

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

Ligue Internationale de Femmes pour la Paix et la Liberté

Liga Internacional de Mujeres por la Paz y la Libertad

Consultative Status with UN ECOSOC, UNCTAD and UNESCO; Special Consultative Relations with FAO, ILO, and UNICEF.



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Thank you sir President

As a representative of the National Indigenous Women's Federation (NIWF) Nepal, I would like to thank the Women International League for Peace and Freedom, International Committee for the Indigenous Peoples of the Americas, Indigenous Peoples Centre for Documentation, Research and Information for giving me the opportunity to speak on the report of the Working Group the **Right to .Development**

The indigenous peoples of Nepal officially include **8.4 million** of the total population and speak 92 mother languages as listed in the census 2001. Throughout the history of Nepal, they have been marginalized .in terms of language, culture, political and economic opportunities

Nepal interim Constitution of 2007 focuses on promoting cultural diversity and talks about enhancing the skills, knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples but the indigenous peoples were dismissed during the Constitution making process. now, they are waiting to see how these intentions will be made concrete. For example, the traditional role of decision makers in family and society of the Nepalese indigenous women is still not recognized by the state, and this is contrary to the development of our communities.

In paragraph 20 of the report of the Working Group, Nepal speaks about the right to development as being individual as well as collective. However, Indigenous peoples collective and individual rights are not respected by government and non-governmental organizations who working in Nepal. They do not take into account our free, prior and informed consent, as recognized by the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), ILO Convention 169 and Convention on Biological Diversity article 8 (J).

Given the failure of State-led, market-led and NGO-led development strategies, now it is time to shift the gear to minority and human rights-based development strategy. This means that both the donors and government have directly involve to women, indigenous nationalities and other minorities in all phases of the program development from program design to implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

Thank you sir President