

**Nepal's Climate Negotiation Strategy Post COP 21/Paris
Agreement**

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Jagriti Chand

Date: 17th December 2021

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

I certify that this dissertation entitled “Nepal’s Climate Change Negotiation Strategy Post COP21/Paris Agreement has been prepared by Jagriti Chand under my supervision. I hereby recommend this dissertation for final examination by the research committee at the Department of International Relations and Diplomacy, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tribhuvan University in the fulfillment of the requirements for MIRD 526 Thesis for the Master’s Degree of International Relations and Diplomacy.

Santosh Sharma Poudel

Supervisor

17th December 2021

DECLARATION

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17th December 2021

LETTER OF APPROVAL

ABSTRACT

Climate change is an urgent global issue with long-term implications for the sustainable development of all countries. Realizing the immediate impacts and long-term implications, countries are now integrating climate change in their development policies. The multilateral process on climate change evolved in 1992 with the adoption of United Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), later with Kyoto Protocol and the subsequent Paris Agreement. Countries meet throughout the year and at the Conference of Parties (COP) to take stock on progress of these multilateral agreements. However, as of now a very little progress has been made in terms of achieving the objectives of these agreements. As climate change has intensified and the consequences have worsened over the years, Nepal is also experiencing similar consequences.

Nepal contributes negligible amount of greenhouse gases compared to the global emissions. Yet the consequences that Nepal faces are far worse. The impacts ranges across the geographic locations, such as melting of glaciers, intensified rainfall, droughts, floods, landslides, to name a few. This study explores the strategy adopted by Nepal in climate change negotiations while participating at COP 21 to COP 25, focusing on impact of climate change at the social, economic and environmental levels.

The findings conclude that the major reasons for limited progress in these meetings are power dynamics between countries, complex geopolitical environment, inadequate economic policies, limited institutional and technical capacity, high vulnerability against natural disasters and climate change yet lack of prioritization.

Key Words: Conference of Parties, Climate Change, Negotiations, Strategies, Emissions

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ABBREVIATIONS

BATNA	Best Alternative to a Negotiated Agreement
CBDR	Common but Differentiated Responsibility
COP	Conference of Parties
DDC	District Development Committee
EU	European Union
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GDP	Gross Domestic Profit
GHG	Green House Gas
GoN	Government of Nepal
HKH	Hindu Kush Himalaya
IGES	Institute for Global Environmental Strategies
INC	Inter-governmental negotiating committee
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
LAPA	Local Adaptation Plan of Actions
LDC	Least Developed Countries
LLDC	Land Locked Developing Countries
MoFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MoFE	Ministry of Forest and Environment
NAPA	National Adaptation Programme of Action
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NIEs	National Implementing Entities
TWG	Thematic Working Group
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNFCC	United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change
VDC	Village Development Committee

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Negotiation is an instrument in diplomacy which plays a vital role in solving conflicts and crises among two or more parties. The negotiation process has been a topic of interest in the study of international relations and diplomacy for many years. Henry Kissinger views negotiation as a process merging conflicting positions into a common position, under a decision rule of an agreement, a situation in which the result is determined by the process (Meerts, 2015, p. 2). Countries and international organizations have been using the process of diplomatic negotiations to peacefully settle conflicts. The United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 53/101 on 'Principles and Guidelines for International Negotiations' on its 83rd plenary meeting on 8 December 1998 (The General Assembly, 1999). The guideline listed rules for the country parties to the United Nations to follow. Expanding the work of diplomatic negotiations, countries and international organizations came together to solve the globally burning issues; at the top was the issue of climate change.

Climate change negotiations have become popular means of tackling the grave environmental issues, which cause abnormalities in the climate. The adaptation and mitigation to climate change have been at the forefront of these negotiations. The UN General Assembly established the first inter-governmental negotiating committee (INC) for climate change negotiation in 1990 (UNFCCC, 2008). It was established to draft the legally binding instrument on climate change. The most important convention on climate change is the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), its text was negotiated and adopted on 9 May 1992 in New York

(UNFCCC, 2008). The convention was opened for signature at the Rio Earth Summit in June 1992 and entered into force in 1994 (MoEST, 2012).

Concerning UNFCCC, several climate change negotiations namely the Conference of Parties (COP) took place over the years in different parts of the world. Governments and climate change experts from various countries have shown solidarity by participating in the events. Nepal is one of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) that signed the convention in Rio on 12 June 1992 (UNDP, 2021). Nepal has been participating since the beginning of the conference. Despite several COP meetings attended by Nepal, this paper looks at the negotiations strategy of Nepal from 2015 COP 21, Paris 2019, COP 25. The foundation of this paper is based on the Paris Agreement that was prepared and signed in the 21st conference of parties (COP 21) with approval from all participating country parties. The basic assumption of negotiation is that the success or failure of any negotiation relies on the way the negotiation processed. It impacts the negotiation positively or negatively way to enhance or reduce its effectiveness and the likelihood of reaching an agreement (Depledge, 2005, p. 6). So, this study will explore into how Nepal has strategized its negotiation styles to gain out of this conference.

1.2 Statement of Problem

Least developed countries such as Nepal has been experiencing the worst impacts of climate change for a long time now. Due to the economic constraints, most of the least developed countries like Nepal have to rely on the developed countries for funds who are the high emitters. To solve such a dilemma countries in COP 21 meeting came up with the Paris Agreement. The agreement sets out global action plans to combat climate change. The basic concept of the agreement consists of countries

making commitments to lower emit. Similarly, developed countries provided incentives in the form of payment to developing countries instead of their industrial development. Economically Developed countries like the US, China and Russia lead the decision-making panel while the LDCs like Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, and 42 other countries are the ones suffering the most from the impacts of climate change. The least developed countries (LDCs) take back seats while making decisions during the COP meetings. The reason behind this can be the lack of expertise of LDCs or the lack of suitable strategies to use in COP meetings. Over the years the developed countries seem to play a bigger role in COP meetings and decisions. Developed countries seem less considerate towards the issues of LDC's, by not being accountable for their deeds and detouring from their responsibility. Hence, to make its voice heard in COP meetings Nepal as an LDC must rejuvenate its outdated negotiation pattern.

1.3 Research Questions

- a. What are the approaches to climate negotiations?
- b. Why is climate change an important issue for Nepal?
- c. What has Nepal's negotiation pattern been in UNFCCC, COP meetings? How successful has Nepal been in its approach?

1.4 Research Objectives

- a. To identify Nepal approach to climate negotiations
- b. To analyze the significance of climate change to Nepal
- c. To assess the Nepal's negotiating patterns after COP 21 and evaluate its implication

1.5 Limitations of Study

The main focus of this research will be the decision making in the UNFCCC COP meetings. For which the research needs to draw information regarding the art of negotiation and diplomacy to understand the overall polity of climate change negotiations as well. This research will not look in every climate change negotiation held till date; rather focus only on the ones held after the Paris Agreement was signed. Various decisions were agreed upon by the country parties during the Paris Agreement, this study will only focus on the ones impacting Nepal .

It will dig on the status of Nepal in the conference, negotiation patterns, agendas set and agendas fulfilled by Nepal after COP 21 meeting. As the conduct of COP meetings and its documents are not widely shared, there are not much extensive literatures available. The main literature will mostly be from news portals, official interviews of the participants and different journal articles and books. The lack of research on climate change negotiation pattern of Nepal and its relation to global negotiation limits the research obliging to use information and data from other LDCs experiencing the same issues.

1.6 Structure of the Thesis

This thesis is a qualitative study, which explores the negotiation strategy of Nepal in five different Conferences of Parties (COP) from COP 21 held in 2015 in Paris to COP 25, which was held in 2019 in Madrid. Along with that, this thesis also explores the various negotiation strategies that can be employed during climate negotiations amongst the countries. The structure of the thesis is determined by these explorations of the negotiation strategy. There are seven chapters in this thesis. The first chapter introduces the thesis as well as the objectives of the thesis. The second chapter

reviews the previous literature regarding climate negotiation. The third chapter describes the methodology of the thesis. It describes the research design and methods used in this thesis to collect the data. Chapter four answers the first research question. This chapter explores and describes the various methods used during climate negotiations. Chapter five answers the second research question. This chapter explains the vulnerability of Nepal due to climate change from economic social and environmental perspective. Chapter six answers the last research question. In this chapter we will see the negotiation approach and agendas of Nepal from COP 15 to COP 20. Chapter seven is the conclusion and last chapter of the thesis. The conclusion summarizes the thesis.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

2.1 Climate Diplomacy in Conference of Parties' Meetings

Climate diplomacy has long been discussed in the context of foreign policy, developed countries and European Union (EU) has embraced it during the international climate negotiations. But it is not present in diplomatic efforts especially, by the developing and least developed countries. An emphasis on climate diplomacy can be a significant vehicle for LDCs to influence international climate change negotiation. The constraints can be the lack of knowledge and guidance on how the integration of such issues can be achieved and a lack of capacity and training to be able to integrate national and international priorities into foreign policy. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is one of the forms of climate diplomacy. But it is not only a single conference, there are also a vast array of bilateral and multilateral climate-related initiatives happening today. But the idea of climate diplomacy has been established from the UNFCCC negotiations (Dimitrov, 2015, p. 1). However, this paper describes about, the conversations, verdicts and significant events that took place on UNFCCC, mainly after the 21st conference of parties in Paris.

The 21st Conference of Parties had the maximum countries attending the event. It can be as referred as a political success because the participating countries agreed on a single agreement that was the Paris Agreement. The Paris Agreement was a historic milestone for multilateral diplomacy. One of the reasons for the success of this conference is believed to be the result of China's emergence as a more positive participant in the international climate change negotiations (Hilton & Kerr, 2016, p.

4). . Another reason is that the parties aimed for a decentralized, bottom up process of voluntary pledges rather than the top down approach like in the other climate conferences. This new unity in purpose was already on show in November 2014, when the United States and China, the world's two biggest emitters of GHGs, signed a bilateral agreement on climate change that foreshadowed their later pledges in the run-up to the Paris summit (Falkner, 2016, p. 7). Achieving the climate targets and implementing the Paris Agreement is a strategic priority of all participating countries. Halish Aashari argues that Climate change diplomacy should be integrated into with the foreign policy agenda of a country to prevent the next crisis and to manage geopolitical changes proactively (Ashari, p. 2). Climate diplomacy is what changes the perception of national interest, which then causes countries to give their negotiators different instructions, which means we get better deals. Diplomatic tools should be used while interacting with other countries. Diplomats should make climate change a political priority.

The vast array of bilateral and multilateral climate diplomacy continues to materialize. And an emerging trend towards parties seeking global credibility for action on climate change can be seen. This dynamic evolved from late 2014 between the United States and China. A year before the Paris climate summit and a week before Lima COP, China and United States surprised the world by their joint announcement of post-2020 pledges (U.S.- "China Joint Glasgow Declaration", 2021). Their announcement together does not prove that their 2020 mitigation pledges are morally responsible given their respective contributions to emissions. Although it does demonstrate that both parties thought something could be gained from the announcement together. Both went forward towards a new global climate agreement with respect to their larger geopolitical interests. To some extent, this announcement reverberated

throughout the climate world, spurring other parties to put forward their own pledges. This was before the Paris agreement which allowed for much greater scrutiny of the individual and collective adequacy of these pledges before the start of the Paris negotiations.

Potentially even more impressive in this regard was the follow up joint announcement made almost a year later in Washington by China and the United States on climate change. The announcement in part of the United States was similar to the pledges made earlier but China shocked the world by announcing cap and trade program by 2017 and making available \$3.1 billion for developing countries including enhancing the capacity of other developing countries to access the Green Climate Fund (Light, 2016, p. 22). This was either generated by geopolitical self-interest or a sense of global responsibility but this was seen as a dynamic race to top for climate leadership between the world's two superpowers.

The art of diplomatic negotiation is used during the dialogues in the international climate conferences. The goal for each country is to generate outcomes in favour of their national interest. In this context, usually the countries with less weight in the international community loss with the powerful ones. Hence, the least developed countries are suggested to use the diplomatic negotiations in such a way that supports their national climate interests.

2.2 Major Approaches and Key Developments of Climate Diplomacy

Developed nations and their negotiation blocs have been practicing climate diplomacy in an effort to structure international negotiations to provide outcomes that are consistent with their priorities. However, developing countries mainly the LDCs have lacked sufficient capacity to engage actively in climate diplomacy. Partaking limited

influence in shaping climate change negotiations. For this, it is necessary to include the issue of climate change in the national interest debate. The use of climate diplomacy must become a core national interest in political and diplomatic channels, with the engagement of senior ministers and government officials (Jallow & Craft, 2014, p. 2).

Government officials from the Ministry of Forest and Environment (MoFE) to Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) of Nepal and other civil society organizations should be present during the COP meetings. All these officials can come up with approaches to use during the meetings. And also come up with their bargaining position in the meetings. Essentially, there are two types of bargaining approaches a country can take while negotiating. That is hard-bargaining approach to negotiation and soft bargaining to negotiation. The negotiator who take a soft approach treats their opposing negotiators as friends, looking for agreement despite great cost. They might even offer concession as a means to create harmony with the opponent. While the countries with hard bargaining approach is competitive, hides their intentions and offer few concessions compare to soft bargainers. And in most cases, between these two bargainers, the hard bargainers get the better deal (Chaudhary, 2011 p.4).

Dr. I. William Zartman, theorist, practitioner and researcher on negotiations in 1988 as cited in (Alfredson & Cungu, Negotiation Theory and Practice: A Review of the Literature, 2008) came up with five approaches for negotiation. First, the structural approach centers round power as a determining factor. This theory exists in traditional political theory and military strategy. This means that the “power” which in this case means the possession of strength and resources, of each party determines the ability to win the negotiation. The idea is that the party with military, economic and political

power will win and the weak will suffer. Although when the strong are pitted against the weak the results may vary. So, the structural approach focuses on hard power and does not consider soft power like negotiation skills, alternatives and tactics that could be wielded by a weaker party (Alfredson & Cungu, *Negotiation Theory and Practice: A Review of the Literature*, 2008, p. 13). Tactics such as influence, opening strong and even aiming higher and then negotiating downwards can be used while negotiating. Findings show that power has no direct relationship with the results of the negotiation (Odell, 2018). Similarly, Rubin & Zartman, 1995, as cited in (Pfetsch & Landau, 2000, p. 11) asymmetrical negotiations do not always lead to strong exploiting the weak. Second, the strategic approach by its name means a plan or a method to obtain a specific goal. Unlike the structural approach, this has an emphasis on the ends. The approach is a model of rational choice (Alfredson & Cungu, *Negotiation Theory and Practice: A Review of the Literature*, 2008, p. 23). The negotiators are viewed as rational decision makers who makes choices based on calculation from which a maximum gain can be obtained. They look for best solution from all perspectives of negotiation. Parties come into negotiation with certain orientations either with a cooperative approach or competitive approach. A cooperative approach is more inclined towards interest based which leads parties to seek win-win solutions. Both parties work cooperatively and might come up with the mutually beneficial outcomes. On the other hand, when cooperative approach does not work parties use competitive approach which is more inclined towards distributive bargaining where the outcome is win-lose. These strategic approaches are well calculated and put front in the negotiations. However, the selection of these two options (cooperative Vs competitive) highly depends on the relationship between the negotiating parties (Spangler, 2017, p. 3). Third, the process approach is a mix

between the structural approach which revolves around power and the strategic approach which revolves around outcome with a mechanism that centers on learning. This approach views negotiation as a learning process in which the negotiating parties react to each other's concession behavior as per I. William Zartman, 1978 as cited in (Alfredson & Cungu, *Negotiation Theory and Practice: A Review of the Literature*, 2008, p. 12). Concession behavior mark stages in negotiations. It is used by parties to both signal their own intentions and to encourage movement in their opponent's position. The negotiating parties usually use their position to respond to the previous counteroffer and to influence the next one. In this approach, the offers themselves become an exercise in power. The final is the behavior approach that is based on the psychological, experimental, and previously set diplomatic treaties. The outcome the negotiation when using this approach depends on the negotiator's personalities and characteristics. Behavior theories explain negotiation as communication between different personalities where negotiators are portrayed as a ruthless trying to win all or a diplomatic negotiator demanding for peace (Meerts, 2015, p. 11). The conflict between these two types of approach forms a contradiction which is also called "Negotiator's Dilemma" which was coined by David Lax and James Sebenius (Maiese, 2003, p. 13). Negotiators dilemma means that when negotiators are tough during a negotiation, they are more likely to gain their demands in an agreement but a tradeoff is that they are less likely to conclude an agreement at all. Another concept in the behavior approach is the work on framing. Framing refers to the way the problem is perceived or described in a negotiation. The way a problem is posed also influences the response of the negotiating parties.

2.3 Distributive Negotiation Strategy

A distributive negotiation strategy can also be known as hard-bargaining negotiation. It works under a zero-sum condition which means one party makes it at the expense of the other vice versa. This is why the distributive negotiation is also called “zero-sum”, competitive or “win-lose” because the assumption in this negotiation strategy is that the party take a fixed position and do not give in to the other party until the negotiation in its favor. This negotiation always ends with one person’s gain and another person’s loss.

A distributive negotiation also contains some bargaining tactics. These tactics are used with the motive to win the negotiation. The first tactic used by the negotiator is the coercion tactic that involves using force or threat that wrestles adjustment from an opponent. Second is the tactics of opening strong which basically means the negotiator starts out with a higher position. The opening strong tactics also makes negotiators put their position first. Finally, the last tactics is the salami tactics which means prolonging a negotiation to a very slow pace and giving a small concession to the opponents (Alfredson & Cungu, 2008, p. 22).

It also includes divide and conquer technique to overcome the opponents for which it is also called ‘salami-slice’ strategy.

2.4 Integrative Negotiation Strategy

The integrative approach by Zartman is the same as the integrative negotiation strategy. As opposed to distributive negotiation strategy, this approach has a potential of a win-win outcome. Cooperation is the key to this approach whereas mutual benefit is the outcome. They involve uncovering interests, generating options and

searching for commonalities between parties (Alfredson & Cungu, 2008, p. 32). Integrative negotiation strategy uses more principle-based approach with an attempt to improve the quality and likelihood of the negotiation. The strategy attempts to create value in the course of negotiation by compensating for the loss one item with gains from other (Alfredson & Cungu, 2008, p. 21). The strategy is called a win-win approach and in contrast to distributive negotiation strategy it can also be called a non-zero-sum game (Dema, 2014, p.3). However, integrative also has some distributive characteristics, mainly when both parties firmly value their items. Although concessions are important in a negotiation, some research shows that any negotiating parties agreeing quickly are less likely to explore mutually benefit solutions. So, early agreement reduces the chance of integrative negotiation (Vo & Cavedo, 2007, p. 12). For integrative negotiations to work parties need to have a high degree of trust and a good relationship. This strategy is about optimum gain for all parties involve without any expense of the other.

2.5 Least Developed Countries Approach to Climate Change in Conference of Parties (COP) Meetings

The LDCs participating in the COP meetings are focused on gaining maximum financial resources and transfer of technology from the meetings. During the meetings, they take fully into account that economic and social development and poverty eradication are the first and overriding priorities of the developing country parties (Sovacool & Linner, 2016, p. 12). When a least developed country negotiates with a developed country, the former generally faces the problem of unequal bargaining power i.e. the level of influence a party exerts over negotiated outcomes in international negotiations (Pfetsch F. R., 2011, p. 3) . Unequal bargaining power also

occurs in the multilateral forums while discussing climate change. If a country possesses bargaining power against the other the success of the negotiation is guaranteed. In a climate negotiation, the developed and developing countries are likely to possess more bargaining power than the LDCs. The lack of technical and financial expertise of LDCs keeps them in the shadow of developed countries, failing to speak in the negotiation process. The asymmetry in information between developed, developing and least developed countries also diversifies their bargaining power in multilateral negotiations. This has caused disappointment among LDCs attending the negotiation process. The LDCs tend to return to their home country disappointed with the negotiating process (Craft, 2016, p. 3).

Nepal is one of such LDC, that has shown participation in the COP meetings for many years. Nepal struggles to raise its voice and lacks visibility in such meetings. Given the lack of technical expertise, finances and socio-economic capabilities however, Nepal has luckily managed to gather several funding through COP meetings. In the 22nd Conference of Parties (COP22), Nepal received 2.9 million from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to help the country prepare its national Adaptation plan (Green Climate Fund, 2016).

The country had received the fund from GCF in the year 2016 as well (Green Climate Fund, 2016). Nepal has been using several technical knowledge and diplomatic approaches while participating the COP meetings. Those approaches cannot be jotted down in this paper since, there are almost no literatures available regarding the diplomatic approaches of Nepal in Climate negotiations. However, the study analyzes the comments, actions and strategies used by Nepal in COP meetings and try to match them with the negotiation approaches mentioned in the text books. Through this paper

we will analyze the diplomatic negotiation approaches/strategies used by Nepal in COP meetings.

2.6 Nepal's climate diplomacy

Climate change issues and concerns have been increasingly discussed and debated in the environment and sustainable development agenda both in research and policy levels since 1990 (Ahmad, 2009). Regmi et al., (2014) further supported the recognition of climate change adaptation in the scientific and policy arena at the global, regional and national levels. Nepal has endorsed and adopted numerous international policies, agreements and commitments related to climate change including the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol (Tiwari et al., 2014). In line with these international agreements and commitments, the GoN has also developed and endorsed NAPA in 2010 (MoE, 2010) and also sanctioned climate change policy (MoSTE, 2015) and LAPA in 2011 (GoN, 2011).

CHAPTER III
CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK AND RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Conceptual Framework

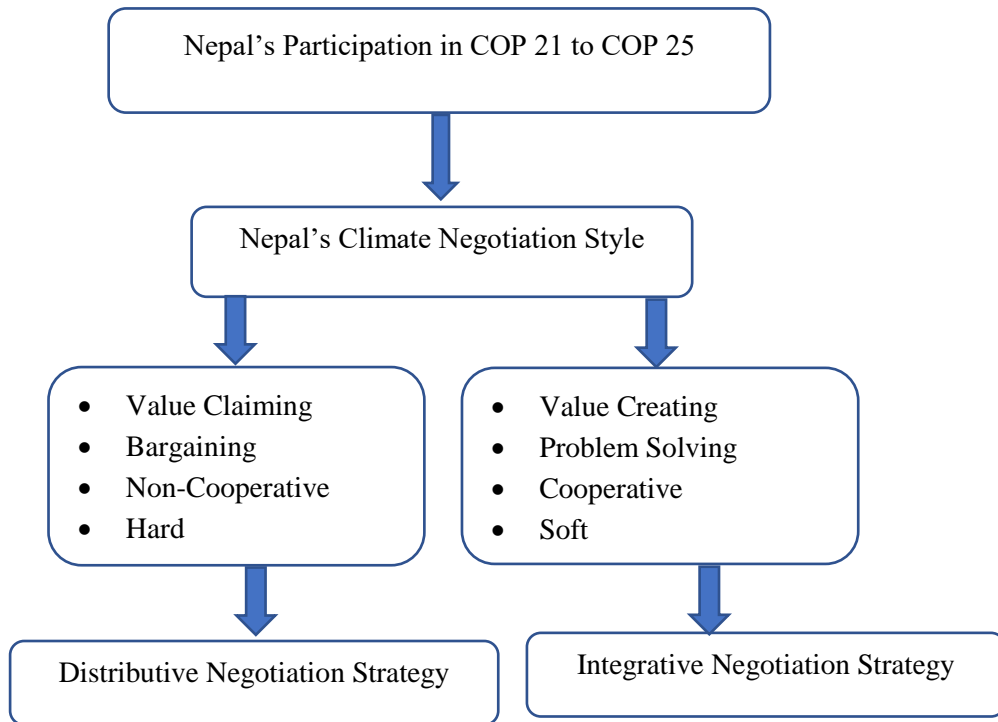


Fig. Conceptual Framework on Nepal's Climate Negotiation Style

Nepal is one of the severely vulnerable countries to climate change with the economy so low, its concerns are often buried by the decisions of economically advanced countries. Even with a marginal position in COP meetings, Nepal has been participating since 1995 (UNFCC, 2018). Nepal's negotiation style and strategies used in the COP dialogues have a huge impact in reaching its agendas. As the decision-making power remains with the high emitting countries, Nepal and other LDC's must use a strategic approach to bargain with the decision-makers. This paper presents various negotiation strategies that can be used while negotiating with developed countries. Most importantly, it takes two of popular negotiation strategies

that are commonly used in diplomatic negotiation in a multilateral forum. And those are the distributive negotiation strategy and an integrative negotiation strategy. These two strategies contain contrasting components that define their characteristics. The distributive strategy incorporates value claiming, bargaining, non-cooperative and hard components in the negotiation process. Whereas, the integrative negotiation strategy incorporates value creating, problem solving, cooperative and soft components in the negotiation process. By taking these components into consideration, this paper will evaluate which components are best suited to the negotiation style of Nepal in COP meetings. To declare that Nepal's strategy is inclined towards one among these two strategies, there must be at least two or more components present. The presence of less than two components of any of these two strategies means that Nepal's strategy is a mix of both distributive and integrative strategy.

The absence of the categorization of Nepal's negotiation strategy in climate conferences or any multilateral conferences leads Nepal's climate negotiation study into a whole new sphere. Given the lack of literature, this study reviews the COP documents/proceedings and agendas from 2015 to 2019 i.e COP 21 after the signing of the Paris agreement till COP 25, and analyze the negotiation process to extract various components in the strategies used.

3.2 Research design

The essence of the information in this research will be qualitative research. Qualitative data gathering methods will be used in this study. It is done to establish knowledge about the type of negotiation strategy used by Nepal in UNFCCC's COP

meetings. An organized and systematic approach will be used in this study. A holistic approach will be used by taking multiple perspectives into account.

This study will analyze whether Nepal has been using a distributive negotiation strategy or an integrative negotiation strategy while negotiating in climate change forum such as COP.

3.3 Nature and Sources of Data

Both primary and secondary data was used in this research. Nepal's negotiation strategy in COP will be extracted from the COP documents, proceedings of the workshop done in Nepal and published by the Ministry of Forest and Environment (MoFE) and other policy reports from the Government of Nepal. Similarly, other information will be collected from written and face-to-face interviews. The participants representing Nepal in COP will be interviewed including the ones who have helped prepare the documents presented in the meetings. This will include officials from Ministry of Forest and Environment, Climate change management division, environmental international organizations and institutions attending the COP meetings.

The secondary sources of data will be from books, journal articles, websites, reports and analysis from various scholars who have contributed in the subject of negotiation and climate diplomacy in multilateral forums.

3.4 Research methods

The research will use a content analysis research method. In this method, the documents and communication artefacts which might be texts of various formats, pictures, audio or video are reviewed. The study analyzes the negotiation pattern of

Nepal after the signing of the Paris Agreement. This will give us an idea of Nepal's position in these meetings and whether Nepal's strategy has worked over the years or not. The components of distributive and integrative negotiation strategy will be compared with the components of Nepal's negotiation strategy.

The analysis of this study will not be limited to what this proposal proposes but rather will be more discrete with time. The most important variables for this research are the outcomes of the COP meetings mainly the ones related to LDCs since it determines Nepal's climate policy. Another important variable is the pattern in which Nepal is engaged in these conferences and the strategies used by the ones representing Nepal and its stance. In depth, it will try to define Nepal's negotiation strategy in COP meetings. And the study will be done to critically analyze how to better the stance of Nepal in an international platform.

CHAPTER IV

APPROACHES TO CLIMATE CHANGE NEGOTIATION

Formal negotiations on climate change began in 1990 (Gupta, 2012). Since then climate, as well as the issues of negotiation, has taken drastic measures. The population has increased exponentially and emissions from anthropogenic causes have skyrocketed which has heavily accelerated climate change. Mostly, resources available and activities of a country drives negotiation approaches during COP meetings. It has been argued that resources and activities are the two key bargaining tools available to countries during negotiations. Many of these countries have enhanced their own bargaining power by using hard and soft strategies (Bailer 2012 p.5). Countries can use various approaches to climate negotiation while participating in the COP meetings. Those approaches won't succeed and no breakthrough will happen unless there are potential benefits for each country participating, mainly the powerful countries because they are the ones making all the decisions. The use of top down approach is visible during decision making in the COP meetings. Historically, developed states have historically eschewed policy initiatives that place the responsibility for addressing the impacts of climate change on them (Moore 2012, p.7). As mentioned above due to more resources and activities, a developed nation could have had their way during the negotiation. Therefore, LDCs were forced to level up their negotiating approaches and elbow their way through the crowd of countries participating with different agendas in hand. Nepal is considered as one of the top ten countries most likely to be impacted by global climate change (WFP,2009). However, it is one of the least contributors to the emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs), emits only 0.027% of the global share (INDC, 2016). Such situation puts a country like Nepal in an uncomfortable position during

negotiation. They do not have the resources and technology to compete with the developed country. Simultaneously they cannot bargain to developed countries with authority due to a lack of socio-political strength.

The debate on climate change is inherently political. It takes place in the political arena, is shaped by networks of power, and it is impacted by political maneuvering. These include strategic inconsistency, which are contradictory rules created in the hope of undermining other rules in other agreements; forum-shopping—the selection of an international venue most beneficial to their own policy; and regime shifting, where loyalties are shifted to parallel regimes that will acquiesce in their policy priorities (Alter, Meunier, 2009 p.2). Many variables play part in determining the position of a country during a negotiation. The position in which a country finds itself in the negotiation largely effects the approach used by it during negotiation.

The basic negotiation techniques as taught by the experts categorizes the process of negotiation into two types. One is the distributive approach, which is a more competitive bargaining method that cares about only winning or losing. Strong distributive bargainers will normally approach the other side with a rigid offer which is demand-based and positioned in one place. Basically, these negotiations present an opening statement with a set of conditions that define their position. Sometimes their position is extreme and strong with no intentions of flexibility. In 2017 Donald Trump withdrew from the Paris agreement citing economic, reasons, the impotency of the Paris Agreement to reduce climate change and blaming developing country like China and India even though USA were the second biggest emitter of GHGs (Zhang et.al, 2017 p.5). The negotiator does not try to understand where the other party is coming from or they acknowledge others concerns. The concerns of the other party are

shrugged off with ridicule or in many cases ignored. This type of negotiator come up with a single solution to the problems, which in fact is all in their favor. Rich countries have shown no intention of fulfilling long-term financial aid requirements. Launched at the 2011 UN Climate Change Conference and designed to finance sustainable development, the Green Climate Fund was held in the 2012 Durban Climate Conference (Yuan yu, Li Zhu, 2015 p.3). However, the distributive bargaining approach cannot always stem negative consequences. It can be appropriate in times of crisis where a negotiator has expertise in the field and he/she is the best-trained individual among the participants. Some negotiators even show some force in getting things done quickly. Many powerful countries have demonstrated such power over weaker countries on various occasions. This approach is most useful when the negotiator knows that there is no room to “expand the pie” and the negotiator gets as many available resources as possible. In many ways, the contestation over loss and damage is part of a larger picture of enduring mistrust between the developed and developing state parties in global environmental governance (Bernstein 2013, p.5). And another is the more collaborative, value adding bargaining method which cares about win - win for both sides. An integrative negotiation approach moves the chair from the opposite side of the table to the same side of the table (Air University, n.d.). The negotiator acknowledges the problem and uses various strategies to develop a solution that is better than either party could come up with on their own. The planning for the negotiation involves not only determining the positions and interests but also estimating the position and interest of the opposition. This approach uses imagination and innovations to get to the solution. This uses conversation and questions rather than declarations (Air University, n.d.). The discussion comes up with a new potential option to rearrange the resources into new and novel ways and to serve the best

interests of both sides becomes a possibility. The options are then explored and the decision is taken after the agreement of both parties. For instance: Yuan, 2015 have termed developing countries climate policy the maxi-mini principle, one based on the maximization of rights and minimization of responsibilities. According to their view, some developing states are only interested in freerides and in gaining access to technical expertise, foreign aid and information to further their goal of economic development (Kim, 1992, p.5). Hence, the concept of common but differentiated responsibility (CBDR) was introduced and it was formalized in international law at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro which suggests that all states are responsible for addressing global environmental destruction yet not equally responsible (Lorenz et.al, 1993, p.4). The responsibilities accommodated by the countries depend upon their socio-economic capabilities and the concept of free ride is eliminated from the arrangement with the prevalence of the win-win situation for both parties.

The significance of both of these strategies are undebatable. There is not one perfect arranging approach or technique, the two strategies must be utilized at the ideal spot and time and both have various upsides and downsides while bargaining in the multilateral gatherings. It depends upon the nation's ability to assess the surroundings and apply the right tool, adjust as needed as the negotiation unfolds. If one side uses the distributive bargaining approach and the other side doesn't, the arrangement is as a rule over in a short measure of time, with the more forceful side generally winning. In the event that both moderators get together with similarly force distributive bargaining draws near, at that point the arrangement can stretch revert into a yelling match without any outcome.

The distributive and integrative strategies are differentiated by the negotiators' style of communication, approaches used and texts used in the negotiation process. There are components in both types of negotiation strategies that when used by countries during a multilateral negotiation process can produce diverse outcomes. Countries delegates have the option to conduct the negotiation in whichever way they prefer. However, the countries socio-economic and technical capacity plays a vital role in determining the type of negotiation components used by the delegates during the meetings.

The use of distributive negotiation strategy means that the country is more competitive towards other countries and its concerns are only focused on having an upper hand in the meeting proceedings and fulfilling its agendas anyhow. These countries put forth rigid agendas with no intention of finding a middle ground or flexibility. In contrast, when a country uses an integrative negotiation strategy, the delegates acknowledge the polarized position of countries and uses various strategies to develop a solution that is better for both the party. The negotiation involves not only determining the positions and interests but also estimating the value-creating interest of the opposition. In building this strategy, imagination and innovations are used to find a fit solution. This requires conversations and questions rather than declarations (Air University, n.d.). So, there are two types of negotiation strategy that a negotiator can choose. This is the case of 'negotiators dilemma' in an initial phase when a negotiator is unsure about the strategy that is useful in the situation. Distributive and integrative negotiation strategy are two contrasting strategic practices whose components vary. The components of these contrasting negotiation strategies are compared below (Bailer, 2012, p. 4).

4.1 Value claiming or value-creating

Distributive negotiation strategy has value claiming component whereas the integrative negotiation strategy uses value creating components (Shonk, 2020, p. 3). Value can be defined as something that the negotiator get out of a negotiation. The value claiming component of distributive negotiation works primarily to claim the largest share of the disputed goods or to have an upper hand in the negotiation process. This component engages negotiators in hard bargaining. The words such as concessions, conceal information and favorable settlements are used when the negotiator uses value creating components. In opposition, the value creating component in integrative negotiation work primarily to increase the available resource, to find joint gains or ‘win-win’ solutions for both negotiating parties (Lax & Sebenius, 1986, p. 5). The words such as: cooperation, clear communication, sharing of information and joint gains are the key words used in the negotiation process. The negotiator must choose from these two components. The best practice suggests that working to develop and improve one’s best alternative to a negotiated agreement (BATNA) is a practice that is effective in claiming value without harming to create value or maintaining the relationship with the opposing party (Allred, 2000, p. 4).

4.2 Bargaining or problem-solving

The essential distinction between bargaining and problem-solving approach lies in their respective focus on “self-interest’ and ‘common interest’ (Elgstrom & Jonsson, 2000, p. 5).

The bargaining component in distributive negotiation primarily focuses on a group of negotiators’ who have specific national interests to be achieved. The interests are generally fixed and the negotiators task is to maximize those interests through

negotiation. These bargaining situations are mapped on and their outcome of the negotiation may be evaluated as per the gains received for the state (Hopmann, 1995, p. 2). Whereas, problem-solving sees obstacles to agreement arising not only because of variation in state interests but it considers the perception of other states. It approaches negotiation as a problem to be solved and not a contest to be won. The keywords used in this component are brainstorming, collaboration, perspectivetaking etc. (Elgström & Jönsson, 2011, p. 3). It believes that international regimes and organizations create a set of norms within which negotiations take place that facilitate an atmosphere of cooperation. These institutions can help to mediate conflicts and assist in the collective implementation, verification and enforcement of any agreement (Hopmann, 1995, p. 3).

There may be a dilemma in choosing the right component for the negotiation but the discourse between the bargaining and problem-solving components of negotiation comes down to the realist and liberal ideology of the state which indicates how they resolve the dilemma. Liberals include problem solving component that optimizes mutual gains for both parties, unlike realists that looks for more gains on their side at the end.

4.3 Non-cooperative or cooperative

In the distributive negotiation strategy, the decision is firm from the beginning and the negotiator uses non-cooperative components while negotiating in the meetings. Hence, the negotiator refuses to offer any concessions to the opposing party when asked. The goal is to fulfill its agenda and not to beat around the bush. The negotiators' focus is to rather extract concessions from the opposing party if possible. The countries come up with firm agendas and work their way throughout the

negotiation process to fulfill those agendas. They are not interested in finding the middle ground. In this context, countries use self-centric approach and are hence, inflexible in the negotiation process with the predetermined negotiating moves. However, in the integrative negotiation strategy, cooperation is the key component that indicates the countries willingness to adjust its position as per the requirement of the situation. The countries show their willingness to bend their agenda if their main motive is fulfilled. The country accepts at least one outcome suggested by the opposing state to show its cooperation (Alfredson & Cungu, 2008, p. 3). The negotiating approach when using a cooperative component keeps on changing as per the requirement of the situation. It is not predetermined whether the country gets full leverage from the negotiation even if the negotiation is deemed successful.

Therefore, when one country cooperates while the other competes then the cooperative party will get a terrible outcome while the competitive party might have chance of achieving a good outcome. If both parties compete they both will get a mediocre outcome. For cooperative problem, solving to succeed it is not necessary for both parties to be aware of the existence of the win-win situation. All that is required is that they must be convinced about the underlying science. This can increase the probability of cooperation. Russia who was understating the effect of climate change changed its stance in 2009 due to overwhelming scientific evidence (Yuan Yu, Li Zhia, 2015 p.3). In 2015, the United States and China announced their targets jointly. The Presidents of two countries resolved to work closely together over the next year to address major impediments to reaching a successful global climate agreement in Paris. Both the countries showed their cooperation to the world by joining hands with their adversaries and promising to work together in future. The United States later in 2017, pulled out from the Paris Agreement during the Trump administration, and was

formally pulled in November 2020 which showed non-cooperation from the US. Hence, the leadership and the national interest of the country has an impact on the negotiation style and decisions of a country. Between the two countries the US and China, China's commitments remain strategic, consistent and more cooperative than the US.

4.4 Hard or Soft

In the distributive negotiation strategy hard and sometimes conflictive negotiation strategies prevail. They include pressures and some promises, not surrendering to the other party and sometimes even criticizing the other party, using shaming tactics and purposefully delaying the agreement (Matthews, 1989; Hovi, 1998). There are a few typical characteristics of hard bargaining that can be observed in the negotiation process. The negotiators usually enter the negotiation with a very high opening demand and later along the negotiation process shows that they are unwilling to surrender to the other party. The negotiator stresses on the "unalterable" nature of a demand which shows firmness rather than flexibility. For example, negotiating parties may emphasize that the "national interest" of their country is at stake. And the negotiating party also forms a defensive coalition as a hard-bargaining tactic. This coalition is aimed at blocking a compromise.

Soft bargaining is exactly in contrast to the hard-bargaining component of negotiation. It includes friendly tactics such as flexibility, uses pleasing statements, offers concessions and compromises proposals by making new offers (Bailer, 2012, p. 4). The characteristics of the soft bargaining method are that the negotiator begins with a flexible position and uses friendly strategies that stresses common interest in reaching an agreement. The negotiator in this method uses statements such as "we are willing

to make further concessions if” (Dür & González, 2007). This method encourages common interest in the result of the negotiation. This tactic is also known as “cost cutting” as it allows the other side to cut the costs of making a concession (PRUITT, 1983, p. 3). This method uses friendly tactics to multilateral negotiations, which is for seeking partners for compromise. In some account, the intentions of the actors play a vital role. Such as: Are the actor genuinely concerned about finding the “best” solution or are the actors motivated for the best possible deal for themselves? The main question here is the actor’s intentions for either common interest or private interest (Dür & González, 2007, p. 3). In addition, when the intention of the negotiator can be differentiated, then difference between hard and soft bargaining can be spotted.

As a whole, it is up to the countries to choose what components to put when negotiating in an international forum. The components of distributive and integrative strategy at times be mixed as well as per the situation. There are instances where even with a cooperative setting and problem-solving mentality there can be opportunities to claim value for the success and not to create value. In this case, countries have to look for a hidden sources of value that can be added to the discussion to create value. In the current context, to succeed at the bargaining table negotiators must use both distributive and integrative negotiation strategies effectively.

CHAPTER V

CLIMATE CHANGE ISSUES IN NEPAL

Climate change is one of the greatest challenges facing humanity today. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate change (UNFCCC) recognizes the potential threat that climate change poses on a global basis. However, the most affected regions are categorized as the Arctic, Africa, small islands and, the countries falling in Hindu Kush Himalayan (HKH) regions. This chapter will describe the issues of climate change in the world and Nepal. Climate change affects nations from different regions in different ways. In this chapter, there will be a brief description of its effects on a global scale and this study will explore how it has affected Nepal in different ways. Among the most effected regions, Africa tops the list because of multiple existing stresses and low adaptive capacity. These stresses have resulted in poverty, political conflicts and ecosystem degradation. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) predicts the global increment in temperature of less than 1.8 to 5.4 degrees Fahrenheit (1 to 3 degrees Celsius) over 1990 levels will deliver useful impacts in a few districts and harmful in others. The net yearly costs will increase over time as the global temperature increase (IPCC, 2007).

5.1 Global impact of climate change

Climate change has a huge impact on the global economy, society and environment. Sectors that are closely related to climates, such as agriculture, tourism, and water, are facing a great burden by extreme events from climate change. The doubling of the atmospheric carbon dioxide concentration will lead to only a minimum drop in global crop production. However, the brunt of the problem will be faced by the poorer countries and the adaptive measures adopted by the farmers of these countries will do

little to reduce the disparity between rich and poorer countries. According to the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) 2015, world temperatures could rise by between 0.3°C in addition, 4.8°C this century, driving to an anticipated rise in ocean levels between 0.26 m and 0.98m. In Southeast Asia, the temperature is estimated to rise between 3°C and 5°C, with sea levels rising between 0.4m and 0.6 m (IPCC, 2014).

Similarly, climate change has affected all the regions as per their geo-political, socio-economic, and cultural status. Countries with poorer economies are hit hard by climate change. And the countries with the powerful economies are less impacted compared to the poorer economy.

However, the impacts of climate change are visible in the weather pattern of powerful economies and even the most developed cities in the world face extreme climate change threats. Climate change will impact the sustainability of food, water, health, ecosystems and coastal stability of developed countries as well. The United States and European Union are also affected by the increase in temperature for the long run (Du, Zhao, & Huang, 2017, p. 5). A strong economy such as the United States is facing extreme weather events such as: hurricanes, land-falling atmospheric rivers and wildfires. The average temperature of the US has risen more than 2°F during the past 50 years and is predicted to rise more than that in future. The rise in temperature will depend primarily on the global, amount of heat trapping and gas emission and the reaction of the climate to those emissions. Various extreme weather events such as heat waves and droughts have frequently been experienced during the past 40 to 50 years (U.S. Global Change Research Program, 2009). Similarly, people in Europe are also bearing the brunt of climate change. Anthropogenic climate change is likely to modify the occurrence and severity of extreme weather such as storms, floods,

droughts, heatwaves and cold waves in Europe. These occurrences increase disasters like a forest fires and produce severe diseases in humans and animals. The global climate refugees in Europe, which are not even recognized by the international agreement on refugees are increasing as the result of climate change. According to data's and as written in an article by (Stott, Stone, & Allen, 2005, p. 4), “the summer of 2003 was probably the hottest in Europe since at least 1500 AD and unusually large numbers of heat related deaths were reported in France, Germany and Italy”. It is very likely that the heatwave was human induced by greenhouse gases.

Overall Climate change has severe implications on the developed nations and European countries as well. However, the most vulnerable countries always remain countries with low economies and possessing less capacity to adapt to climate change. For which, European Union plays a massive role in supporting and financing the developing countries affected by climate change (European Commission, n.d.).

Over the last fifty years, developed countries have contributed in the rise of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, since the industrial revolution. The industrial revolution was the transition to a new manufacturing process in Europe and the United States. The developed countries contributes almost 53% to 61% and the developing country contribute 39% to 47%, to the increased global air temperature, upper oceanic warming, sea-ice reduction in the NH and permafrost degradation (Wei, et al., 2016, p. 4). This shows that the developed countries have also benefitted from the industrial revolution and the lack of industrial revolution in the developing country side have had drawbacks from the revolution by bearing the impact of climate change. There are total 137 developing economies in the world (Akanwa & Ikechebelu, 2020, p. 2)

The developing countries are always on the lookout for climate funding from the European Union or other source. The pool of funds available for climate change adaptation is smaller and countries such as Bangladesh, Nepal and Niger are the low-income countries that have been successful in receiving funds (Nakhooda & Norman, 2014, p. 21). But some reports suggest that over the periods of 2013-2016, India received the highest level of single country funding (725m) approved by multilateral climate funds in absolute terms. This was followed by Ukraine (\$278m) and Chile (\$262m). However, in the same year, in terms of the project funded so far, Mexico tops the list with 25 projects followed by India and Cambodia (22 each) and South Africa (21), in total, the map contains 1020 projects (Mapped: Where multilateral climate funds spend their money, 2017, p. 21).

Climate finance is usually received by vulnerable countries but with expertise and capacity in the field of climate change. This paper studies in the area of climate diplomacy and it supports country to achieve climate goals.

Climate diplomacy revolves around politics and diplomacy and now has become essential in climate change negotiation. The debate on climate change has shifted from science to politics. The science part of it deals with research experiments and findings whereas, the politics part moves the findings to multilateral forums for negotiation. As the significance of climate diplomacy is increasing, with time many countries have incorporated climate diplomacy in their foreign policy. This is to push domestic climate agendas and gather international support to combat and address climate change issues that have repercussions on economic, social and political matters of a country (Craft, 2016). The least developed countries are more vulnerable

to climate change and their socio-economic and political status are at stake due to the adverse effect of climate change.

5.2 Climate change vulnerability in Nepal

Nepal is among the Least Developed countries (LDCs), holding a negligible share of 0.027% of global greenhouse gas emissions (MoPE, 2016). Despite the negligible contribution, Nepal is among the most vulnerable countries to the impacts of climate change (MoPE, 2016). The geopolitical status and the rugged terrains of the country is believed to be the reason for its high vulnerability to climate change. Nepal suffers from climate change in every way i.e. social, economic and environmental. In this section, the study will discuss the impact of climate on Nepal from the aforementioned ways.

5.2.1 Environmental impact of Climate Change in Nepal

Within a short distance, Nepal's topography changes from the alluvial Gangetic plains suitable for agriculture to the frozen wastes of the Himalayan Mountains. Between the two extremes lie the middle hills and the lesser mountains consisting of the Churia range and the Mahabharat lek as they are known. The mountain regions are more vulnerable because it has been seen that both the warming trends as well as the impacts are magnified due to the extreme changes in altitude over small distances. The recorded rates of warming in the Himalayas are significantly higher than the global average. Within the region, the rates in the western Himalayas, eastern Himalayas, and the plains of the Ganges basin over the last 25 years are lower (0.01-0.03°C per yr). Those for the Nepal Himalayas and the Tibetan Plateau (based on limited station data), appear to be considerably higher (0.04 to 0.09°C per yr and 0.03-0.07°C per yr respectively) (Karki et.al, 2009 p3).

Floods and droughts are likely to increase because of a number of factors. According to the report from (UNDP Nepal, n.d.), approximately 5 million people were affected by natural disasters during the period of 1971-2007. Similarly, an ongoing problem of climate change related disaster is flooding due to continuous rain that lead to 78 people getting killed and 1700 being displaced in the Terai region (Nepali Sansar, 2019). The most affected areas of flooding are Bhojpur, Dhading, Khotang, Kavre, Lalitpur, Makwanpur and Sindhuli (Nepali Sansar, 2019, p. 3).

Table 22. District Ranks – Overall Vulnerability Index

Combined Vulnerability	Districts
Very High (0.787-1.000)	Kathmandu, Ramechhap, Udayapur, Lamjung, Mugu, Bhaktapur, Dolakha, Saptari, Jajarkot
High (0.601-0.786)	Mahottari, Dhading, Taplejung, Siraha, Gorkha, Solukhumbu, Chitwan, Okhaldhunga, Achham, Manang, Dolpa, Kalikot, Khotang, Dhanusha, Dailekh, Parsa, Salyan
Moderate (0.356-0.600)	Sankhuwasabha, Baglung, Sindhuli, Bhojpur, Jumla, Mustang, Rolpa, Bajhang, Rukum, Rautahat, Panchthar, Parbat, Dadeldhura, Sunsari, Doti, Tanahu, Makwanpur, Myagdi, Humla, Bajura, Baitadi, Bara, Rasuwa, Nawalparasi, Sarlahi, Sindhupalchok, Darchula, Kaski
Low (0.181-0.355)	Nuwakot, Dhankuta, Kanchanpur, Bardiya, Kapilbastu, Terhathum, Gulmi, Pyuthan, Surkhet, Arghakhanchi, Morang, Dang, Lalitpur, Kailali, Syanja, Kavrepalanchowk
Very Low (0.000-0.180)	Ilam, Jhapa, Banke, Palpa, Rupandehi

Figure1. Overall vulnerability index of Nepal, 2010 (Ministry of Population and Environment, 2010)

The vulnerability mapping of 2010 by MoPE shows that Kathmandu, Ramechhap, Udayapur, Lamjung, Mugu, Bhaktapur, Dolakha, Saptari and Jajarkot are the highly vulnerable districts of Nepal. The vulnerability index is based on sensitivity, adaptation capability and exposure (Ministry of Population and Environment, 2010, p. 5). The ranking of districts is done according to vulnerability indices for temperature and rainfall, ecology, landslide, flood, drought, GLOF and overall combined vulnerability is presented in the table above. Response to climate change is easier after the identification and prioritization of vulnerable areas of a country.

The impact of climate change has been seen in various sectors in Nepal. The agriculture sector and the forestry and biodiversity sectors are the most prominent ones, which is followed by water resources and energy. It had been observed in Nepal in the form of an increase in the frequency of natural hazards, rise in temperature, change in rainfall patterns, shifting of tree line and unfavorable weather change phenomena (Ghimire, 2015 p.3). Climate change has a range of direct and indirect impacts on both the environment and the people of various regions. These impacts range from biodiversity impacts and ecosystem goods services to availability and hazards to socioeconomic and health affects the population residing in the eastern Himalayan regions (Sharma, 2009, p. 5). The people of the mountain region have limited livelihood options and they are less likely to have access to products and services. They are severely affected by climate change as they rely on weather dependent rain fed agriculture. According to a study done in the Jumla district (Gentle & Maraseni, 2012 p.4). All three community members from poor to well-off in the village and also the historical timeline of the village reports a decreasing and erratic trend of pre-monsoon and monsoon rainfall. These communities testified to a vast decrease in food production. The poor households informed they have not grown rice for the last three years as they only owned rain-fed rice cultivation. The study suggested putting climate change adaptation in the ongoing development initiative of the country to overcome poverty, marginalization and to buffer against environmental vulnerabilities.

Climate change had been observed more severely in the Hindu Kush Himalayan region including Nepal due to the high altitudinal variation and fragile geographic structures (K. C., et al., 2013; K.C. & Ghimire, 2015 p.3). Climate change is already affecting ecosystem services by affecting forest type and area, primary productivity,

species populations and migration, the occurrence of pests and disease, and forest regeneration. The increase in greenhouse gases is also affecting species composition and changing the ecosystem structure, which in turn affects ecosystem function. The interaction between elevated CO₂ and climate change plays an important role in the overall response of net primary productivity. Climate change will have a profound effect on the future distribution, productivity, and ecological health of forests (Karki et.al, 2009 p.4). There could be a significant reduction in alpine and cryospheric ecosystems and their services. A major expansion of the tropical zones would cover most of the middle mountains and inner valleys of the region, whereby the quality and quantity of ecosystem services are likely to change dramatically for the worse.

Climate crisis is, therefore real and requires urgent attention through joint, concerted and immediate national and cross border efforts. Mountain environments, worldwide, are likely to be some of the most severely impacted ecosystems in the World from future climate change. The Himalayan alpine zone is particularly sensitive to changes in temperature and precipitation. Mountain areas are threatened by loss of natural habitat for our rich flora and fauna. Our mountain ecosystems and plants and animal species therein are predicted to slowly migrate and shift their distribution northward or upward in response to warming temperatures.

5.2.2 Effect of Climate Change on Nepali Economy

Nepal is traditionally agricultural centric culture. About two-thirds of the economically active population is engaged in agriculture and the agriculture sector contributes about one-third to GDP (Thapa, Joshi, 2014, p.3). While in the last few decades, the tourism sector has also emerged to be a significant contributor to National GDP. In 2019, the contribution of travel and tourism to GDP (% of GDP) for

Nepal was 7.9 % (World Data Atlas, n.d.). Climate change can have both direct and indirect impacts on the general well-being of the communities' dependent climate centric economy. Nepali economy is highly dependent on tourism that relies on environment and agriculture.

With regard to agriculture, the consensus is that changes in temperature and precipitation will result in changes in land and water regimes that will subsequently affect agricultural productivity (World Bank, 2003). The impact of climate change on agriculture is therefore, a matter of concern, particularly in the low-income countries where the majority of the people live in rural areas and depend on agriculture for their livelihood. Studies have shown that climate change is going to effect agricultural yield negatively. This will have a serious impact on Nepal, where a majority of people relies on rain-fed agriculture for livelihood.

Due to the lack of agricultural infrastructure development, farmers in Nepal are forced to depend on monsoon rain. This means agricultural production is lower than the potential. Due to low productivity and income younger generation are also already shying away from agriculture. This has created doubts amongst investors, policymakers and economists on agriculture being a potentially high profit yielding industry. The culmination of these situations has created a vicious circle in the Nepali agriculture sector where it seems it will never become a priority again. Already vulnerable due to aforementioned reasons, climate change impact would be a crushing blow to the agriculture sector.

Another important economic contributor as mentioned above is tourism. Nepali tourism is primarily eco-tourism where tourist from inside and outside the country come to for mountaineering and trekking purpose. While there is increase in incoming

of tourists in different national parks and sanctuaries in southern belt across the country. There is a close relationship between climate and tourism in ecosystem tourism, coastal tourism, mountain tourism and nature-based tourism (K.C.et.al, 2014, p.4). Climate change increases stress on environmental systems of different locations. It causes sea level rise on small island states, increases the risk of illness in tropical countries and discourages tourism. Frequent periods of extreme heat will cause discomfort in trekking (Viner & Agnew, 1999, p.1).

Climate change brings more risk than opportunities in the eco-tourism sector. Most of the nature-based tourism activities in the Himalayas are weather-sensitive so rain and foggy conditions significantly decrease the quality of the trekking experience in the Himalayas. Tourists can opt for a change in destination if the weather continues to disappoint them (Rayamajhi, 2012, p.4). Climate change will affect climate centric tourism in a negative way. Climate has a great role in the destination choice of tourists, as a sunny day is more favorable than a cloudy or a rainy day (Berrittella, Bigano, Roson, & Tol, 2006, p.3). It can attract more tourists in some place while it can decrease the tourist flow in few places. Climate change affects physical resources and indirectly affects tourism (D. Scott, et al., 2007, p.4).

Due to the unfavorable climate change phenomena, there is the impact on trekking and mountaineering tourism in Nepal. Untimely and high intense rainfall and snowfall had caused serious threats to the mountaineers, trekkers and travelers. It is difficult to complete the visit in a target time for the tourist as that happened in November 2010 in Mt. Everest (Sagarmatha) region of eastern Nepal (K.C. 2017, p.3). While in the low lands of Nepal where national parks and sanctuary of dense forest thrives are reporting invasion of alien species. An invasion by non-native species represents one

of the major threats to biodiversity (Davis, 2003, p.4). The association between the global climate change and species invasion pattern suggests that the invasion rate by the alien species will not decrease soon (Cheung et al. 2009). *Mikania micrantha* is one of the worst invasive plants on earth (Lowe, et al. 2000, p.3). This plant has now invaded the forests, grasslands, wetlands, fallow lands and even in the croplands of tropical parts of Eastern to Central Nepal (Siwakoti 2007, p.5). This has added an additional financial burden on national park's treasury.

5.2.3 Climate Change impact on Nepali Society

Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MEA, 2005, p. 13) realizes climate change as one of the major contributing factors for degradation of ecological services and argues that “the degradation of ecosystem services is harming many of the world's poorest people and is sometimes the principal factor causing poverty”. Ongoing poverty, lack of social safety nets and lack of access to education and health care increase vulnerability to climatic change for the poor (Adger et al., 2003;). As mentioned above is likely to suffer adverse consequences of climate change due to its geographical location. This will affect the economy and environment of the country.

The low productivity in the overall economy due to heavy reliance on natural resources likely will increase the burden in poorer communities. Continued deglaciation could have a profound impact on the water in the ten large river basins originating in the Hindu Kush Himalayan (HKH) region. River discharges are likely to increase for some time due to accelerated melting, but the flow is then likely to be lower as the storage capacity of the glaciers will go down. The effects are likely to be felt most severely in the arid parts of the region, which are already very dry (Karki, et.al, 2009).

A decrease in water and food resources can cause massive migration internally and externally which can disrupt the social fabric of Nepali society. While at the same time, competition for the resource will increase amongst the population that can cause conflict in the future.

5.3 Reflection

Nepal is least likely to recover from climate related stresses and its economy is highly dependent on climate-sensitive sectors. It is undebatable to say that climate change impacts the overall economic, social and environmental sectors of Nepal. And in this context, climate finance plays an important role that can support Nepal in fulfilling its climate goals through various projects. In Nepal, climate change adaptation and leveraging climate finance are complicated by two factors and that is Nepal's technical capability on the subject of climate change and diplomatic practices used by Nepal in COP meetings at the UNFCCC. In the UNFCCC some countries have been successful at pushing their agendas forward at the global level whereas even with high vulnerability and technical capacity some countries problems are pushed aside. What explains some countries success in such forums, and the difference in negotiation approaches of the successful and unsuccessful countries? How do these successful countries engage in the forum? These countries ability to perform effectively in the forums depend upon the institutions, human resource, financial resource it invests in climate diplomacy and negotiation as well as the country's ability to utilize effectively the information garnered through diplomacy (Adelle, Biedenkopf, & Torney, 2018) .

The success of a country is determined by the type of technical knowledge, research and development and capacity building of a country parties as well. The parties should take a holistic approach to climate diplomacy that supports national and

international climate action. Overall, a country must capacitate the members from ministry, civil society and technical experts participating in COP meetings with technical assistance in negotiations, capacity building for negotiation and delegations, and a research portfolio to draw out lessons learned at the national level. The agenda put forth in the COP meetings should be technically sound and the diplomatic texts should be analyzed. At the international level, it determines to address climate change and supports the rules set under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement. Diplomatic negotiation plays an important part at this level with countries interacting with each other, however, the LDCs are left out in this setting. The LDCs challenges and capacity gaps should be addressed in advance to prepare them for the COP meetings. Hence, climate change diplomacy is an important tool for Nepal to have equal participation in the UNFCCC decision making process.

CHAPTER VI

NEPAL'S NEGOTIATION STRATEGIES AT COP

This chapter will describe the negotiation pattern of Nepal in UNFCCC, COP meetings. This study has looked at Nepal's negotiation process in international forums since 2016. Therefore, this study will be looking at COP 21 to COP25. This study will find out how successful have these meetings and negotiation tactics been to Nepal. Climate negotiations in multilateral forums lack scientific insights to influence climate systems. The topic discussed in the forums are mostly about formulating climate goals rather than being guided by clear problem statements and goals. The countries ability to negotiate during the COP meetings impact the success of a country in accessing the financial resources. In addition to negotiation skills, another equally important consideration is its institutional capacity to access the fund, a countries way of proposing the agenda to UNFCCC in a bankable way.

6.1 Nepal's Position in COP meetings

The document submitted by Nepal to UNFCCC shapes its negotiation strategy in the forum. After the Paris Agreement, Nepal has submitted various significant documents to UNFCCC. High-level segments documents have been submitted in COP 24 and COP 25, NAPA, LAPA, NDC for the second time over time. These documents are informative and describe the climate vulnerabilities to a higher extent due to which Nepal has been able to leverage many opportunities. In this chapter, we exclusively look at the performance of Nepal in COP meetings from COP 21 to COP 25.

6.1.1 COP 21

The twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) and the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP) took place from 30 November to 11 December 2015, in Paris, France (UNFCCC, 2015). The Paris Agreement is a balanced compromise among all Parties: all made concessions; all received reassurances. That compromise is reflected in the Paris Agreement as well as in the accompanying decision 1/CP.21 (Taking the Paris Agreement Forward, 2016). The challenge is now to operationalize the Paris Agreement. Turning the intended nationally determined contributions into public policies. Moreover, an investment plan for mitigation, adaptation and to deliver on the promises for the better future (COP 21 President's Reflection Note, 2016).

Nepal raised the voice of developing and least developing countries in all conferences it participate and as was the case in COP21. In this COP21 Nepal focused on signing in Treaty that helps in the reduction of climate change (MoPE, 2016). Nepal is also one of the countries affected by GHGs released by developed countries. Therefore, Nepal raised its voice for developing technology that will help to fight against all these situations created. Nepal also focused on the loss created by all these happenings. Nepal raised the problem faced by Mountainous country in COP 21. Nepal made a spate negotiation team that raised a voice for Mountainous countries (MoPE, 2016).

Nepal had reiterated its commitment to contributing to the global collaboration and had shared its intention to submit the instrument of ratification at the earliest during the Signature Ceremony of the Paris Agreement on 22 April 2016 in New York (Press Release GoN, 2016). Paris Agreement is a compromise agreement between tiny

nations and big and LDCs, Island and mountainous, developed and developing countries. Along with Nepal, other LDCs and small mountainous countries negotiated about letting temperature not rise above 1.5 degrees rather than 2 degrees (Mountain Summit Report, 2016).

Nepal believes that the collective strength of global efforts, understanding, cooperation, partnership and support should run foremost in combating the challenges posed by Climate Change. In view of the fact that Climate Change vulnerability of Nepal as LDC, LLDC and mountainous country is very high and the pathway for sustainable development is both difficult and costly. Nepal maintains that easy, transparent and direct access to climate finance and technology should be ensured for the countries like Nepal, in addition to the development cooperation and support, as provisioned in the Paris Agreement and other instruments.

6.1.2 COP 22

COP 22 meeting kicked off in 2016 in Marrakech, Morocco (UNFCCC, 2016). In this meeting, Nepal presented itself in a stern way than before. Nepal has demanded from developed nations to actively pursue the goal of containing temperatures to a rise to less than 1.5-degree. Nepal has raised its issues on the following topic (Briefing notes on UNFCCC COP 22, 2016):

- **Mitigation:** Nepal has insisted on countries with higher emissions present ambitious mitigation target for climate change. The entire mitigation targets should be guided by scientific findings. Nepal has suggested the idea of joint mitigation and adaption approaches for the integral and sustainable management of forests while reaffirming the importance of incentivizing non-

carbon benefits associated with mitigation and adaptation (Briefing notes on UNFCCC COP 22, 2016).

- **Adaptation:** Nepal has demanded developed countries should take full responsibility of the needs and special situations of least developed countries in regard to funding and transfer of technology. Nepal pointed out that current funding for adaptation against climate change is completely inadequate. Nepal has urged the developed country to transfer the funds through ‘a special window’ to support building techniques and technology for adaptation. Nepal also urged to simplification of accreditation procedures for National Implementing Entities (NIEs) of LDCs to the Adaptation Fund and Green Climate Fund.
- **Loss and Damage:** Realizing the increasing damage from climate change consequences, adaptation alone would be sufficient for Nepal. Therefore, Nepal would emphasize support for conducting research/studies on the effects and impacts of climate-induced extreme weather events and generate evidence to influence developed countries to take additional efforts on GHGs reductions and/or establish a system for 'compensation and liability. Nepal would also urge support for conducting research/studies on the effects and impacts of climate-induced extreme weather events and generate evidence to influence developed countries to take additional efforts on GHGs reductions and/or establish a system for 'compensation and liability.
- **Climate Finance:** Finance is a crucial tool for the least developed countries like Nepal. The country has National Adaptation Plan in place which is not fully implemented due to lack of funding. In COP 22 Nepal, seek a clear way

by developed countries to deliver the \$100 billion by 2020 (Briefing Notes on UNFCCC COP 22, 2016). Nepal has also asked the developed countries to be transparent on climate funds to provide to other countries. Nepal has also demanded easy and quick access for least developed countries to the fund.

- **Technology transfer & transfer:** Nepal's primary concern is that climate technology should be sensitive to the interest of Nepal and the LDCs. Nepal wishes that the technology framework be equipped with the convening capacity to bring together all relevant actors to support the needs of developing countries, in particular, LDCs.
- **Capacity building:** Within the UNFCCC context, capacity building is referred to issues such as adapting to climate change, providing financial and technical resources, transferring technology, ensuring research, education and training, and improving national communications. Nepal urged for financial support for climate change education and institutional strengthening. The country also wants to enhance knowledge through sharing and cooperation regard to capacity building.
- **Gender:** Issues of gender considerations in climate change have started gaining focus in recent years in the climate change negotiations. There have also been studies that shows that women in the least developed countries suffer more from climate change. Nepal wants the issues to focus on gender equality ranging from balanced participation of men and women in the negotiation process to ensuring gender responsive climate change policies and actions in the ground. In addition to that, in order to provide sustained and undivided attention to gender considerations.

6.1.3 COP 23

The 23rd Conference of the Parties (COP 23) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was held in Bonn between 6–17 November 2017 under the presidency of Fiji (UNFCCC, 2017). Since this was, the first ‘Oceanic’ COP, special attention was also given to supporting the countries of the Global South in their efforts to reduce emissions, adapt to climate change and deal with the unavoidable impacts of climate change to which adaptation is no longer possible (Obergassel et.al, 2018). Nepal has representing the Least Developed Countries for many years and had built a name and fame for itself (Republica, 2017).

However, Nepal’s preparation and participation in the COP 23 overlooked the participation of Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) in its negotiating team. Even though the Ministry of Population and Environment handles all the issues related to climate change, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs deals with international negotiation and diplomacy. Therefore, it is equally important for the inclusion of MoFA in COP meetings. Nepal raised the various issues in the meeting. Nepal urged all the developed countries to implement the Paris Agreement as soon as possible as the consequences of climate change are getting extreme. Minister of Population and Environment at the time Mrs. Mithila Chaudhary spoke for Nepal. Chaudhary has said climate change has been continuously posing additional threats to people and ecosystems in the country though Nepal emits negligible amount of global greenhouse gases (Rastriya Samachar Samiti, 2017). Nepal once again called on for greater commitments for climate finance and support. The temperature rise is having devastating impact on the planet. Hurricanes, rising sea level, flood and drought are growing extreme. Nepal noted the large ambition gap with ongoing concern and

reemphasized “the need for higher climate ambition by all countries in a manner that is consistent with their responsibility for climate change and capacity to respond, in order to close the emissions gap to avoid further devastating climate change impacts” (Rastriya Samachar Samiti, 2017). Like many other parties, Nepal is worried about the slow progress in the full materialization of the Convention in spite of several decisions made during the last two decades.

While on negotiation front, Nepal displayed a problem solving approach and a soft bargaining tactic in the released statement even in such crucial matter. However, the statement also had a value-claiming component when it informed about the severe effect of climate change to Nepal even with such low emission. Moreover, called out high emitting countries to urgently plan activities that helps to maintain temperature guided by the Paris Agreement.

6.1.4 COP 24

The Katowice Climate Change Conference, the 24th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 24) to the UNFCCC, was held in Katowice, Poland from 2 December to 15 December in 2018 (UNFCCC, 2018). In this, Conference of Parties countries agreed to bring Paris agreement into life. Key points of agreement at COP24 were on regular communication, reporting, review and stocktaking of progress on curbing emissions, adapting to impacts, increasing and aligning investments, and considering loss and damage (World Resource Institute, 2018). Countries also reaffirmed the timeline agreed in Paris for countries to submit national climate commitments (known in UN-speak as Nationally Determined Contributions or NDCs) by 2020.

Nepal is one of the least contributing countries to global warming. Nepal has 0.027% of carbon emission out of total (MoPE, 2016). However, Nepal is also one of the most

vulnerable countries when it comes to climate change. Therefore, in COP 24 Nepal lobbied with the international community to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels (Earth Journalism, 2018). According to Nepal's status paper prepared ahead of the meeting, the government called on to rich countries to revise their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) by 2020 to raise their ambition in line with the latest available science, including the IPCC report. Nepal's position during COP 24 was that limitation to 1.5 C is not enough (Second Nationally Determined Contribution, 2020). It will still have a devastating impact on the ecosystem, therefore; high carbon emitting countries and developed countries should take more immediate action to limit the carbon emission.

Nepal once again insisted to developed countries to provide clear roadmap strategies and approaches to deliver the \$100 billion a year by 2020 (Earth Journalism, 2018). Nepal will call on developed countries to provide adequate and sustainable climate finance to supplement development assistance to address climate risk in the least developed countries (Online Khabar, 2018). Nepal called on developed countries to provide adequate and sustainable climate finance to supplement development assistance to address climate risk in the least developed countries. Nepal also highlighted its efforts and transition towards clean energy in the meeting. The Statement released by Honorable President Bidhya Devi Bhandari on 2018 stated, "We have already started the use of electric vehicles at the President's Office and we have the policy to extend this to other areas as well" (MoFA, 2018).

Maheshwar Dhakal, chief of Climate Change Management Division under the Ministry of Forest and Environment, quoted before the start of the COP 24 meeting as saying that the Government of Nepal has a three-pronged strategy on climate change;

Building climate resilience; Shifting towards low-carbon economy; and strengthening climate diplomacy (Kathmandu Post, 2021). The third of these was tested at COP 24 and Nepal failed the test. The speech given by Nepal set a mild tone in the High-level segment statement in COP 24. The push for urgent action was absent and the statement was more informative which shared information on Nepal's climate situation and vulnerability and Nepal's meager contribution to climate change. The speech by Honorable President Mrs. Bidhya Devi Bhandari expressed the countries feeling of being penalized for the mistakes never made which has been repeated over many years.

6.1.5 COP 25

The 25th United Nations Climate Change Conference was held in Madrid, Spain from December 2- December 13 under the presidency of Chile (UNFCCC, 2019). The main agenda of COP 25 was to ensure that the 2015 Paris agreement on climate change would be operational when its implementation started in 2020 (Carbon Brief, 2019). However, it delivered disappointing outcomes for science, civil society, developing countries and the global climate change regime. Tasked with a relatively modest agenda and set in a time of increasing global isolationism, the conference was not set to result in major changes in global climate policy (Luomi, 2019). It even failed to even deliver on its original agenda, which was to ensure that the 2015 Paris Agreement.

The task of COP 25 was two-fold: to agree on the final piece of implementation guidance for the Paris Agreement's 'rulebook', which was largely completed at COP 24 in Poland; and to send a political signal of commitment to ambitious action to reduce emissions and help vulnerable countries adapt to the negative impacts of

climate change. The conference failed to deliver on both counts. After going 44 hours over time, COP 25 concluded by adopting a series of decisions, which helped avert a total breakdown of the process (only once in the UNFCCC's history has a COP session been reconvened the following year in a so-called COP). However, the results were a disappointment. Nepal once again lobbied for climate finance, technology transfer and sharing of best practices.

The major issue that Nepal raised was the impact of climate change on the Himalayas. The effect of climate is severe than other places in Nepal or the entire Hindu Kush Region. The impact of climate change in the Himalayas is higher because the rate of increase in temperatures is more in higher altitudes (Bradley et al., 2006, p.4). Due to such a phenomenon, Nepal is extremely vulnerable to climate change. Climate change will affect different sectors in Nepal. To take just one example, the river flows with becoming highly variable due to climatic change. (Bhattarai & Karki, 2020, p.2). The article continues this will affect water availability in downstream areas, affecting agriculture and domestic water use. Climatic changes are likely to exacerbate both flooding and droughts, which can affect infrastructure, livelihoods, and hydropower. Considering these situations, Nepal urgently asked for the climate fund and technology transfer. Nepal also urged developed countries to lower carbon emission and follow through Paris agreement immediately.

After returning from COP 25, Minister of Ministry of Forest and Environment at the time, Shakti Bahadur Basnet said addressing a program Nepal Climate Discussion COP 25, that the COP 25 raised many issues and helped to frame public opinion on the global climate agenda (Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) and Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN), 2020). In the same

program Manjeet Dhakal, Advisor to LDC Chair and Head of LDC Support team at Climate Analytics, opened the program presenting the outcomes of COP 25, Key decisions, achievement and way forward. He said that the COP 25 was unable to achieve project success to reduce greenhouse gas. Dhakal said that most of the major issues left pending due to the disagreement among the parties of nations.

6.2 Framing of the issues

Since COP 21 in Paris Nepal has framed its issues in a soft manner. As mentioned in chapter IV a country's resources, technology and economy heavily influence negotiation strengths. Nepal needs backing in all three departments. Which naturally put the country in a weak position in negotiation to begin with. Developed nations pledged \$100 billion to climate fund by 2020 however, they have managed to raise only \$90 billion as of 2021 (Shankleman et.al, 2021). Nepal has urged the nations to act immediately but the pressure that Nepal exerts on these nations are negligible just like the country's contribution to carbon emission. Nepal is also a leading nation in the association of Least Developed Countries. However, Nepal has also failed to bring together LDCs and act as a team, which can have more chances of pressuring the developed nations. I would like to mention few reasons why Nepal has failed on its negotiation quest in these meetings.

- a. Unstable internal politics:** Government institutions play vital roles in initiating, promoting, improving and sustaining the climate strategies. But due to unstable political circumstances in Nepal the aforementioned activities has not been implemented. From 2016 to 2020, Nepal has seen five different ministers in Ministry of Forest and Environment and five different ministers in the Foreign Ministry (MoPE & MoFA, n.d.). At the same time, the country has

also changed the government several times. Frequent change in governments and ministers also leads to changes in agendas and policies related to climate change. High turnover of ministers' means there is lack of consistency in policies and efficiency in activities. This means there is lack of consistency in developing strategies and implement activities to combat climate change. Despite Nepal's genuine problems related to climate change, due to the country's unstable governance the agendas are not consistent. This gives opportunity to developed countries to Political instability has always held Nepal back in almost every aspect. However, whenever it comes to international diplomacy it shows the most. It always puts Nepal in weak position and the negotiations become uphill battle to begin with.

- b. Leadership and unity in international arena:** Least Developed countries always face constraint and barriers whenever they try to promote their issues related to climate change in international arenas. LDCs faces a number of human and institutional capacity and resource constraints, which affect their ability to engage on equal footing with their wealthier counterparts. LDCs typically have disproportionately smaller government delegations and are conspicuously under-represented (Andrei et.al, 2016). That is why it is imperative that LDCs negotiate through a united front. Nepal is the leading nation of Least Developed Countries group in the UNFCCC. Developed nations usually try to brush off LDCs during the negotiations. If they try to negotiate individually this trend will continue. Therefore, LDCs should negotiate and follow through as a team for better result. However, due to Nepal's own internal issues it has failed to take the reign of leadership of

LDCs in these negotiations. Which again puts the country in back foot in the negotiation.

- c. Resources and technology:** Nepal as mentioned above is least developed country and one of the most vulnerable to climate change. However, Nepal lacks technology and appropriate resources to tackle climate change. The country is forced to rely on developed foreign nation for many scientific data on climate change. Negotiations have been difficult between industrialized countries, which fear that ambitious technology transfer policies might deprive their innovative firms of vital intellectual assets, and developing countries, which see technology transfer as a costly process that should at least partially be funded by industrialized countries (Glacant, 2016, p.1). This has further complicated the issues since, Nepal is completely forced to rely on foreign countries while the promises of technology transfer remains in limbo. Since, the country is forced to rely on technology and resources from other countries the preparation for these meetings becomes inefficient hence, the negotiation's weight shift to the other nations.
- d. National interest in climate change:** Nepali population is still not fully educated about the effects of climate change on the nations. At the same time, the contribution of Nepal is negligible in Climate Change. Therefore, the country lacks the genuine interest to fight climate change as much as it has the desire to develop. Nepali educational curriculum also lacks the education related to environment and climate change. The Curriculum Development Centre (CDC) of Nepal published the National Curriculum Framework (2076). In its outcome, it has made Health, Population and Environment (HPE) an

optional subject in secondary school as opposed to the compulsory status it had for last two decades (Rauniyar, 2020). It covers essential environmental concepts, including climate change and sustainability. While the rest of the world is beginning to prioritize the environment and its preservation, the Nepali education system has taken a major step backwards. Therefore, it can be assumed that there is considerably less pressure on these delegates and ministers to deliver on the international forums. As it was in COP 23 where Nepal lacked diplomacy strength because there were no delegates from foreign ministry present, who are skilled in foreign relation and diplomacy. Which can therefore leads of below-par performances in these negotiations.

CHAPTER VII

CONCLUSION

Nepal needs to re-evaluate the urgent need to prioritize climate change and action in its national interest. The overall performance of Nepal is very understated when it comes to negotiating climate change issues in these COP meetings even though it is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change. Nepal has not been able to stand firm for its cause during the negotiation and it has failed to push its agendas forward in these forums. Ministry of Environment and Forest Joint Secretary Maheshwar Dhakal who has represented Nepal as a participant in COP 24 said that Nepal could not rent an exhibit space in the COP pavilion which was worth Rs. 200 million. In this case it shows GoN's lack of prioritization in this concern. Similarly, the selection of delegation from all the significant departments also plays an important role as it could contribute in pushing the agenda forward in the COP meetings.

The study found out that Nepal uses Integrative Negotiation Strategy during climate change negotiation. Integrative strategy is based on value creating with a soft stance. This strategy's principle believes in value creating for both or more parties in the negotiations. Nepal being a vulnerable and poor country cannot afford more compromises. However, as a least developed country Nepal is left at the mercy of these developed countries and is forced to compromise. Cooperating with other countries is necessary but Nepal is not able to defend its natural resources and people due to its negotiation strategy and choices. Nepal's position has always been weak to start the negotiations but it has not left to show its presence and taken leadership role in the forum when needed. For instance, Nepal has shown a significant presence in the

alliance of least developed countries that are the most vulnerable to climate change. Nepal became a chair to the LDC group and stayed in the expert committee for LDCs.

The reports, agendas and presentation submitted by Nepal in UNFCCC determine the strategy. Moreover, that will decide and how the performance will go in the COP meetings. However, Nepal still needs to unite and bring the LDCs together against the developed and high emission nations and make their voices heard. Least Development Countries do not possess the resources or strength to take on developed nations. Therefore, the chances to get the issues across are very slim. Nepal's negotiation strategy has been soft and value creating but it has not brought much tangible success. Developed countries have made lofty promises but seem to have less interest in delivering it. While, Nepal continues its request for funds and technology transfer it should simultaneously work on strengthening its position during Negotiations.

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