



नेपाल NEPAL

(Please check against delivery)

Statement by Ms. Sewa Lamsal Adhikari, Chargé d' Affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Nepal to the United Nations at the Third Committee of the sixty-seventh session of the UN General Assembly on Agenda item 28 Advancement of Women.

(16 October 2012, New York)

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, please allow me to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of the Third Committee of the General Assembly. I would also like to extend my congratulations to the other Members of the Bureau.

I assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation in the business of the Committee in a constructive manner.

My delegation would also like to extend sincere thanks for the excellent work and reports submitted under this agenda item by the Secretary-General as well as the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and Special Rapporteurs.

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

Mr. Chairman,

Empowerment and advancement of women continues to remain on top of Nepal's development agenda. The Government of Nepal has adopted a multi-pronged intervention for the advancement of women with a focus on rights-based approach to social, economic and political empowerment of women.

Following the political change of 2006, concrete steps have been taken to empower women and increase the proportion of their involvement at all levels of decision-making. Several important policies and strategies have been put in place and legislations enacted with a view to empowering women, advancing gender equality and prohibiting violence and discrimination against women.

The Interim Constitution of Nepal 2007 has for the first time in the history envisaged equal rights to women without discrimination. The directive principles and policies of the State as enshrined in the Constitution have explicitly underscored women's participation on the basis of proportionate inclusion which provides for special measures for education, health care and employment for women and the girl child. Gender equality and social inclusion policy, 2010 is being implemented to ensure gender mainstreaming and elimination of discrimination in all aspects of life.

Nepal has made gender-based violence punishable by law, and since 2010 instituted a fund towards controlling gender-based violence more effectively. The Domestic Violence (Crime and Punishment) Act, 2009 and Domestic Violence Regulation, 2010 form the basis for curbing violence against women. A high level monitoring mechanism in this regard has also been in place. Nepal has been successfully implementing a national plan of action for UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and 1820.

Mr. Chairman,

Nepal has recently brought out a five-year National Strategy and Plan of Action to end gender-based violence and ensuring empowerment. The National Strategy and Action Plan has chalked out programs and initiatives to be undertaken by sectoral ministries in a coordinated and coherent manner.

The National Women Commission was established in 2007 as an autonomous statutory body for the protection and promotion of the rights and interests of women, and ensuring their effective integration into the development mainstream through investigative and recommendatory actions.

Nepal's independent judiciary has been playing an important role in safeguarding and promoting women's rights through pertinent judicial pronouncements. The National Human Rights Commission - a constitutional body, is the overall watchdog of all human rights issues.

Nepal is committed to the full and effective implementation of the various international instruments on gender equality and women empowerment, particularly the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. Nepal has formulated a national plan of action to implement CEDAW, and has been submitting periodic reports to the CEDAW Committee.

At the regional level, Nepal has ratified the SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution, 2002. Necessary enabling legislations and the subsequent action plan are in place to implement the convention.

Mr. Chairman,

Trafficking is a serious global problem which is clearly outlined in the report of SG. Thousands of girls and women are trafficked internally and internationally. The causes of trafficking are many and there are pull and push factors. Poverty, illiteracy, ignorance and limited employment opportunities back home have further exacerbated the problem. The Government of Nepal has promulgated the Anti-Human Trafficking Act in 2007.

There is a growing concern for the safety of women in some cases in foreign employment, which we are making efforts to deal with. Nepal believes that there should be coordinated and concerted efforts at the national, regional and international levels to combat violence against women migrant workers and to protect their rights.

Given the multi-dimensional nature of this issue, it is our view that the International community should invest more in the form of additional financial and technical assistance to the least developed countries, especially those emerging from conflicts, for complementing their national endeavors in this regard.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.