

Climate and Development Dialogue

Building Global Cooperation for Enhancing Climate Actions in Nepal



10 September 2019

Himalaya Hotel, Lalitpur

Climate and Development Dialogue:

Climate and Development Dialogue (C&D dialogue) is a vibrant civil society network of 10 member's organizations, engaging and influencing on the policy processes of climate change in Nepal. The member organizations includes; Action Aid Nepal, DanChurch Aid Nepal, Didibahini, Helvetas Nepal, Himawanti, KIRDARC, Practical Action Nepal, Tewa-Philanthropy for Equitable Justice and Peace, the Mountain Institute and Parkriti Resources Centre (Secretariat).

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Climate and Development Dialogue (C&D Dialogue) organized a civil society consultation on “Building Global Cooperation for Enhancing Climate Actions in Nepal” on 10 September 2019 in Lalitpur on the eve of the 74th session of the UN General Assembly and the UN Climate Action Summit. The objective of the event was to discuss and finalize a Nepali CSOs’ joint statement on climate change pledging CSOs’ own contribution and calling for government efforts to draw global attention to the urgency of enhanced climate actions in Nepal.

Various experts and practitioners from government and non-governmental sectors significantly contributed to the discussion by highlighting ground realities and global perspectives to the issue of building wider cooperation for enhancing climate actions in Nepal. They were unanimous in the need for global cooperation and urgent action to address the growing and multifaceted impacts of climate change in Nepal. They also emphasized localization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and climate actions to realistically address the impacts of climate change Nepal and the Nepalese communities are experiencing.

In the event Dr. Gyan Chandra Acharya, former United Nations Under- Secretary General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Land locked Developing Countries and SIDS delivered his key note remarks. Similarly, Mr. Min Bahadur Shahi, Member of National Planning Commission (NPC), Dr. Maheshwar Dhakal, Head of Climate Change Management Division, Ministry of Forests and Environment (MoFE), Ms. Shanta Laxmi Shrestha, Chairperson, Beyond Beijing Committee and Mr. Gehendra Gurung, Climate Change expert delivered their special remarks.

A total of 40 participants representing C&D Dialogue, NGOs and INGOs, youth and academicians participated in the consultation.

Welcome remarks

Ms. Urmila Shrestha, Executive Director of TEWA, one of the C&D Dialogue member organizations, welcomed the participants. In her welcome speech she talked about the disproportionate impact of climate change on women, children and the elderly, and drew the participants’ attention to the quite grave scenario that the recent IPCC report has presented. She also informed the participants that C&D Dialogue, from its side, has been making every effort to contribute to minimizing the impacts of climate change, while serving as a bridge between the government and policy makers, and the grassroots communities.

Dr. Gyan Chandra Acharya, former United Nations Under Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Development Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States: Key note address

In his key note address, Dr. Acharya, spoke about global cooperation in climate change and development in the context of SDGs, the Paris Agreement and SFDRR. He appreciated the consultation and the CSOs' joint statement as 'rightly timed', which, he observed, would serve as good input for the upcoming climate action summit and the UNFCCC COP 25 at the global level and also the "Sagarmatha Dialogue" scheduled to be organized in Nepal in the near future.

With some major countries back-tracking on multilateralism and promoting narrow nationalism global climate change negotiations have started experiencing some kind of push back from them, which has added challenges to meeting the emission control, finance and technological cooperation ambitions. This state of affairs calls for increased and continued pressure in the international climate change negotiations, more so, in view of the very bad picture of climate change impacts presented by the recent IPCC Special Report on 1.5 degree Celsius, he observed. He noted that climate change impact is very obvious in Nepal whether it be drying up of water sources, decreasing agricultural yield or GLOF, and that the country's vulnerability level is very high in terms of income, and human and climate index, he said this is why international community should come forward differently when it comes to LDCs. And, he added, Nepal has a very strong case to present referring to the already visible impact of climate change on public health, agriculture and its mountains and glacial lakes. However, he further said, presenting itself as highly vulnerable developing country alone is not enough; the country should lead by example even though its contribution to carbon emission is negligible.

Describing SDGs as a very strong paradigm shift which have included ambitious goals, and integrated and multi-lateral approach for the first time, Dr. Acharya said climate change is going to impact on achieving the goals. Therefore global cooperation is highly crucial as it contributes to protecting the involved countries' self interest, maintain global order and promote justice and peace, he said adding, the country requires adequate finance (equivalent to 49% of its GDP) to achieve SDGs, while it direly needs more dedicated climate funds on top of ODA (not the size but share of the cake is important), and technology. Nepal's other crucial requirements are good governance and CSO, Business and government cooperation, and an integrated approach to addressing climate crisis and DRR.

Mr. Prabin man Singh, Executive Director of PRC presented a draft '***Nepali CSOs Call for Action on Building Global Cooperation for Enhancing Climate Actions in Nepal***' seeking the participants' input for finalization.

The presentation was followed by special remarks by guest speakers as follows:

Min Bahadur Shahi, Member, National Planning Commission: 15th Plan - Climate Change and Disaster Mainstreaming and Localization of SDGs

Speaking on mainstreaming of climate change and DRR, and localization of SDGs in the 15th plan, NPC member Mr. Min Bahadur Shahi said the 15th plan has been developed with

reference to the constitution, SDG, SFDRR and Paris Agreement, among others, and in the framework of “Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali” giving adequate priority to climate change, DRR and environmental conservation. Along the line, it is working to set 31 national goals to fulfill in next 25 years, which will equally contribute to meeting the international commitments of Nepal. NPC is also developing the loss and damage recovery plan and disaster financing assessment, he said, adding the government will ensure active participation of civil society in the upcoming “Sagarmatha Dialogue”. Talking on the role of CSOs on implementation of SDGs he said, there is a huge financial gap to implement SDGs for which NPC is expecting the private sector to contribute up to 36-38% of the investment. He also informed the participants that NPC is also working to prepare a **‘National Framework on Leave no one Behind’**, which will promote inclusion more effectively. Concluding his remarks, he called upon all stakeholders to collaborate with NPC on the implementation of 15th plan and make it a success.

Mr. Gehendra Gurung: Localizing Climate Actions and Finance

Mr. Gehendra Gurung observed that as climate change induced hazards are localized; physical exposure and capacity of people vary from one place to another, there are different vulnerability levels, different technology and capacity needs. Which is why one single policy or plan does not work everywhere as such policies and plans are not localized, he said, adding there are some guidelines in plan at international and national level (eg: national climate change policy etc) but they need to be localized. For this to happen, he emphasized the need for institutional arrangement- eg: thematic committees covering climate change at Palika level. Even if they are formed, they need capacity to function effectively i.e. to ensure climate considerations while developing water systems irrigation canals etc, and there should be a support mechanism so that they get technical support and knowledge. He also pointed out the need for a robust monitoring mechanism, which is totally lacking now, and adequate finance to localize climate actions and ensure effective implementation. National level focuses on accessing climate finance but there is no mechanism to devolve the finance to the Palika. As the current 7-step planning process at local government level does not have a space specifically for integration of climate change, Mr. Gurung stressed the need for additional guidelines for integrating climate considerations in planning and budget preparation not only at level but also at federal level. It is also equally important to ensure IEE and EIA consider climate change, eg: temperature and precipitation trends.

Dr. Maheshwar Dhakal, Head of Climate Change Management Division: Delivering National and International Commitments on Climate Change

Dr. Dhakal appreciated the **Nepali CSOs Call for Actions**, that has come out on the eve of the UNGA and Climate Summit 2019 and suggested that the CSOs should also take reference of the recently published report of IPCC on Climate Change and Land which is also very important report for Nepal, and should focus more on climate finance, climate

knowledge and climate technology as they are some of the main issues that Nepal can benefit from international level.

Highlighting some national and international commitments, he informed the participants that the Cabinet has already approved the revised Climate Change Policy 2076, the Ministry is in the process of revising Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), formulation of NAPs is under way, the Third Communication Report is in its final stage, and Doha Amendment is awaiting parliamentary approval. Talking on Nepal's participation in international events, he stressed the need for Nepal to share good practices by organizing side events and discussions.

[Shanta Laxmi Shrestha, Chairperson, Beyond Beijing Committee: Building Gender Sensitive Climate Actions](#)

Ms Shrestha spoke on the adverse effects of climate change in women's day to day life and highlighted the untapped potential of women in making climate actions more effective, efficient and equitable. Talking on some of the key areas where actions are needed, she listed the areas as gender balanced participation in decision making, building skills of gender and adaptation specialists and knowledge sharing among countries on gender considerations in the NAP process. She also referred to the statement released by Women Major Group for the Nepal People's Forum on Sustainable Development 2019 which has highlighted gender participation; gender mainstreaming, gender responsive implementation and gender responsive budget and resources.

After Ms Shrestha's presentation floor was open for discussion and questions and answers. The participants' queries and observation have been briefly presented below:

- There is a need to more strongly advocate for Climate Finance ON TOP OF ODA and that the call for action has not included common but differentiated responsibility principle.
- It would have been more effective if community representatives were invited to such forum to share their activities and good practices at the grassroots level.
- All stakeholders should take as their responsibility to raise the issues of people with disabilities as they are very highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

The dialogue concluded with the closing remarks by **Mr. Saroj Pokhrel from Action Aid Nepal**. He thanked all the speakers and participants for their active participation in the discussion on the global climate change agenda, SDGs and national initiatives on climate change. Being a developing country Nepal has very good opportunity to adopt climate resilient development path making environment and climate justice part of its development process.

Annex I: Photos of Event



Photo 1: Participants sharing her quires.



Photo 2: Participants sharing his quires.



Photo 3: Shanta Laxmi Shrestha, Chairperson, Beyond Beijing Committee sharing on Building Gender Sensitive Climate Actions



Photo 4: Saroj Pokhrel from Action Aid sharing his closing remarks.