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**Statement by Lucky Sherpa**  
**Public Affairs Secretary**  
**Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities**  
Under Agenda Item 4 (c)

Follow-Up to Previous Special Themes: Indigenous Children and youth” (2203) and  
“Indigenous Women” (2004)

Madam Chair, Distinguished Members of the Permanent Forum, Indigenous Brothers  
and Sisters, Ladies and Gentlemen.

On Behalf of the indigenous women of Nepal and the Nepal Federation of Indigenous  
Nationalities I would like to congratulate you, Madam Chair, for being elected as the  
Chair of the 4<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. The Nepal  
Federation of Indigenous Nationalities is the national indigenous umbrella  
organization representing 10 million indigenous peoples of Nepal, half of whom of  
course are the indigenous women.

The indigenous women of Nepal are facing multiple discrimination. We have been  
oppressed for 236 years through racial, linguistic, cultural and religious  
discrimination. We are further discriminated by our gender. It is unfortunate reality  
that the indigenous women are deprived from basic and primary education in their  
respective mother tongue. They are denied to their right to information and have no  
voice in decision making beyond their households.

Madam Chair: The indigenous women of Nepal are bearing the disproportionate  
burden of armed conflict that the country is currently experiencing. Indigenous  
women are the victims of rape, murders and other forms violence and suffer  
inhumane treatment by all the parties, including the government forces and the  
Maoists insurgents. The indigenous women in my country are being forced to take  
sides in the war. Taking advantage of their situation of disempowerment, indigenous  
women are being targeted for recruitment by the Maoists. Under suspicion of being  
insurgents, indigenous women face arrest, or even experience disappearance and  
death. The rates of violence against indigenous women, including torture and rape,  
are increasing in this ongoing armed conflict.

The basic human rights of my indigenous sisters, mothers, and children of Nepal are  
threatened. As and when I am making this statement to the Permanent Forum,  
indigenous women are displaced from their homes and lands. I therefore draw the

attention of the international communities towards the problem of indigenous women of Nepal.

**The Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities recommends to the Government of Nepal and International Communities to:**

- Recognize diversity among indigenous women in terms of ethnicity, language, religion and culture;
- Recognize rape and other forms of sexual abuse that is being as a tool of war as a crime against humanity;
- Hold a national level roundtable conference on the problems faced by indigenous women with a broad participation of indigenous women of Nepal; and
- Incorporate indigenous women's perspectives in implementing BPFA, CEDAW and MDG.

**I also urge, on behalf of the national umbrella organization, the Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities, the UN Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights, Mr. Rodolfo Stavenhagen, to officially visit Nepal to submit a report on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedom of indigenous peoples of Nepal.**

Thank you Madam Chair for your attention.