

Kathmandu Declaration – “Partnering in Sustainable Infrastructure”

1. We reaffirm that **sustainable infrastructure** plays a critical role in economic development and acknowledge the urgent need for enhancing sustainable infrastructure due to the challenges posed by a growing global population, rapid urbanization, and climate change and to meet the current and future infrastructure needs in developing countries.
2. It is important to build **resilient** infrastructure against natural disaster as well as human made impacts (especially climate change impacts and ensuring climate friendly infrastructure to mitigate the impacts).
3. There is a **financing gap** between investment needs and current investments which is in the range of 2% to 7% of GDP in the region.
4. Priorities and focus areas for sustainable infrastructure should go **beyond economic return** and consider impact on climate, beneficiaries, economic, social and equity issues, equality, and technology covering the entire project cycle and taking into consideration both positive and negative externalities.
5. We need to focus on the **whole project cycle**, promoting life cycle assessment in technology selection, and adopting smart water, transport, energy, ICT, and low carbon technology.
6. There is a need to build new climate friendly low carbon infrastructure. There are **professional challenges** of building climate friendly and resilient infrastructure due to lack of reliable data, risk, and uncertainty.
7. **Best global practices** of project preparation, contractual arrangements, implementation, enforcement, monitoring evaluation, grievance settlement will have to be adopted or adapted making the choice for selecting best and promoting lifecycle assessment.
8. There is interconnectedness of challenges and opportunities in sustainable infrastructure development and the need for a **holistic approach** and support the aspiration to meet the goals and targets expressed in 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs 2030) and Paris Agreement and periodic global agreements through the COP process.
9. Environmental and safeguards and climate vulnerability and climate risk assessment issues (sustainability) should be made **mandatory** in building sustainable infrastructure. Tools like EIA, ESG and climate policy/agenda should be promoted.
10. There is a need to have a special **focus on Urban Infrastructure**. Cities is where most people will live, where most GDP will come from, where most employment will be provided, and the battle of global climate change agenda will be won or lost in cities of the region. There will be new requirements and opportunities for **retrofitting current cities** from climate impacts and making them resilient (e.g. flooding, frequency and intensity and protecting the current infrastructure and making them resilient and relevant) and promote clean, green, carbon neutral and livable cities.

11. There are new and **emerging policies and the new business opportunities** hence a new way of thinking, planning, building and investment in infrastructure and in support of SDGs and Paris Agreement need to be promoted.
12. New policies, programs and regulations should be considered to promote sustainable and **green infrastructure** in several sectors like energy, transport, water, buildings etc.
13. There is a need to move from the current concept of 3Rs reduce, reuse, recycle (which is a linear thinking) to **circular economy** which is rethinking, repair, remanufacturing, and refurbish and we recognize that this has wide implication in infrastructure planning, design, and construction.
14. There are knowledge, technology, and financing gaps among countries. We need to promote knowledge sharing, joint ventures where applicable and build strong **partnership** among all relevant stakeholders as well as with the members of IFAWPCA.

The Kathmandu Declaration represents our united commitment to transformative and sustainable infrastructure practices. We strive for a future where infrastructure supports development while avoiding and mitigating environmental impacts, ensuring resilience, and addressing climate agenda. This Declaration guides us towards a sustainable, resilient, and equitable infrastructure development in the 21st Century.