



**Statement by Mr. Kewal Prasad Bhandari,  
Secretary, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security,  
Government of Nepal  
114<sup>th</sup> Session of the IOM Council**

**High-Level Segment:  
*Climate Impact on Human Mobility: A Global Call for Solution***

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Time: 5 mins

Words: 599

Respected chair,  
Director General,  
Excellences'  
ladies and gentlemen,

I am representing the Himalayan country, Nepal, its diverse landscape from the southern plains to the top of the world in the north. Climate change is not a distant threat but a current reality.

Nepal's average temperature is increasing at a rate of 0.04 DC per year, with a significantly higher in the mountain. Climate variabilities are a significant driver of food insecurity, displacement and migration.

Nepal's first recognized case of climate refugees in 2009, Dhye village in upper Mustang of the Himalaya, witnessed large-scale migration due to an acute shortage of water. Last census shows, over 5 million people internally migrated in past decade.

Nepal is facing devastating loss of lives and livelihoods due to climate change, experiencing too much and too little water, increased flooding, heat stress and drought in the south, hills and mountainous regions experience increased

landslides, water stress, glacial retreat, and outburst floods. These climate-induced losses and damage continually impede growth and prosperity.

During his recent visit to Nepal, UN Secretary-General highlighted the increasing force and ferocity of monsoons, storms and landslides, that are sweeping away crops, livestock and entire villages, decimating economies and ruining lives. He stressed the urgency of global climate action.

Nepal has pledged to protect vulnerable people from climate change and set targets to prepare and implement climate-resilient and gender-responsive adaptation plans by 2030. Nepal also adopted Green, Resilient and Inclusive Development (GRID) approach for green growth and build resilience to climate and other shocks.

Excellencies,

Nepal needs to benefit from the Loss and Damage Fund. We look forward it's operationalization, access to predictable climate financing to build resilience and enhance our adaptive capacity.

We must ensure that our local governments, climate resilience development efforts equipped with resources, capacity and knowledge to take the lead on climate change and human mobility.

Last fiscal year, 0.77 million Nepalis sought employment globally and remittances are equivalent to a quarter of GDP. With a substantial population overseas, the impact of climate change on our migrant workforce is paramount. Across the world, temperatures have risen significantly and soared to unprecedented. Nepali migrant workers are among the scores of outdoor workers in construction and agriculture are disproportionately exposed to extreme heat which is an occupational safety and health hazard. In this context, robust occupational heat protections are critical to ensure safety. Ensuring migrant workers have equal access to social protection and health-care is crucial.

Longstanding issues that migrant workers face such as recruitment fees, remittance fees and wage abuses require effort and resolve, which ensure migrant workers maximize the benefits, as climate impact influences all aspects of human mobility, including migrants' decisions to move, stay or return, we reaffirm commitment to ensuring safe, orderly, and managed migration.

Excellencies,

The green transition presents opportunities and challenges across the world as governments prepare and manage workforces for low-carbon economy. There is a pressing need for more bilateral cooperation in research, training and managed labor migration between country of origin and destination. This includes engaging with development partners, private sector and civil society to create win-win outcomes to meet their climate change and SDG, with the migrants' well-being at the center.

Nepal has always prioritized bilateral labor agreements as part of labor migration policy and implementing innovative skill development and labor partnership that will also promote climate action. We urge the IOM to facilitate such cooperation.

The time for action is now, need to work together, not just as a nation but as a global community, to address the impacts of climate change on human mobility.

I Thank you all.