

Madam Chairperson, Nepal is a multicultural, multilingual, multiethnic and multireligious country. Recent census survey report reveals that it is a home of 125 ethnic groups and castes, 123 mother tongues and 10 religious demoninations. Nepal has taken constitutional and other legislative and judicially administrative, institutional and policy measures to fulfill the obligations emanated from the international human rights instruments to which it is a party. The right to equality and no-discrimination are the core pillars of the interim constitution, discrimination on any ground, including caste based discrimination or untouchability is a criminal offence. A comprehensive legislation was adopted last year to address the issue of caste based discrimination, the interim constitution guarantees the rights of all communities to preserve their identity through promotion and protection of their language, script, culture, artifact and cultural heritage. Each community has the right to receive education in mother tongue.

Positive empowerment measures are being implemented since 2007 in government services which have started to show significant positive impacts on the process of inclusion. Nepal has reserved 45 personal posts for the completion on the reservation category, the total of which is divided among different groups, women 35%, indigenous and ethnic groups 27%, XX 22%, Dalits 9%, X people and for the xx 4%. In order to enhance access to justice free legal aid services to the poor or other disadvantaged groups are provided throughout the country. The development policy has been designed with view to enamatng the MDGs by 2015 and to uplift the social and economic standards of the poor and downtrodden. Interim constitution envisages to carry out an inclusive democratic and progressive restructuring of the state with a view to addressing the problems relating women, Dalits and indigenous, tribes and minority communities and other disadvantaged groups by eliminating class, caste, language, gender, culture, religious and regional disparities. Finally my delegation views that it is important to recognise and encourage the efforts made by the states for practical implementation of the declaration despite conflicts they face.

Thank you Madam.