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Statement by the Delegation of Nepal during the Clustered Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, at the 21st Session of the Human Rights Council, 18 September 2012

Madam President,

My delegation thanks both the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples for the presentation of their respective reports.

Madam President,

We welcome the view of the Special Rapporteur that a holistic approach to combating violence against indigenous women and girls requires that both their rights as women and children, and their rights as indigenous peoples, be advanced. We believe that the efforts in Nepal are geared to that direction. Nepal has ratified the ILO Convention 169 and expressed commitment to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. As a multiethnic, multilingual and multicultural country, Nepal attaches high priority to the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples, including the indigenous women and girls and an end to violence against them.

The Government of Nepal has adopted various legislative and institutional measures in this regard. Guarantee of the preservation and promotion of the languages and culture of the indigenous peoples by the Interim Constitution of Nepal, 2007; reforms in the legislation; adoption of the policy of inclusiveness in State mechanisms; and establishment of the National Foundation for Development of Indigenous Nationalities (NFDIN) are some of the concrete examples. The erstwhile Constituent Assembly held a historic record with one-third of its membership representing the indigenous peoples.

Similarly, combating violence against all women and girls and providing remedies and reparation remain key priorities. The promulgation of the Domestic Violence (Crime and Punishment) Act, 2009, launching of the special programme in 2010 against gender-based violence, adoption of the National Plan of Action for the Year against Gender-based Violence, establishment of gender-based violence desks in all 75 district police offices and a Central Level Complaint Management Unit at the Office of the Prime Minister are remarkable initiatives.

Madam President,

Finally, my delegation would like to request the Special Rapporteur to share his views on what factors merit consideration while learning lessons from the best practices of other States in the field of the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples.

Thank you Madam President.