

Government of Nepal

Kathmandu, Nepal

31 August 2026



To:
The Co-Chairs
Board of the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage

Subject: Urgent Request for an Immediate Response to the Catastrophic Bhote Koshi Flash Floods in Nepal

Excellencies,

On behalf of the Government of Nepal, I write to draw your urgent attention to the catastrophic flash floods that struck the Bhote Koshi River basin on 26 August 2026, causing widespread loss of life, displacement, destruction of homes and critical infrastructure, and severe disruption to essential services, livelihoods, markets, and connectivity across downstream communities.

The disaster has affected a fragile transboundary mountain river system and generated cascading consequences extending far beyond the immediate flood zone. Search, rescue, relief, and rapid damage-assessment operations are continuing. The full scale of economic and non-economic loss and damage has yet to be determined; however, preliminary information indicates that the consequences are extensive and exceed Nepal's immediate response capacity.

As a least developed and highly climate-vulnerable mountainous country, Nepal contributes negligibly to global greenhouse gas emissions yet continues to bear disproportionate and escalating climate impacts. The Bhote Koshi disaster demonstrates how extreme events in the cryosphere can rapidly cascade and compound from high mountains to densely populated downstream areas, undermining development gains and affecting water, food, energy, health, infrastructure, ecosystems, and human security.

In view of the exceptional urgency and magnitude of this disaster, **the Government of Nepal respectfully requests the board to take a special decision to respond rapidly, directly and effectively in accordance with its Governing Instrument.**

Time is of the essence. A prompt response would help protect affected populations, restore essential services, prevent further suffering, and demonstrate that the Fund can translate international solidarity into timely support for vulnerable countries and communities when it is most urgently needed.

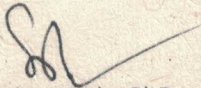
The Government of Nepal stands ready to provide preliminary assessments, official data, satellite information, sectoral damage estimates, and any additional documentation required. We would also welcome the immediate designation of a Secretariat focal point to coordinate with the relevant national authorities.

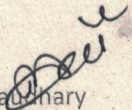
We respectfully appeal to your leadership and good offices in mobilizing an urgent response. Early action in Nepal would send a signal that the Fund is capable of responding with humanity, speed, flexibility, and solidarity when climate-vulnerable countries face losses and damages beyond their capacity to address alone.

Please accept, Excellencies, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Sincerely,

For and on behalf of the Government of Nepal


Swarnim Wagle, PhD
Minister for Finance


Ms. Gita Chaudhary
Minister for Agriculture, Forests and Environment

Copy to:
Executive Director, Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage

Dr. Swarnim Wagle
Minister of Finance

Hon. Gita Chaudhary
Ministry of Agriculture, Forest and Environment