

**JOINT STATEMENT ON PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL STANDARDS IN THE  
HYDRO POWER INDUSTRY IN NEPAL**

As business leaders in the hydropower and financial sector, we believe that the success of Nepal will be supported by growth that is economically, environmentally, socially and culturally viable. We understand that such an approach will enhance our ability to grow, innovate, compete successfully and attract international investors at a time when the ability to meet our nation's rapidly growing demand for energy is critical. We recognize the need to deliver successful outcomes against a context of increasingly resource-intensive growth, rapid urbanization, changing consumption by a growing middle class, demand for infrastructure, impacts of climate change and the need for improved resource conservation and management. We also acknowledge the pressing need to reduce poverty and improve human health and safety, gender equality and working conditions for the benefit of all of our people.

We understand that as economic leaders in Nepal, we are in a unique position to make a positive contribution toward the continued growth and development of our country's energy infrastructure and to protect the communities and environments in which we operate. We also feel responsible for contributing to the regional energy sustainability by exporting and replacing fossil fuels with Nepal's clean hydropower. We therefore seek to take steps to ensure that our hydropower activities and financing decisions are carried out more responsibly and consistent with applicable international standards and practices, but with due regards to the distinct development needs of, and realities of operating in, Nepal.

We hereby state to work together and in collaboration with our international and other domestic partners to consider approaches to:

1. Make and get uptake of the business case for why sustainability matters in Nepal;
2. Build the capacity required to improve environmental, social and economic performance through awareness raising and practical training across both sectors;
3. Develop a process to engage relevant government agencies, industry, civil society and international institutions to create an enabling environment for success; and
4. Communicate our progress for transparency and accountability.

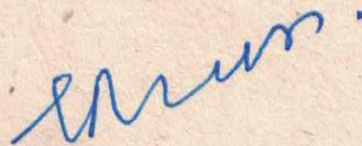
We acknowledge that we can better support responsible and sustainable economic development in Nepal by joining forces rather than standing alone. Together we join in these commitments to drive long-term sustainable growth, safeguard the environment and our people and deliver measurable benefits to society and the real economy.

Signed on the 22<sup>nd</sup> Day of November 2019.



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Shailendra Guragain  
President  
Independent Power Producers' Association, Nepal



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Gyanendra Dhungana  
President  
Nepal Bankers' Association