

NEPAL

Statement by Mr. Sudhir Bhattarai, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Nepal to the United Nations on Agenda item 62 (a) Advancement of Women, and 62 (b) Implementation of outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women, and of twenty-third special session of the General Assembly at the Third Committee of 64th session of the United Nations General Assembly

(New York, 13 October, 2009)

(Please check against delivery)

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation would like to extend its sincere thanks to the Secretary General and his staff for the preparation of comprehensive reports on this agenda item.

My delegation associates itself with the statement made by Sudan on behalf of G-77 and China.

Mr. Chairman,

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly are the guiding policy frameworks for gender equality and empowerment of women. The Millennium Summit includes gender equality and empowerment women as one of its eight goals. Important treaties have been concluded for ending discrimination against women. There is, however, much more remains to be done, especially for the full and effective implementation of these commitments at national, regional and international level. We stress for full implementation of these commitments.

Nepal attaches great importance to the advancement of women. Nepal has entered into an era of federal democratic republic paving the way for new opportunities for the advancement of women. Our Constituent Assembly is one of the most- inclusive assemblies in the world; with a greater representation of people from various ethnic and geographic regions. About one third of its members are women. The elected representatives of the people are engaged in the process of writing a new constitution of Nepal bringing about the logical conclusion to the nationally-owned peace process in the country.

Nepal has adopted the right-based approach for social, economic and political empowerment of women. The Interim Constitution of Nepal guarantees the civil liberties and fundamental freedoms of the people, including the rights of women, depressed communities and marginalized groups.

Mr. Chairman,

We have been implementing Beijing Action Plan and National Action Plan on Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and controlling girl trafficking. Discriminatory laws have been amended. Support has been provided in skill development of single women for their social and economic empowerment. Mechanisms relating to gender budgeting have been initiated which takes into account the advancement of women in the programmes launched by the government in all sectors. Involvement of women in the formulation and implementation of local development programs has been institutionalized. The Government has made provisions for proportional and inclusive representation of women in all organs of state including government bureaucracy, police and army. We have made provisions for equal property and citizenship rights to women.

Nepal has achieved a lot in terms of human development and gender indicators. Gender development index has improved and female-male disparities have been reduced. The progress in increasing women's access to literacy education, and health care services had been significant, yet disparities between men and women, castes and ethnic groups remain.

Mr. Chairman,

Nepal accords high priority to poverty alleviation, girl's education, health, women's access to economic resources, political and social empowerment and elimination of gender discrimination. Nepal is a party to most international human rights instruments related to the rights of women. As a party to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol, Nepal has been submitting its periodic reports on the implementation of these instruments.

Nepal has taken several legal, administrative and other policy measures for an end to all forms of discrimination and violence against women. Human Trafficking Control Act has been enacted to stop trafficking of women and children. Domestic violence and punishment bill has recently been approved by the legislative parliament to curb domestic violence against women. Establishment of service centers for victims to ensure instant security, treatment and rehabilitation, legal aid, psychological counseling are some of the features of the new bill.

There should be a coordinated and concerted efforts at the national, regional and international level to combat violence against women migrant workers and protect women migrant workers' rights.

Mr. Chairman,

We welcome the adoption of the General Assembly resolution on System Wide Coherence, in which the Assembly decided to consolidate the existing gender bodies of the UN into a new Composite entity. We are confident that new entity would be able to facilitate the issue of promoting gender equality and empowerment of women more effectively around the world.

The Millennium Development Goals reinforced more investment to the development of women. The financing for gender equality and empowerment of women is the most important aspect of development of women. Financing for gender equality and empowerment of women should be given high priority.

Gender mainstreaming and empowerment of women should have collective commitment and efforts at the United Nations. There should be a comprehensive strategy with concerted and coordinated efforts of all stakeholders for the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women. The International community should invest more in the form of additional financial and technical assistance to developing countries, especially least developed and countries emerging from conflicts, for complementing their national endeavors in this regard.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

