

Ministerial Statement

**High-Level 12th Regional 3R and Circular
Economy Forum in Asia-Pacific**

3-5 March 2025, Jaipur City, Rajasthan, India

**H.E. Mr. Prakash Man Singh
Deputy Prime Minister of Nepal**



मा. प्रकाशमान सिंह
उपप्रधानमन्त्री एवं शहरी विकास मन्त्री
शहरी विकास मन्त्रालय
सिंहदरबार, काठमाडौं, नेपाल



Hon'ble Prakash Man Singh
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Urban Development
Ministry of Urban Development
Singha Durbar, Kathmandu, Nepal

पत्र संख्या/Let.No.: ०८१/०८२
चलानी नं./Ref.No.: ११



*Statement by Honorable Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Urban
Development, Government of Nepal*

**At the 12th Regional 3R Forum and Circular Economy Forum in Asia and the
Pacific**

Honorable Ministers, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and
Gentlemen,

It is a great honor to address the 12th Regional 3R Forum and Circular Economy
Forum in Asia and the Pacific. I extend my sincere appreciation to the Government
of Japan, the Government of India, the United Nations Centre for Regional
Development (UNCRD), and the United Nations Department of Economic and
Social Affairs (UN DESA) for their continued commitment to advancing circular
economy principles in the region and for successfully organizing this important
forum in India.

While I regret being unable to attend in person, I reaffirm Nepal's strong
commitment to implementing the outcomes of this forum through our federal
governance system and by fostering institutions tailored to our national context.

Nepal is actively working to integrate 3R principles and circular economy
approaches into our national policies and legal frameworks. We are shifting from a
linear economy toward a circular, zero-waste model, and several municipalities
have already introduced innovative waste management practices.

The Ministry of Urban Development is implementing the National Solid Waste
Management Policy and drafting new legal instruments to strengthen our regulatory
framework. We are also encouraging local governments and provincial authorities

मा. प्रकाशमान सिंह
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to adopt regional approaches to solid waste management, utilizing waste as a resource to promote environmental sustainability, economic development, and employment generation.

While policies provide a foundation, the success of these initiatives depends on technological advancements and practical methodologies at both the household and municipal levels. To this end, our Ministry has established a dedicated institution that continuously works to develop and implement innovative waste management technologies.

Recent studies indicate that while the Polluter Pays Principle helps cover waste collection and segregation costs, it does not fully address the financial burden of land acquisition and infrastructure development. To tackle this challenge, we are prioritizing "Segregation at Source" to minimize overall waste management expenses. Utilizing segregated waste as a resource for by-products will not only create employment opportunities but also reduce disposal costs, land requirements, and infrastructure expenses. Addressing these challenges requires multi-level cooperation, leveraging technology, effective policies, and the commitment of individuals, government agencies, and international partners.

Nepal remains dedicated to reviewing and refining our policies based on best practices and recommendations from this forum. As we continue strengthening our federal governance, we recognize the importance of institutional reforms in ensuring the successful implementation of 3R and circular economy policies. Our vision is not only a political commitment but also a national aspiration to enhance the quality of life for our citizens by fully utilizing Nepal's resources and human capital.

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Looking back, the Hanoi Declaration of 2013 was a landmark moment, demonstrating Asia-Pacific's early commitment to resource efficiency and circular economy principles, even before the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement. Under the dynamic leadership of UNCRD and UN DESA, this forum has provided a comprehensive policy framework for developing and implementing 3R and circular economy strategies.

Furthermore, Nepal appreciates the leadership of UNCRD and UN DESA in crafting the Jaipur 3R and Circular Economy Declaration (2025–2034), which outlines Sustainable 3R and Circular Economy Goals to achieve a resource-efficient, clean, resilient, and low-carbon society in the Asia-Pacific region. This declaration will serve as a policy framework and catalyst to facilitate the integration of sustainable consumption and production into national policies, planning, and infrastructure development. Additionally, it aims to drive transformational change in waste and resource management by promoting policy reforms, institutional strengthening, financial mechanisms, data-driven approaches, and advanced technologies to create circular and zero-waste societies.

In conclusion, I extend my best wishes for the successful completion of this forum and reaffirm Nepal's commitment to promoting sustainable, resource-efficient, and circular economy practices in alignment with our national and global development goals.

Thank you.

Honorable Prakash Man Singh
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Urban Development
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