

Submission by Nepal on Matters Relating to the First Global Stocktake

Preamble

Nepal is pleased to make this submission, in response to the call for submission¹ on the views on the consideration of outputs component of the first Global Stocktake. Nepal has a negligible contribution to global emissions but faces multiple challenges posed by anthropogenic climate change to our economy, ecosystems and society.

Science is Clear: 2 °C is too High to Save Himalayan Cryosphere

Even under the most ambitious goal of the Paris Agreement to limit global warming to 1.5 °C, the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region will likely experience temperatures of at least 0.3°C warmer than the global average. This mean around one-third of glacier volume in the region is projected to be lost by the end of the century in a 1.5°C warmer world. New report (ICIMOD, 2023) finds that glaciers in the Himalaya mountain range melted 65 percent faster from 2010 through 2019 than in the previous decade. The impacts of melting glaciers are not only limited to the mountain regions as the rapid rate of ice melt could lead to catastrophic sea level rise even before the end of the century. Continued ice sheet loss will also release greenhouse gases into the atmosphere — as temperature rises and permafrost thaws, it decomposes and emits carbon, further amplifying climate change that is causing it to melt.

Urgent Need to Raise Ambition to Achieve Mitigation Targets

In accordance with the mandate of the Paris Agreement, the Global Stocktake (GST) is tasked with offering a comprehensive perspective on the ambition mechanism within the Agreement to reach the 1.5°C target. The GST's results should extend beyond merely assessing ongoing efforts, but should be able to guide actions and enhance ambition across all thematic areas – adaptation; mitigation, loss and damage and means of implementation and support, in the light of equity and the best available science. As outlined in the recent GST Synthesis Report, there is a notable lack of ambition in across the goals of the Paris Agreement, including limiting temperature rise to 1.5°C, securing adequate climate finance for adaptation and address loss and damage.

Therefore, in our view, the first GST holds significant responsibility in charting a clear path forward for achieving the 1.5°C target in terms of actions and implementation. Failure to accomplish this could result in irreversible impacts for the cryosphere, including sea-level rise, glacier and snow loss, and permafrost emissions. Even temporary overshoot of the 1.5°C threshold leads to additional permanent losses, beyond adaptation limits with consequences such as sea levels rise and reduced freshwater resources and water availability for agriculture and other various purposes.

Nepal's Adaptation and Net-Zero Target

Nepal reiterates her strong commitment to implement the Paris Agreement and has set an ambitious target to achieve net-zero emissions by 2045. Nepal's Climate Change Policy (2019) provides a vision of achieving socio-economic prosperity by building climate-resilient society. It has set adaptation priorities and emission reduction actions in eight thematic and four cross-cutting areas. Nepal's second NDC (2020) set clear targets for the four sectors of energy, industrial processes and product use (IPPU), agriculture, forestry and other land use (AFOLU) and material/waste management. Our ambitious targets as presented in our updated NDCs includes nature conservation, sustainable forest management and rapid shift to

¹ paragraph 8 of FCCC/SB/2023/L.3

electric transport, electric-cooking and other clean energy transition. This will create new opportunities for businesses and enterprises, while simultaneously reducing our reliance on fossil fuels.

We have approved a comprehensive Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Plan including the NDC Implementation Plan with detail actionable activities, monitoring benchmarks, implementation framework and allocated our limited resources for various NDC targets across multiple sectors. Nepal has achieved our goal of bringing 45% of our total land area under forest cover by 2030, well ahead of schedule. Additionally, our ongoing hydro and solar power projects put us on a promising trajectory to reach our clean energy generation target of 15,000 MW by 2030 with potential regional benefits. Furthermore, our efforts to promote electric vehicles are making positive progress, with over 50 charging stations recently installed and plans for an additional 500 in the near future.

Therefore, we submit the following outputs and follow-up actions for consideration by the first GST:

1. the requirement for countries to incorporate in the updated NDCs, a statement detailing how the findings of the first GST have informed the NDCs, so that the global emission remain on track to peak before 2025 with a strong commitment to strengthen 2030 targets in the NDCs to align with 1.5°C.
2. a clearly defined roadmap for the period after 2023 to track progress, implement the recommendations from the GST1 and to offer clear steps for monitoring and ensuring accountability for actions, so that the level of ambition is in alignment with the 1.5°C.
3. a clear decision to provide the promised USD 100 billion dollar finance to developing countries with an implementable decision to double financial support for adaptation and adequate finance and support for implementation of NAPs, including simplified access to financial resources for adaptation finance.
4. dedicated support for implementation of conditional targets of the NDCs for developing countries and that the vulnerable countries are provided with means of implementation as well as an acknowledgement and synergy with other mandates and decisions, such as the Loss and Damage Fund and the funding arrangement to be operationalized by 2023;
5. recognition of the risks linked to rising temperatures affecting the cryosphere, considering the consequences of fast rising temperatures in mountainous areas. As informed by the IPCC, this recognition must emphasize the need for urgent emission reductions within this critical decade, and calls for urgent actions to address the associated risks in mountainous regions.

Nepal's Key Message: The CMA Decision on the Global Stocktake, and also the COP28 Cover Decision should state that based on the pace and magnitude of impacts on mountain and cryosphere due to climate change and based on the most recent science, all new commitments under the Paris Agreement should therefore focus on 1.5°C exclusively and as a matter of extreme global urgency; also provide simplified access to finance adaptation and loss and damage for vulnerable developing countries.