

## **Pokhara Statement**

### **On Addressing Atmospheric Change in the Hindu Kush Himalaya Region**

**9 June 2014**

We, the atmospheric scientists, conducting research relevant to the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) Region, having met at the Second Annual Regional Atmospheric Science (SARAS) Workshop, in the city of Pokhara, Nepal, from 7-9 June 2014, with the objective of presenting and sharing key atmospheric science findings, identifying knowledge gaps and discussing potential areas for future collaboration amongst us,

Agreeing that environmental changes, especially climate change and deteriorating air quality, are a serious threat to human health and wellbeing, agriculture, ecosystems, cryosphere, and water resources in this region;

Emphasizing that all people have a right to a healthy environment, including clean air, and that air pollution issues cannot be isolated from the wider framework of human and sustainable development;

Noting that many of the atmospheric pollutants, including ozone and black carbon, also have significant direct effects on climate, and that they can be reduced with swift and widespread implementation of available cost-effective technological and non-technological solutions;

Noting that the largest pollutant sources affecting this region are emissions from anthropogenic activities within and around the region, including cooking fires, agricultural residue burning, garbage burning, forest fires, vehicles, diesel generators, thermal power plants, brick kilns and other industries, as well as landuse/landcover changes affecting wind-blown dust;

Reiterating the Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia (1998, Malé, Maldives), and noting that increasing air pollution can also increase flows of air pollutants across boundaries;

Recognizing that mitigating air pollution requires widespread adoption of effective, feasible, as well as gender-sensitive and socially acceptable sustainable solutions through regionally coordinated science-based policymaking,

#### **Hereby agree to:**

- Collectively work to fill key knowledge gaps in source-specific emission rates; atmospheric composition; chemical, dynamical and physical processes; and impacts of atmospheric changes in this region

- Increase cooperation among atmospheric scientists across institutions and boundaries to create synergies and avoid duplication of work
- Increase regionally coordinated research efforts to help quantify the trans-boundary nature of air pollution in our region and its impacts
- Advance research and capacity building in atmosphere science in this region to provide a basis for national and regional policy reforms, strategies, and actions
- Share research findings among scientists, as well as with other key stakeholders including policymakers, media, and the general public
- Identify linkages and platforms to translate scientific knowledge into practical solutions, policy and development practices at various levels
- Identify innovative technological, financial, institutional, policy, regulatory and voluntary behaviour change mitigation measures, that are science-based and viable for this region.