

**Address by the Home Secretary, Government of Nepal**  
**At the**  
**2018 Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR)**  
**3-6 July**  
**Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**

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**His Excellency, Prime Minister of Mongolia,**  
**Honourable Ministers,**  
**Distinguished Delegates from Respective Countries**  
**Chiefs and Representatives of Civil Society organisations,**  
**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

1. It is indeed a great honour and privilege for me to attend this very important 2018 Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR). I express my sincere thanks for the warm reception and generous hospitality that have been extended to us by the organizers and the host country.
2. On behalf of the Government of Nepal, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the host country, Mongolia for organizing such an important event after the World Conference in Sendai, Japan in 2015, 7th AMCDRR in India in 2016 and the Global Platform in Mexico in 2017.
3. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Reduction (SFDRR) (2015-2030) was adopted in Sendai, Japan on March 18, 2015 by 187 countries, including Nepal. The priorities for action mentioned in the SFDRR are very much relevant to disaster prone countries, such as Nepal.
4. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by world leaders in September 2015 is only possible if there is a reduction in disaster risk in our country.
5. Government of Nepal remains committed to achieve all priorities for action within the given timeframe of 2030.

**Distinguished Delegates,**

6. Nepal is a multi-hazard prone country and we have recently faced a series of large scale earthquakes and floods. We also have the challenge of overcoming poverty and economic backwardness.

7. Let me share some facts in relation to disasters in Nepal. Over the last forty five years, annually there have been about 500 incidents causing about 900 deaths and affecting over a hundred and thirty thousand families. The environmental and economical losses are beyond our imagination.
8. The Gorkha earthquake of 2015 and its aftershocks impacted over a third of Nepal's population. It resulted in the deaths of about 9 thousand people, completely destroyed about half a million houses and damaged around 19 thousand school rooms. The estimated economic loss was USD 7 billion and poverty increased by about 3 percent.
9. The Terai, the grain basket of the country were hit by severe floods last year, and the risk of floods continue to remain a challenge. Let me reiterate, climate change, in particular the rising temperatures have contributed to the humongous challenge of glacial lake outburst floods in Nepal. The frequency of disasters in Nepal has comparatively increased over the past decades.
10. The Government of Nepal remains committed to tackling the issues of disaster, climate change and poverty in a comprehensive manner by institutionalizing Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in all its development initiatives to ensure that Nepal becomes a disaster resilient nation by 2030.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

11. In the backdrop of painful learning due to annually recurring disasters and the recent earthquakes, Government of Nepal has enacted a comprehensive and forward looking Disaster Management Act in 2017 which will focus on all cycles of disaster management. This new Act addresses the Sendai Framework (SFDRR) priorities for action and builds on learning from HFA and the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction 1990-1999 (IDNDR).
12. The Government of Nepal has already initiated process to mainstream DRR and CCA into our development plans and academic curricula. Translating the SFDRR and SDGs into action, we have finalized the National DRR&M Policy and Strategic Action Plan (2018-2030).

**Distinguished Delegates,**

13. Disasters strikes at all three major pillars (economic, social and environmental) of sustainable development. Our response, therefore, should be targeted to address its

consequences in all fronts and aim at preventing and reducing the risk through learning lessons and employing technology as far as possible. Nepal is always ready to share her experiences and learn from other nations, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region to reduce disaster risk and ultimately alleviate poverty in the region.

14. Let me reiterate that Nepal looks forward to working together with all friendly nations and development partners to make Nepal a disaster resilient nation by 2030. This can only be achieved if we work together with a common goal.
15. It is my firm belief that the outcome of this Ministerial Conference will be instrumental for developing countries like Nepal on how best to achieve the SFDRR and regional commitments at the country level.

**Finally,**

16. I am confident that the deliberations during the Conference will reflect on the three years into the implementation of the Sendai Framework, review progress made against the commitments at the AMCDRR 2016, reaffirm commitment on disaster risk reduction and strengthen coherent implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
17. I wish this conference all success to reduce disaster risk from the region through a collaborative and coordinated regional effort.

**Thank you**