



**PERMANENT MISSION OF NEPAL TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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**Statement by Ms. Sewa Lamsal Adhikari, Charge' d' Affaires, a.i. and Deputy  
Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations, at the First Meeting  
of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals  
New York, 15 March 2013**

**Mr. Co-Chair,**

Following the decision at Rio+20 Summit last year to initiate the process of formulating SDGs, my delegation is particularly pleased to see that process being geared up. At the outset, my delegation would like to align with the statements made by Fiji, Benin and Lao PDR on behalf of G-77 and China, LDCs and LLDCs, respectively.

I take this opportunity to congratulate the Co-Chairs of OWG on SDGs for your election as well as wish to commend your hard work and contributions to shape this meeting at this stage. I assure you of my delegation's full cooperation and productive engagement throughout this process. We are fully confident that the OWG has the sufficient political will, capacity and leadership to steer this process to its successful conclusion within the given timeframe.

**Mr. Co-Chair,**

When we are thinking about sustainable development at the national, regional and global levels, it is absolutely necessary that those countries, regions or groups of countries which have limited human, institutional and technological capacity as well as financial resources are taken onboard to back up their efforts to achieve sustainable development. The dismal progress in some of the MDGs in most vulnerable countries like the LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS and Africa speaks volume to this reality.

It may not be too early to talk about the possible areas for SDGs from my delegation's point of view. My delegation, strongly views that MDGs needs to be fully integrated into the SDG framework, as these groups of countries lag behind almost all MDG targets and those which on track to a few MDGs have the questionable quality to be able to say the scope for their sustainability. Let's finish the unfinished business first as we can't leave the bulk of the humanity in the middle of vicious circle of poverty while taking any other good initiatives such as SDGs.

Poverty eradication is a must to building human capacity for sustainable development. Country like Nepal, which has double disadvantage in terms of its least developed and landlocked status, has a daunting challenge to address this issue. Comparing the level of poverty in relation to capacity, resources and population, the LDCs and LLDCs must have a special priority focus in the SDG framework. In this regard, as outlined by the Rio+20 outcome document, the Istanbul Programme of Action will be given due attention.

**Mr. Co-Chair,**

To be more specific, building productive and human capacity with gender perspectives, promoting sustainable agriculture, mountain, clean energy and community forestry are critical to sustainable development. Similarly, addressing vulnerabilities in terms of economic shocks, disasters and disproportionate and adverse impact of climate change should find prominence in the configuration of SDGs.

In our part of the world, impact of climate change, desertification and melting of glaciers have become critical concerns. These are the matters that shape our continued existence. From our perspective, there would not be global sustainability if these areas have not been given priority attention in the SDGs. At the same time, this has to be backed up by strong means of implementation with adequate and equitable commitment and timely delivery of resources, technology transfer and capacity building to the most vulnerable countries as recognized by the UN. There should be a functional relationship between MDGs and SDGs. We must learn lessons from MDGs particularly in achieving the MDG8.

**Mr. Co-Chair,**

The forthcoming SDG framework must have the implementation plan; resource, technology and capacity support framework; policy coherence; and strong follow-up and monitoring mechanism at national, regional and global levels to enhance accountability in the fulfilment of SDGs.

**I thank you for your attention.**