
Mr. Chairman,

We attach great importance to the deliberation under this agenda item and deeply appreciate the Secretary-General for his comprehensive reports before the Committee.

My delegation associates itself with the statements made by Fiji, Benin and Lao PDR on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, LDCs, and LLDCs, respectively.

The Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and the Rio+20 outcome document provide basic frameworks to ensure sustainability of development at all levels. The establishment of the High-level Political Forum is a positive step in this direction. We also look forward to the timely conclusion of the remaining Rio+20 processes such as defining inclusive SDGs, figuring out robust financing mechanism, and facilitating environmentally-sound technology supporting mechanism in favor of the poorest and most vulnerable countries such as LDCs.

Mr. Chairman,

As poverty remains the biggest challenge in the world today, it must be dealt with head-on to achieve sustainable development. Poverty eradication should, in fact, be the overarching goal of the post-2015 development agenda and the SDG framework, based on the remaining tasks of the MDGs and its lessons.

Sustainable agriculture system constitutes a key to ensuring food security, nutrition and poverty reduction in the developing world. Access to capital and knowledge-intensive technologies, capacity and infrastructure development, sharing of knowledge on sustainable agricultural practices, and increased and predictable investment in agriculture sector with a focus on smallholder farmers remain critical in attaining sustainable development.

Climate change affects the socio-economic development process and disproportionately adds burden on the poorest and most vulnerable countries, like Nepal, that have limited resources, capacity and technological strength to confront the challenge effectively. We, therefore, call for an early conclusion of UNFCCC negotiation with appropriate adaptation and mitigation measures. The Green Climate Fund should be made fully operational. Global support for ‘sustainable energy for all’ initiative will go a long way in this respect.

Effective implementation of CBD is essential for reversing the increasing loss of biodiversity, building resilience of eco-systems, and contributing to human wellbeing and poverty eradication. We call upon...
all parties of the CBD to effectively implement Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and meet Aichi biodiversity targets. We call for providing enhanced human, technical and financial resources to the developing countries to this end.

Desertification, land degradation and drought are also the pressing global environmental challenges of our time. It is critical that comprehensive global support for the implementation of UNCCD is provided.

Disaster risk reduction is the priority agenda of global community and should be built into the post-2015 development agenda and the post-Hyogo Framework of Action. Enhanced international support is necessary to meet the huge investment need of developing countries in reducing disaster risks and building resilience. We emphasize on ensuring effective coordination at all levels in dealing with disaster risk reduction.

Sustainable management and safe disposal of chemical waste should also be placed under international priority and cooperation framework.

Mr. Chairman,

Nepal being a mountain country, we in Nepal cannot conceive a sustainable development where the concerns of mountain and people in mountain countries and regions are not fully addressed. As pointed out in the SG’s report, mountains cover about a quarter of the world’s land surface and are home to about 12 per cent of the world population. They are the source of freshwater, biodiversity and indigenous cultures and provide livelihood to more than half of humanity.

Yet, mountain areas comprise fragile ecosystems of global importance and the people living in those areas continue to confront the problems of poverty, food insecurity and under-development and are most vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change and natural disasters.

Unfair globalization, recurrent multiple crises and unsustainable patterns of production and consumption further aggravated the difficulties of mountain countries. Without addressing all these issues properly, holistically and comprehensively in the emerging framework of SDGs and post-2015 development agenda, our shared future prosperity will be at stake.

Mountain areas thus deserve priority focus at global, regional and national levels. An integrated and comprehensive framework of action for mountain countries is the need of the hour. Sustainable mountain development agenda should, therefore, be placed at the forefront of SDG and post-2015 development frameworks.

Delivery of resource commitments by our development partners for sustainable mountain development is also critical. We particularly call for concerted international cooperation and global partnership for the sustainable development of mountain countries in all possible areas including finance, technology transfer, capacity building, knowledge-sharing, and research and development.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.