

Mountain Agenda: Call for Action

15-16 October, 2017, Jumla, Nepal

Preamble,

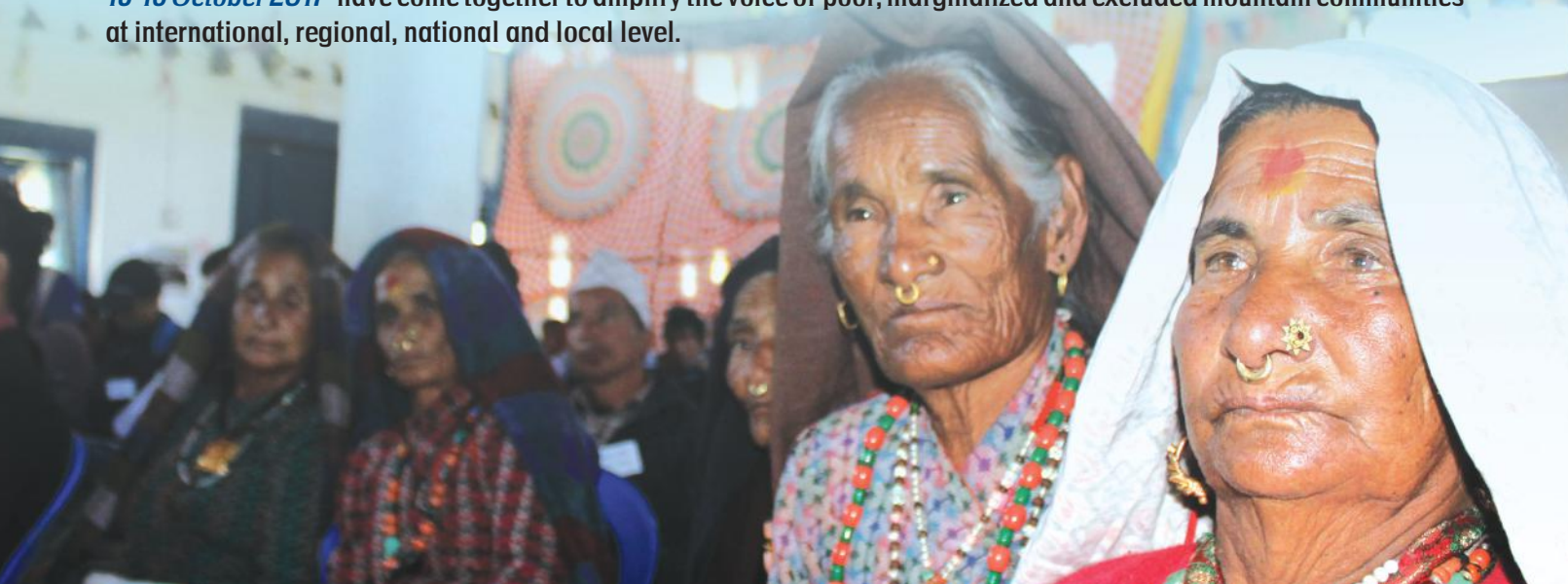
Acknowledging the fact that Mountains are home to one tenth of the world's population and cover 25 percent of the earth's land surface and provide up to 60-80 percent of the world's freshwater resources for domestic, agricultural and industrial consumption. Mountains provide indispensable goods and services for both highland and lowland communities, and is rich in biological and cultural diversity;

Concerning that one in three mountain people in developing countries is vulnerable to food insecurity and the trend is on the rise, about 300 million people, is food insecure with half of them suffering from chronic hunger. Mountains are under pressure as they are early indicators of climate change, as evidenced by rapid glacier melting and loss of snow cover, whose implications go far beyond mountain boundaries. Nepal ranked as the fourth most climate vulnerable country in the world, despite releasing only 0.025 percent of global carbon emissions. Those emissions emanate largely from a few economically active areas far away from the mountainous areas;

Recalling the various conventions essential to mountain communities United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Sustainable Development Goals for Sustainable Mountain Development and Mountain Initiative effort of Government of Nepal to champion mountain issues internationally, previous commitments made on national level during Rara Climate Change Conference and Nagarkot Mountain Conference;

Recognizing the need for urgent, collaborative and effective actions at all levels for protecting fragile mountain ecosystems from impacts of Climate Change, Food insecurity to protect and promote the rights of poor and marginalized mountain communities;

We, group of multi stakeholders gathered in Jumla, the high mountain of Nepal at *National conference on "Climate Change, Food Security and Freshwater: Tackling Constraints and Nurturing Opportunities in Mountain Region"* from *15-16 October 2017* have come together to amplify the voice of poor, marginalized and excluded mountain communities at international, regional, national and local level.



We, the Government of Nepal and Civil society organizations and concerned stakeholders are committed to bring the mountain agenda at forefront at all levels and work together in a coordinated approach enabling better life and livelihoods of mountain people. We hereby put forward following actions:

- Build resilience of mountain communities and introduce adaptation efforts, ensure management of water and natural resources and advocate for compensation mechanisms for the loss we are bearing due to accelerated climate change effects. Such mechanism should be realized in the form of increased climate funding, technology transfer and capacity building of national to local institutions and people.
- Fulfill the commitments of different global agreements including SDG, Paris Agreement, and Sendai framework of Action to address the effects of CC and its impact on mountain region mainstreaming it into national local plan and policies and implement with the meaningful involvement of mountain people.
- Advocate to create a facilitative environment for establishment of Research Centre/ Mountain University in the region to promote Indigenous Technology and Knowledge (ITK) and value systems.
- Raise awareness and capacity building of local and national stakeholders and mountain communities that warming in mountain areas is significantly above global average according to scientific evidence, endangering the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement's global temperature goal.
- Promote the inclusion of mountain communities, civil societies and vulnerable communities in national plans, policies and international processes and negotiations through one strong mountain voice and emphasize on rights based approach to rural development and review of existing policies in line with the new state restructure.
- Facilitate to establish the separate entity at federal, state and local level to raise the agenda of mountain region, impacts of climate change and address those issues.
- Encourage closer collaboration and seek support from development partners for dedicated funding arrangements for the adaptation and mitigation programmes in mountain region and build the resilience of communities through a comprehensive and holistic approach at the local, national, regional and international levels in the spirit of enhanced global partnership.
- Development of rural enterprises and promote sustainable mountain tourism and the creation of sustainable jobs and local community enterprises focusing on mountain goods and services. Develop Mountain Specific Food Security Plan, strengthen food security in mountain regions by diversifying food systems.
- Develop actions to address the implication of migration associated with adverse effects of climate change by creating income and investment opportunities.
- Strengthen and consolidate the Mountain Initiative as a global platform for all mountainous countries to discuss common issues through collaborative and cooperative efforts for mobilizing the necessary support and raising awareness globally about the adverse impacts and vulnerabilities of mountain ecosystem services and implications on the livelihoods of the poor and disadvantaged people and make efforts to reduce impacts of climate change collectively.

