

Remarks made by Nepal's Ambassador/Permanent Representative Dr. Dinesh Bhattarai on General Considerations on the Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people A/HRC/6/15/Add.3 at the Human Right Council on December 13, 2007.

Mr. President,

*Mr. Steinhilber*

We thank the Special Rapporteur for his report on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people and welcome the opportunity to have this interactive session with him.

*My intervention is with regard to the Report.*

My delegation wishes to associate itself with the statement made by China on behalf of the Asian Group.

*and Martin Scheinin for his report on the promotion & protection of human rights while ensuring the security of the state.*

We notice positive mention made in the report of Nepal's ratification of ILO Convention no. 169 on Indigenous Peoples <sup>which</sup> is the foremost internationally recognized legal instrument that protects and promotes their human rights.

However the report appears to have ignored views of the state and all efforts made therein for the well being of indigenous populations.

The report acknowledges the lack of systematic data on the subject, yet jumps to conclusion that there has been exploitation, discrimination and marginalization.

Nepal is a multiethnic, multilingual, multicultural and multi-religious country. Unity in diversity is our <sup>national</sup> strength. It is passing through a transition to peace and an inclusive and full fledged democracy. We have taken a number of measures to ensure equity and equality for all regardless of caste, creed or ethnicity and effective enjoyment of human rights by all in the country.

Nepal has adopted several measures as a matter of state policy to involve all sections of society in all organs of the state structures, and ensure their participations in decision making process at all levels. This policy has been enshrined in the historic Comprehensive Peace Accord of November 21 last year and the Interim Constitution of Nepal adopted this year.

We have set up institutional mechanisms that include National Human Rights Commission, National Commission on Women, National Commission on Dalit, ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> National Janajatis Academy, the National Commission for the Upliftment of Janajatis. These institutions are engaged in promoting respect for protection and promotion of human rights, ensuring their effective enforcement and enhancing the representation in the state structures. It has also been the policy of the Government to preserve endangered languages and scripts, and provide scholarship to Janajatis children in higher and vocational schools.

*Last but not the least Nepal strongly condemns the terrorist attacks in Algeria & Lebanon.*

I thank you, Mr. President.