



Closing Remarks by the Honorable Minister, Mahendra Paswan, Ministry of Land Reform and Management, Government of Nepal at the Closing Session

Dr. Madiodio Niasse,
Dr. Shamsul Huda,
Secretary of the Ministry

Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentleman

I am here again with you at this concluding session of this conference. Let me express my thanks and appreciation to you for inviting me to say a few words at the end of your hectic engagement with this conference.

I know that you all must have worked very hard, and a little bit tired too. Therefore, I would not take much of your time in this session.

Our Right Honorable Prime Minister at the very beginning of this conference mentioned the commitment of our government to scientific Land Reform. I myself have a bitter experience of waging progressive land related movements in the Madhes or Terai of Nepal. I am very pleased that this international conference in Kathmandu has become the historical forum of sharing experience and knowledge on the interrelationship between power, public policy and political process in a wider context in different countries. It is to be further mentioned that his meeting was held after the abolition of monarchy and the institutionalization of republic in Nepal. I thank you all for choosing Nepal as the site for holding this conference.

The discussion and deliberation on this important theme will be very helpful for us in the design and implementation of scientific land reform in Nepal. I hope that such meetings and discussions would be regularly held both in

Nepal and outside. We will certainly cooperate in holding meetings of such importance. Such meetings and workshops can be of much use to really implement and assess land reform programs in Nepal and beyond. I also would like to request activists and scientists to carry out their field work and studies in the rural areas of Nepal. I hope that the declaration of this conference would be instrumental in initiating pro-poor land reform policies in different parts of the world.

I would like to thank the International Land Coalition for co-hosting this conference in Nepal. I would also like to appreciate the hard work put on by the organizing committee members in making this conference a success. Of course, the paper presenters, facilitators and the participants of this conference deserve congratulations for deliberations and deep insight.

I hope that the international participants could find time to visit interesting places outside this nice hotel. Finally, I wish you a safe trip back home.

Thank you very much.