

Statement by Dr. Kiran Rupakhetee, Joint Secretary, National Planning Commission of Nepal at the Fourth ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development Follow-up

New York (16 April 2019)

Please check against delivery.

**Madam President,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

At the outset, Nepal would like to commend your leadership, Madam President, in the preparation for and convening of this important Fourth ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development follow-up leading to the adoption of important outcome document at the end of the Forum.

I align my statement with the groups of 77 and China, LDCs and LLDCs delivered earlier by the State of Palestine, Malawi and Paraguay respectively.

Nepal as a land-locked, mountainous and least developed country, reiterates its great hope and confidence on this Forum, as it is the right place to take care of challenges of the countries like ours, particularly to address our financing for sustainable development needs. *With the increasing strains in rule-based multilateral trading system, LDCs will end up in worse situation due to the erosion of earnings from trade and other volatilities. This needs to be addressed urgently.*

Madam President,

Nepal, as a mountainous country, has to traverse through a difficult and costly road to development, and yet we are determined to achieve all development goals and targets. Following the successful political transformation in Nepal culminating in the democratic and inclusive constitution adopted in 2015, the Government has now focused toward accelerated economic development.

Mainstreaming SDGs into our development plans and policies are underway in Nepal, especially focusing on state and local level governments. The Government has already conducted ‘need assessment, costing and financing strategy’ required for SDGs, which says that financing gap is enormously huge with the need of about USD 18 billion in investment annually. The upcoming five-year national plan will create a foundation for the Government’s vision of “Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali”. This plan, together with the recently envisioned ‘Nepal’s Vision-

2043' will require a huge investment, which can only be met by scaling up foreign investment, trade, private capital inflows as well as mobilization of domestic resources. Moreover, continuation of the traditional forms of cooperation including ODA will have a pivotal contribution in this regard.

Sustainable domestic resource mobilization as well as public private partnership are at our focus, but that will not be sufficient enough to bridge this huge financing gap. International cooperation in terms of FDI and other forms of partnership are critically required. Although FDI had increased globally in last few decades, it is a matter of concern that LDCs receive less than 2% in FDI.

In many developing countries, the narrow tax base and limited revenue sources make utilization of the domestic public resources difficult. In addition, illicit financial flow is an unjust bleeding of already limited domestic resources.

We are in need of enhanced level of investment in each and every aspect of the development process, be it in infrastructure, poverty alleviation, social sector and energy generation. We are cognizant of the fact that the private sector has played an important role in the whole development process including promotion of economic growth, employment generation.

To mobilize more private and public resources and to invite more investments, we recently organized Nepal Investment Summit 2019 in Kathmandu. This event was successful in presenting Nepal as a promising investment destination.

Madam President,

Climate Change has posed a major threat to our development endeavor. We are the least polluter but impacts we face are huge. In this regard, the climate financing should be made adequate, easy and accessible by recognizing this fact of climate vulnerabilities of countries like Nepal.

I conclude **Madam President,** by highlighting the fact that 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will only attain its lofty promises of 'leaving no one behind' and 'reaching the furthest behind first' when we place countries in special situation at the centre while implementing the Addis Agenda.

I thank you!