



# नेपाल NEPAL

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**Statement by Mr. Yagya Raj Poudyal, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of Nepal to the United Nations, at the Seventeenth Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issue**  
**Agenda item 8 :Special theme " Indigenous peoples' collective rights to lands, territories and resources"**  
**(New York, 17 April 2018 )**

*(Please Check against Delivery)*

**Madam Chair,**

At the beginning let me congratulate you for your reelection as the Chair of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issue.

Nepal welcomes the theme of this session "Indigenous peoples' collective rights to lands, territories and resources" and believes that such rights are vital to achieve ambitious Sustainable Development Goals.

Nepal attaches great importance to the promotion, protection and progressive realization of human rights of all people, including the Indigenous peoples. It is committed to ensuring the rights, cultures, and the knowledge of indigenous peoples.

Nepal is party to major Human Rights Conventions and ILO Conventions, including ILO 169 and has been implementing United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

**Madam Chair,**

Our multi-ethnic, multi-lingual and multi-cultural characteristics has contributed creating rich and unique national identity of more than hundred ethnic groups and at least as many languages--nurtured with unity in diversity. This has always been a source of strength in the nation-building.

The rights-based and inclusive Constitution of Nepal has specific provisions that address the concerns and challenges facing indigenous peoples in Nepal. It recognizes all mother tongues as national language and provides for the protection and promotion of cultures, languages, arts and scripts of marginalized people. In that regard, high-powered Constitutional Commissions have been established as constitutional bodies.



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The Constitution guarantees the right to participate in the State bodies on the basis of inclusive principle. Members of Parliaments must include representatives from indigenous community under the proportional electoral system. There is a system of reservation for Indigenous Nationalities in all government services, including security forces.

National Foundation for Development of Indigenous Nationalities established in 2002 is dedicated for social, economic and cultural development of Indigenous Nationalities.

**Madam Chair,**

I also take this opportunity to highlight that the “best practice” of community forestry in Nepal in which the local indigenous people are both managers and users of forests, has immensely contributed to the increase of forests and forest resources, protection of biodiversity and mitigation measures of climate change impacts. This community forestry initiative has also contributed to reducing inequality and poverty.

**Madam Chair,**

Despite various challenges and constraints, we are facing, in course of implementing the Declaration, like natural disasters, climate change, among others, which impacts the livelihood of the indigenous communities directly; the government is committed to put indigenous issues high on agenda. We firmly believe that the environment of political stability achieved after the prolonged conflict will provide us the opportunity to further enhance the constitutionally guaranteed rights fulfill our international commitments related to indigenous people.

We appreciate the role of UN through its specialized agencies in promoting the rights of indigenous people in Nepal and around the world. Nepal stands ready to partner with the international community, civil society, private sector and all stakeholders in this regard.

**Madam Chair,**

In closing, I wish to register the determination of Nepal to make all the efforts to implement the Declaration, Human Rights Conventions and ILO Convention and to work with the international community for advancing the indigenous people’s rights to land, properties and resources at the global level.

**I thank you.**