

Fifth Session  
UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

May 15 – 26, 2006

New York

presented by:

*Association of Limbu Shamans, Sirjana Subba*

Agenda Item 5

This is a joint statement made on behalf of Association of Limbu Shamans (Yakthung Phedangma Sangchumbho), Himalayan Indigenous Womens Network, Kirat Rai Yayokkh, Sherpa Association of Nepal, Kirat Yakthung Chumlung, Kirat Yakthung Manggena Chumlung, Indigenous Intellectual Council (IIC, Nepal), Himalayan Health and Education Society (HHES, Nepal), Nepal Indigenous Nationalities Preservation Association (NINPA), and Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities (NEFIN).

Greetings from the indigenous peoples of Nepal.

First of all, we strongly support the recommendations made by Asia Indigenous Caucus on future work of the Forum.

As you all know, Nepal is going through vast political changes. Nepali people have restored democracy and now, Nepal's government has decided to have election of Constituent Assembly. Indigenous peoples constitute about 40 percent of the total population of Nepal, similarly, women and Dalits constitute simultaneously about 50 and 14 percent of the total population. They have always been marginalized from state's decision making process. On this up coming election of Constituent Assembly, we indigenous peoples along with women and Dalits want full and equal participation. In order ensure our full and equal participation in Constituent Assembly, we have been putting forward our demands to current government and political parties. However, we are not in position to believe them. Therefore, we recommend Permanent Forum to appoint observer to look into the process and participation of indigenous peoples in Constituent Assembly election. We want Permanent Forum to ensure that election of Constituent Assembly to be fair, participatory and inclusive towards indigenous peoples, women, Dalits and religious minorities.

Thank you madam chair and other indigenous brothers and sisters.