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Dear indigenous brothers and sisters and all delegations from the member states, receive my warm regards from the country of mountains and birth- place of Lord Buddha.

My name is Sirjana Subba and I am speaking on behalf of Association of Limbu Shamans. Association of Limbu Shamans is an organization of Limbu spiritual leaders, healers, ritual specialist, and medicine persons. They bear great knowledge of people, environment and spirit world - which is beyond the understanding of the common human being. These people officiate rituals, prevent misfortune and they are the sources of the folklore. They are also the custodian of Mundhum, a mythology and discourse of religious, historical, cultural values of Limbus and make it alive by oral tradition. I salute all spiritual leader of the indigenous world for their great contribution for sustaining our culture and tradition.

Large number of our people depends on the traditional treatment. These spiritual leaders posses various knowledge about medicinal plants and their uses, physical, psychological and spiritual treatment of the sick and weak people. They also have knowledge about the universe and history of our people. They are the custodians of folklore and folktale but their knowledge is not considered or taken into account by the academic world. Because of the lack of system to protect our oral tradition, it is under threat and pirated easily.

As High Commissioner for Human rights said in her opening address of PFII that the indigenous peoples of the world are possessed of a unique spirituality, vision and sense of community. She also asked Permanent Forum members to find a way to share some of the wisdom and world view of their peoples with the UN family and with the wider international community.

Mr. Chairperson

I also recommend this Forum to find ways to preserve, promote and develop indigenous knowledge.

Thank you