



## **Statement by the delegation of Nepal**

### **Item 3: Interactive Dialogue with SR on Rights of Indigenous Peoples**

#### **48<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council**

**27 September 2021**

Time: 1 min 30 secs; Words: 201

**Madam President,**

1. My delegation thanks the Special Rapporteur for the presentation of his report.
2. Having a significant portion of its population as the indigenous peoples, Nepal has made the constitutional guarantee of their right to participate in State's institutions based on the principles of proportional inclusion.
3. It is the policy of the State to facilitate the participation of indigenous peoples in the decision-making processes and ensure their dignity of life, while preserving and promoting their knowledge, skills, experiences, cultures and social practices.
4. As a constitutional body, Nepal has established Indigenous Nationalities Commission to work for the protection of rights and interest of indigenous peoples. The Fifteenth Plan of Nepal has emphasized the socio-economic development of indigenous peoples with special focus on their income generation, capacity building and empowerment.
5. Nepal is also a party to ILO Convention on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples' Rights - the first in South Asia and the second in Asia to ratify it.

6. Indigenous peoples play a special role in the transmission and conservation of traditional knowledge, skills and technologies. Amid the pandemic situation, States have the added responsibility to protect their socio-economic rights including their distinct civilization and heritages.

Thank you.