०.७ प्रतिशत रकम आधिकारिक विकास सहायताको रूपमा उपलब्ध गराउने प्रतिबद्धतालाई पूरा गर्नका लागि जनवकालत गर्ने काममा आफ्नो धारणा/आवाजलाई सशक्त बनाउन सरकारलाई आह्वान गर्दछौं । वैदेशिक सहायता कार्यान्वयन गर्ने प्रक्रियामा राज्यले निर्माण गरेका ऐन, कानून, नीति, लेखाप्रणालीलाई पूर्ण रूपमा अबलम्बन गरिनुपर्छ । हामी, दक्षिण-दक्षिण सहयोग, जस्तै बहुक्षेत्रीय प्राविधिक तथा आर्थिक सहयोगका लागि बंगालको खाडी पहल (BIMSTEC), एक क्षेत्र/पेटी एक सडक (OBOR) र दक्षिण एशियाली स्वतन्त्र व्यापार क्षेत्र (SAFTA) को अधिकतम उपयोग गर्ने उपायको खोजी गर्नका लागि सरकारलाई आह्वान गर्दछौं ।
११. सन् २०१५को भूकम्प र सन् २०१७ को भीषण बाढी जस्ता प्राकृतिक विपत्तिका साथै सन् २०१६ को व्यापार तथा पारबहन नाकाबन्दी जस्ता राजनीतिक संकटहरूले घोषित विकास लक्ष्यहरू हासिल गर्न गरिएका प्रयत्नहरूमा गम्भीर अवरोध उत्पन्न गर्दछन् । आफ्ना संस्थागत क्षमताको सुदृढीकरण तथा प्रभावित जनताका ध्वस्त भएका घरहरू, सामुदायिक विद्यालयहरू तथा सामुदायिक भवनहरू, स्वास्थ्य केन्द्रहरू र अन्य आधारभूत पूर्वाधारहरू, जस्तै सडक, पुलहरू, सिंचाईका संरचनाहरू र सञ्चार प्रणालीको पुनर्निर्माणको लागि महिला तथा अपांगता भएका व्यक्तिहरूको आवश्यकतालाई समेत ध्यानमा राख्दै अतिरिक्त स्रोतहरूको परिचालनको माध्यमबाट चाँडोभन्दा चाँडो विकासका खाडललाई पुर्नका लागि हामी नेपाल सरकारलाई आह्वान गर्दछौं ।
१२. हाल नेपालमा सिमित रूपमा सामाजिक सुरक्षाका प्रावधानहरू रहेका छन् र यी प्रावधानहरू मूल रूपमा औपचारिक क्षेत्रमा मात्र सिमित छन् । यस सन्दर्भमा विकास लक्ष्यहरू हासिल गर्नका लागि औपचारिक क्षेत्रका श्रमिकहरू (पेन्सन) र सामाजिक सहायता भत्ता तर्फ मात्र सीमित नराखी अनौपचारिक क्षेत्रलाईसमेत समेट्न जरुरी छ । हामी, अधिकारमा आधारित विश्वव्यापी सामाजिक संरक्षण प्रणालीलाई संस्थागत गर्न र श्रमबजार हस्तक्षेप, सामाजिक हेरचाह सेवाहरू, सामाजिक कोषहरू र कृषि सामग्रीहरूमा दिइने छुटहरूबाट सामाजिक संरक्षण प्रणालीलाई विविधिकरण गर्न सरकारलाई आह्वान गर्दछौं ।
१३. बालबालिकाका लागि उपयुक्त समाज निर्माण हुँदा मात्र राष्ट्रिय विकासको मूल ध्येय परिपूर्ति हुने हुँदा यस तर्फ सबैको ध्यान जान नरुरी छ । यसका लागि बालबालिकालाई छुवाछुत, जातिय तथा लैंगिक विभेद, हिंसा,





दुर्व्यवहार, द्वन्द्व तथा मदिराको हानिकारक असरबाट जोगाउँदै उनीहरूको उमेर र क्षमता अनुसार सामाजिक विकासका गतिविधिहरूमा सहभागी गराउन सरकार तथा सबै सरोकारवालाहरूलाई आह्वान गर्दछौं ।

१४. राष्ट्रिय विकासको महत्वपूर्ण आधार शिक्षा रहेको तथ्यलाई मनन गर्दै शिक्षामा बढ्दो निजीकरण र सबैले स्तरीय शिक्षा पाउने मानव अधिकार सुनिश्चित गर्न नेपाल सरकारसमक्ष आह्वान गर्दछौं ।
१५. राष्ट्रिय विकासको लामो दौडमा स्तरोन्नति प्रक्रिया केवल प्रारम्भिक कोशेढुंगा मात्र हो । अतिकम विकसित मुलुकहरू (LDCs)को समूहलाई उछिनेर दौडमा विजय हासिल गर्नका लागि यो अन्तिम उपलब्धि हैन । तसर्थ अतिकम विकसित मुलुकहरूको समूहबाट मध्यम आय भएका मुलुकहरू (MICs) तर्फ संक्रमण गरिरहेका अन्य मुलुकहरू जस्तै नेपालले पनि आफ्नो निरन्तर आर्थिक वृद्धिका लागि शान्ति र राजनीतिक स्थिरतालाई कायम राख्नु जरुरी छ । हामी, नेपालको आर्थिक वृद्धि र साभ्ना समृद्धिलाई गति प्रदान गर्ने महत्वकांक्षी योजनाको सराहना गर्दछौं । तसर्थ, अतिकम विकसित मुलुकहरूको समूहबाट स्तरोन्नति तथा सन् २०३० सम्ममा नेपाललाई एक स्थिर र मध्यम आय भएका मुलुक (MICs) को रूपमा विकसित गर्नका लागि दिगो विकास लक्ष्यहरू, इस्तानबुल कार्ययोजना लगायत अन्य अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय रूपमा सहमत विकास लक्ष्यहरू सम्बन्धी राष्ट्रिय कार्य योजनाहरूमा एकीकरण र तिनको प्रभावकारी कार्यान्वयन गर्नका लागि सबै गर्न नयाँ संवैधानिक आधारहरूलाई अधिकतम सदुपयोग गर्नका लागि हामी सरकार, राजनीतिक दलहरू र अन्य सम्बन्धित सम्पूर्ण सरोकारवालाहरूलाई आह्वान गर्दछौं ।

**Annex : Istanbul Programme of Action (in Brief)**

सन् २०११-२०२० को दशकका लागि अतिकम विकसित मुलुकहरूको

**इस्तानबुल कार्ययोजना**

सन् २०११-२०२० को दशकको लागि कार्ययोजनाको समग्र लक्ष्य भनेको गरिवी निवारण गर्न अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय रूपमा सहमत विकास लक्ष्यहरू हासिल गर्ने र अतिकम विकसित मुलुकहरूको श्रेणीबाट स्तरोन्नतिका लागि सक्षम बनाउनका लागि अतिकम विकसित मुलुकहरूले सामना गरिरहेको संरचनात्मक चुनौतिहरूलाई जित्नु नै हो ।

समग्र लक्ष्यबाट निर्देशित हुँदै दशकको अवधिमा अतिकम विकसित मुलुकहरूको राष्ट्रिय नीतिहरू र अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय सहयोगका उपायहरूले सन् २००० सम्म अतिकम विकसित मुलुकहरूको आधा संख्यालाई स्तरोन्नतिका लागि सक्षम बनाउने उद्देश्यले निम्न विशेष उद्देश्यहरूमा जोड दिनेछ :

- अतिकम विकसित मुलुकहरूमा कम्तीमा वार्षिक ७ प्रतिशतको तहमा दिगो, समतामूलक र समावेशी आर्थिक वृद्धि हासिल गर्ने, संरचनात्मक रूपान्तरणको माध्यमबाट संपूर्ण क्षेत्रमा तिनीहरूको उत्पादनमूलक क्षमताको सुदृढीकरण गर्ने र क्षेत्रीय एकीकरणका साथै विश्व अर्थतन्त्रसँग प्रभावकारी एकीकरणको माध्यमबाट तिनीहरूको सीमान्तीकरणमाथि विजय हासिल गर्ने ।
- दिगो, समतामूलक र समावेशी मानव तथा सामाजिक विकास, लैंगिक समानता र महिला सशक्तिकरणको प्रवर्द्धनद्वारा मानवीय क्षमताको विकास गर्ने ।
- अतिकम विकसित मुलुकहरूका आर्थिक, प्राकृतिक तथा वातावरणीय झड्का र प्रकोपहरू, साथै जलवायु परिवर्तनका जोखिमलाई न्यूनिकरण गर्न यी र यस प्रकारका अन्य चुनौतीहरूलाई सामना गर्नका लागि तिनीहरूको क्षमतालाई सबलीकरण गर्ने ।
- घरेलु स्रोतको परिचालन, आधिकारिक विकास सहायता (ओडिए), बाह्य ऋणमोचन, प्रत्यक्ष वैदेशिक लगानी र विप्रेषणको माध्यमबाट समेत अतिकम विकसित मुलुकहरूको विकासका लागि सुदृढ वित्तीय स्रोतहरू र तिनको प्रभावकारी प्रयोगलाई सुनिश्चित गर्ने ।
- लोकतान्त्रिक प्रक्रियाहरू, संस्थाहरू र कानुनी शासनको सबलीकरण, कार्यक्षमता, सामञ्जस्यता, पारदर्शिता र सहभागितामा वृद्धि गरी सबै तहमा सुशासनलाई सुदृढ गर्ने । मानवअधिकारको रक्षा र प्रवर्द्धन, भ्रष्टाचार न्यूनिकरणका साथै आर्थिक तथा सामाजिक विकासमा प्रभावकारी भूमिका खेल्नका लागि अतिकम विकसित मुलुकका सरकारहरूको क्षमता अभिवृद्धि गर्ने ।

**इस्तानबुल कार्ययोजनाको कार्बाहीका प्राथमिक क्षेत्रहरू**

निम्न बमोजिमका प्राथमिकताका क्षेत्रहरूमा कार्बाही सञ्चालन गरिनेछ :

**क. उत्पादक क्षमता**

- पूर्वाधार
- उर्जा
- विज्ञान, प्रविधि र नयाँ खोज

- निजी क्षेत्रको विकास
- ख. कृषि, खाद्य सुरक्षा र ग्रामीण विकास
- ग. व्यापार
- घ. वस्तुहरू
- ङ मानवीय तथा सामाजिक विकास
- शिक्षा तथा तालिम
  - जनसंख्या तथा प्राथमिक स्वास्थ्य
  - युवा विकास
  - आवास
  - पानी तथा सरसफाई
  - लैंगिक समानता तथा महिला सशक्तिकरण
  - सामाजिक संरक्षण
- च. विभिन्न संकटहरू तथा उदियमान नयाँ चुनौतिहरू
- आर्थिक भड्का
  - जलवायू परिवर्तन तथा वातावरणीय दिगोपना
  - विपद् जोखिम न्यूनिकरण
- छ. विकासका लागि वित्तीय स्रोतहरूको परिचालन तथा क्षमता विकास
- घरेलु स्रोत परिचालन
  - आधिकारिक विकास सहायता
  - वाह्य ऋण
  - प्रत्यक्ष वैदेशिक लगानी
  - विप्रेषण
- ज. सबै तहहरूमा सुशासन

Annex: Photos





**LDC**  
Watch

L'Observatoire  
**PMA**

