



# नेपाल NEPAL

**Statement by His Excellency Mr. Durga Prasad Bhattarai, Ambassador/Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations at the preparatory meeting on “Call for Action” for the High-level United Nations Conference to support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14**

**New York, 16 February 2017**

*(delivered by Ms. Sabita Nakarmi, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Nepal-UN)*

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**Distinguished Co-facilitators,**

My delegation aligns its statement with those made on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, Least Developed Countries and Land-locked developing countries by Ecuador, Bangladesh and Zambia respectively, and regarding “Call for Action,” wishes to express the following points in its national capacity:

**Co-facilitators,**

- A) First of all, Nepal joins others in stating that “Call for Action” should be concise and action-oriented. The political commitments must be clear, bold and binding, ensuring their timely materialization. The architecture must be built in an open, inclusive, participatory and transparent manner. The “Call for Action” should be a scientifically informed and inter-governmentally agreed instrument with the political will required to address the needs and interests of the countries in special situation to ensure that no one is left behind in the implementation of the SDG 14. We need to ensure that the pledges therein are not subject to postponements and slow delivery with undue excuses.
- B) Secondly, as a party to the United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), Nepal attaches great significance to the oceans and seas and wishes to do everything possible to make the imminent Oceans Conference a success from a long-term and holistic point of view. Oceans hold potentials that are key to a healthy planet at large

for generations to come. The “Call for Action” should therefore do justice to the well-established organic linkage between oceans and the Himalayas and mountain. Also, UNCLOS should be the legal basis for the implementation of the SDG 14.

- C) Thirdly, Nepal believes that the “Call for Action” should do everything possible to complement the effective implementation of Paris Agreement on climate change for the socio-economic and environmental development while implementing the SDG 14 since climate change and marine ecosystem are inherently interconnected. Various challenges of the marine world such as ocean acidification and marine pollution not only pose significant threats to marine habitat, biodiversity and ecosystem, but they also adversely affect the health and resilience of oceans. As a result, the most vulnerable countries such as LDCs, LLDCs and SIDs suffer heavily. Therefore, the “Call for Action” must seek the innovative and tangible ways and means to enhance the adaptation and mitigation measures to combat against the detrimental impacts of climate change.
- D) Nepal reaffirms that the “Call of Action” must emphasize scientific knowledge sharing, raising awareness, promoting education on ocean issues, capacity building and transfer of marine technology among developing countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing states and other coastal states. Establishment of institutional infrastructures, training, seminars, workshops, research, scholarship, expanding networks, data collection are a few of the most important areas of capacity building.
- E) Likewise, Nepal underscores the need of a strong and sustainable partnership at the national, regional and global levels among all stakeholders (—governments, United Nations system, civil society, private sectors, scientific, academic and technical experts and local community---) and the enhanced cooperation and coordination among them for the implementation of the SDG 14.
- F) It would be helpful to prepare a matrix of Goal 14 targets and all other related or inter-related targets within the 2030 Agenda with a view of mapping the complementarity in their implementation. The idea is to keep real time track of contributions of the implementation of Goal 14 targets to that of other targets and vice versa and to seek to coordinate and maximize progress in all respects.

G) My delegation also underlines the importance of early beginning and completion of the negotiations so that the Conference itself could be devoted to forging partnerships. The most recent and successful major Conference of this sort was Samoa Pathway on SIDS.

In closing, **Co-facilitators**, Nepal strongly believes that we should build on existing partnerships replicating success stories and stimulate innovative and concrete new partnerships to implement SDG 14, which will be a key contribution to the overall implementation of the interrelated and interdependent Sustainable Development Goals. My delegation is eager and willing to work toward the end of early, timely and effective implementation of the 2030 agenda.

Thank you.