



Statement by the delegation of Nepal

Item 3: Interactive Dialogue with Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

45th session of the Human Rights Council

24 September 2020

Time: 1'30''; Words: 196

Madam President

Nepal thanks the Expert Mechanism for the presentation of its report.

Indigenous peoples have their own laws, customs and traditions concerning the treatment of ceremonial objects, human remains and intangible cultural resources. In many instances, ceremonial objects are considered inalienable.

The idols have spiritual, psychological and emotional connotation for the people so they need to be returned to the community. When they end up in museums they merely become items of art, which is unfair to the people who believe that the idols have life.

Madam President

Nepal is a nation of cultural diversity. It is a treasure trove of both tangible and intangible cultural heritage. The constitution guarantees that every community residing in Nepal have the right to preserve and promote its language, script, culture, cultural civilization and heritage. The Ancient Monument Preservation Act and Rules have been enacted for the protection and preservation of ancient monuments and archeological objects as cultural heritage.

Department of Archeology of Nepal has been carrying out protection and preservation of heritage including in cooperation and collaboration with UNESCO.

Local level bodies are actively involved in the protection and development of languages, cultures and fine arts.

I thank you.