



NEPAL

Country Statement

Theme: "Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels"

**Delivered by Honorable Dr. Min Bahadur Shrestha
Vice-Chair, National Planning Commission
and
Leader of the Nepali Delegation**

**ECOSOC High-Level Political Forum
10- 19 July, 2023
New York**

**Madam President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

We are meeting at a critical juncture. The confluence of crises has put the entire world in deep distress, and the Sustainable Development Goals are no exception.

We need to act now, before it is too late.

Madam President,

Let me share our perspectives on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the COVID-19 pandemic recovery efforts.

Sustainable development is at the center of Nepal's development vision and priorities. It underpins our national aspiration of "Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali".

We have mainstreamed the Sustainable Development Goals into our national plans, programs and budgeting process; and also localized them at the provincial and local levels.

We have a Parliamentary thematic committee on Sustainable Development and Good Governance to monitor the SDG's progress.

Nepal has made robust progress in reducing absolute poverty. It has also made significant progress in energy production.

However, the COVID-19 pandemic rolled back our hard-earned development gains. Besides, the ongoing geopolitical tension and the global financial crisis has induced additional stress on SDG financing, thus directly affecting our long-held graduation aspiration.

Our woes have not stopped here. Despite our negligible contribution to Green House Gas emissions, we are at the frontline of the climate crisis.

We are putting every effort to turn the tide. We are committed to achieving net-zero emissions by 2045. We have made notable improvements in SDGs 6 and 7.

We are currently preparing the 16th periodic plan. Our main focus is on structural transformation to achieve inclusive socio-economic growth and development.

Our lone effort will not be enough. International support in the form of investment, technology transfer, aid for trade, and technical assistance is critical for us to recover from the pandemic and rescue the SDGs.

Fulfillment of ODA commitment by our development partners is equally important to realize our development needs.

Easy access to climate finance is also critical to address the climate crisis effectively. The commitment of \$100 billion to climate financing must turn into a reality.

We call for early operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund giving special attention to the climate vulnerable countries like Nepal.

International financial architecture needs to be reformed. SDR allocations must be reviewed based on countries' needs and priorities.

Comprehensive debt relief measures are equally important to redirect public funds for inclusive and sustainable development.

The upcoming SDG Summit would be helpful to galvanize political commitment at the highest level.

To conclude, **Madam President**, we believe that the SDGs are not beyond our reach. To realize them, we must redouble our efforts with renewed vigor, commitment, and solidarity.

Nepal stands in unison with the United Nations in achieving the 2030 Agenda for our people, planet, and prosperity.

I thank you all.