



Climate and Development Dialogue's Statement: MAINSTREAMING CLIMATE AGENDA in the 16th PLAN

Climate and Development Dialogue (C&D Dialogue) is a group of 11 civil society organizations working in climate change and development intersections in Nepal. Over the last few years, C&D dialogue has been providing important inputs on climate change policy-making processes, namely National Climate Change Policy 2019 and Nationally Determined Contribution 2020, among others.

Climate Change is a global priority agenda. Nepal being a party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, UN Sustainable Development Goals, and other international agreements has commitments towards addressing the climate crisis. Nationally Determined Contributions, National Adaptation Plan, and Sustainable Development Goals submitted in the United Nations have outlined the country's commitments and priorities on climate change.

Given Nepal's distinctive position in the world's tallest mountain ranges, addressing climate change impacts in the Himalayas and mountains is vital. The impacts, such as rapid snow and glacier melt, droughts, displacement, land use changes, and livelihood loss, necessitate a focus on mitigating more frequent water-related disasters and biodiversity loss.

The dialogue is closely observing the development process of the 16th Plan of Nepal and is deeply concerned about a lack of priority climate agenda received in the plan. The 16th Plan approach paper has failed to prioritize the climate agenda given the escalating impacts of the climate crisis across different sectors in the country. Nepal's hard-achieved development gains and people's lives and livelihoods are in threat.

As the National Planning Commission starts the process for the 16th PLAN, C&D dialogue provides the following suggestions to the Commission.

1. **'Climate Justice'** as an overarching principle: Strong emphasis should be given to protecting vulnerable communities, indigenous people, women, and those living in areas highly susceptible to climate impacts addressing their specific needs and ensuring fair distribution of resources and benefits associated with climate action and building resilience which will help address climate change while advancing equity, inclusion, social justice, and sustainable development.

Note: Climate and Development Dialogue (C&D dialogue) is a vibrant civil society group of 11 member organisations, engaging and influencing on the policy processes of climate change in Nepal. The member organisations includes, ActionAid Nepal, CARE Nepal, DanChurch Aid Nepal, DidiBahini, Helvetas Nepal, Himawanti, KIRDARC, Practical Action Nepal, Tewa, The Group of Helping Hands (SAHAS) and Prakriti Resources Centre (secretariat).



2. **Aligning the 16th Plan with NDC and NAP priorities:** The Government of Nepal has developed the NDC and NAP, which prioritizes Nepal's carbon mitigation and adaptation actions. The NDC implementation period is till 2030 and the NAP period is till 2050. It is critical to align the 16th Plan climate actions with NDC and NAP priorities thereby meeting the nation's commitments. Moreover, the plan must allocate dedicated finance for the implementation of NDC and NAP priority actions.
3. **Adaptation** – Adaptation is a top priority to minimize climate-related risks that the country is vulnerable to. Several adaptation initiatives have already been started in different sectors vulnerable to climate change. Local Adaptation Plan of Action (LAPA) is a widely acclaimed climate adaptation initiative both nationally and internationally. However, other similar initiatives such as the Local Disaster Risk Management Plan (LDRMP) are also being implemented in local governments. The 16th Plan needs to harmonize these similar initiatives for optimal utilization of local governments' resources.
4. **Energy Transition** is pivotal for achieving Nepal's net zero emission targets by 2045. The 16th Plan needs to focus on scaling up renewable energy by harnessing the country's immense capacity for hydropower and solar energy. The plan also needs to develop a roadmap to phase down imported fossil fuels. The Energy transition has to be based on principles of justice and human rights. Furthermore, the plan needs to devise a mechanism for benefitting from carbon credits generated from renewable energy.
5. **Loss and Damage** – Increasing incidences of climate-induced disasters are causing unprecedented loss and damage to human life and livelihoods, infrastructures, culture and heritage, and many others. Climate-induced displacements and migration are on the rise. Slow-onset disasters such as Glaciers Lakes Outbursts Floods, desertification, etc are the least studied and the impacts are unknown. The Plan needs to develop a programme to minimize the risk of slow-onset disasters. Loss and Damage Strategy as provisioned on Nationally Determined Contribution will also be prioritized in the PLAN.
6. **Institutions Building**– Scaling up climate actions demands dedicated institutions in federal, provincial, and local governments. The PLAN needs to prioritize the establishment of the Climate Change Research Centre as provisioned in the National Climate Change Policy. Also, the multi-stakeholder coordination committee is led by the National Planning Commission at federal level and the Planning and Policy Commission at provincial levels.

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7. **Transparency and Accountability Framework** - Periodic monitoring and evaluation of NDC and NAP and climate finance is important to track the progress made by Nepal in meeting the commitments. The PLAN must aim to develop a transparency and accountability framework on climate change.
8. Climate change cuts across different sectors and these sectors need to protect from potential climate risks through adaptation measures. The PLAN must ensure that all sectors vulnerable to climate change integrate climate change into the sectoral policies and plans.
9. Nepal needs to prioritize grants as a preferred international financing instrument over loans and others in climate actions. The PLANs need prioritization in accessing international climate finance to the maximum and developing climate programmes and projects targeting Green Climate Fund (GCF) and other climate funds.
10. The PLAN period includes the benchmark year (2026) for Nepal's graduation from LDC. With the graduation, Nepal has to enhance negotiation skills in international forums such as the UNFCCC. The PLAN needs to develop a special programme to prepare Nepal for the international forum after the LDC graduation.

The above 10 points are critical for Nepal in addressing pertinent climate problems the country is facing currently and optimizing Nepal's opportunities from the international processes. Climate and Development Dialogue urges the National Planning Commission to address these points in the 16th PLAN document. The dialogue is also committed to working with the Government of Nepal and National Planning Commission in executing the above-mentioned points to its capacity.

The END
