

Statement made by Nepal at the 17th meeting of SBSTTA

Mr. Chair,

Nepal, in line with Strategic plan for biodiversity 2011-2020, is in the process of revising National biodiversity strategy and action plan as well as the preparation of 5<sup>th</sup> National report to CBD. We are confident of completing these processes in time. Preliminary analysis has indicated that integration of biodiversity considerations into national development plans and national accounting system will be major challenge. We understand, preparing strategies and action plans are first steps toward achieving greater conservation and sustainable development goals. Only through collaboration and mutual support, spirits of strategic plan for biodiversity across all scale can be translated into action.

Mr. Chair,

We believe, Policy support tools and methodologies developed or used under the convention are in general appropriate for global and regional

level. They have limited application at national level. Effort is now required to downscaling them for making it user friendly at country level. We call for visible support specifically focused on implementing national NBSAPs. We urge SBSTTA to make concerted effort in realizing this.

We are happy to submit our views on relevant targets of goal A and B to the secretariat.

Thank you Mr. Chair

#### Goal A

Nepal has noted that policy support tools and methodologies developed by CBD under CEPA has provided useful guidance at national level. Drawing on this guidance Nepal has developed national CEPA strategy for wetland conservation. This has also helped us in fulfilling the obligation of other conventions.

Awareness raising on biodiversity has to be a continuous process and We see great need to integrate this across school and university curricula. Additionally, tools, developed at national level should be gradually transmitted across all section of the society. One example could be to have these tools kits made available in different languages within the country. At this point we would like to reiterate the role of academic institutions and non government organizations in implementing national CEPA strategy.

We wish to share that in Nepal local FM stations are playing important role in this connection. Number of conservation related programs are broadcasted through local FM stations in regional languages. They have had excellent impact in curbing illegal trade of wild flora and fauna. Similarly, during forest fire these stations are serving as an effective means of mass communication. We would like to hear from other parties on the innovative and low cost means of education and awareness raising that contributes to Aichi Biodiversity Target 1.

**Target 2: By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems**

We underscore the importance of integrating biodiversity values into national and local development plans and processes. Tools/methodologies and technical series developed for Forest, protected area, wetlands have helped to raise awareness at various level.

We wish to share that National development plans in Nepal have long tradition of highlighting biodiversity values. Community based natural resource management practice in Nepal has demonstrated that it can contribute to biodiversity conservation, rural livelihood enhancement and thus continues to remain priority strategy. It has gained political recognition and policy priority. In the upcoming revised NBSAP we are developing framework for local biodiversity strategy and action plan that will provide guidance in integrating biodiversity value at local development initiatives.

However, We see number of constraints associated with the integration of biodiversity issues into national accounting system. Changing national accounting and development planning process is not an easy task. Despite of the appreciation of the value of biodiversity at political level, there is capacity gap across policy and planning sector in various ministries such as Forests, Agriculture, Local development, Finance and national planning

agency. We would like to include in the conclusion that the secretariat explores the possibility of collaborating with other UN agencies to find ways and means of integrating biodiversity considerations into national accounting system.

## **Goal B:**

### Target 5:

Bringing diverse agencies on board to control deforestation and forest degradation are challenging. Forest agencies are fighting losing battle on maintaining forest coverage. Agencies have contradicting interest. Political commitment is the only means. Lack of data, tools and methodologies are not an excuse.

### Target 7:

Community based forest management in Nepal have been successful in sustainable management, contributing to rural livelihood enhancement and created biodiversity conservation. One third of the area of the country is now under community based management regime engaging approximately 2 million household. We would like to highlight this approach in the SBSTTA 17 conclusion.

### Target 9:

Invasive and alien species are causing habitat loss in the national parks and protected areas in our country. We have carried out study on the extent of invasive plant species in major protected area of Nepal. But technical knowhow on controlling and eradication them are lacking. We would like to urge secretariat to develop species specific guidelines toward this.