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Statement by Mr. Madhuban Prasad Paudel, Deputy Permanent Representative of Nepal, on the forty seventh session of the Commission for Social Development on agenda item 3(a): Social integration

(5 February, 2009 New York)

Madame Chairperson,

My delegation would like to congratulate you on your election to the chair of the forty-seventh session of the Commission for Social Development. I assure you of my delegation's fullest support in discharging your duties.

We also like to thank the Secretary-General and his staff for the preparation of excellent reports on this agenda item.

My delegation associates itself with the statement made by Sudan on behalf of G-77 and China.

Madame Chairperson,

By establishing the notion of an inclusive society, a society for all, as one of the key goals of social development, the World Summit for Social Development (WSSD) pledged to make the eradication of poverty, full employment and social integration as overriding objectives of development. The priority theme chosen by the Commission for 2009-2010, social integration is both timely and pertinent one given the challenges our societies are facing in their fight against inequality and social injustice. Social inclusiveness should bear with broader societal appeal in providing equal opportunities to all, irrespective of race, gender, class, ethnicity, cultural background, and beliefs.

We are of the view that for the promotion of social integration, programs for eliminating poverty, increasing employment opportunities and minimizing inequality should be undertaken effectively. Full employment and decent work conditions in the developing countries are achievable when the developed countries adopt a more accommodative approach towards the migrant workers from the developing countries.

Madame Chairperson,

The Least developed countries like Nepal are faced with special predicament in their development efforts and are trapped in a vicious circle of poverty and underdevelopment. For many structural reasons, they have low economic growth, low productivity, underdeveloped industries and are still dependent on traditional farming system. Today, the growing gap between the rich and the poor within the country as well as between the nations is a sure sign of a looming disaster. Because of the peculiar nature of the LDCs and their high level of vulnerabilities, we strongly urge that the issues of LDCs should receive dedicated support and cooperation from all quarters if we want to make our world just and inclusive that the United Nations so proudly espouses.

Rights-based approach to development is incorporated as the state obligation in Nepal's interim constitution 2007. The Government of Nepal is committed, on the basis of the principles of equality, progressive values and social justice, to move forward with the necessary legal practices of proportional inclusiveness, incorporating at all fronts and levels of the State including women, Dalits, ethnic and indigenous communities, marginalized minorities, Madhesis and people in backward regions. The Government of Nepal is also constituting a national inclusiveness commission in this regard.

Madame Chairperson,

Development policies and programs should be formulated for delivering basic services, enhancing the quality of life of the poor people, and promoting economic development and social inclusion of deprived communities and regions and indigenous people. We believe that these policies and programs are helpful in addressing pervasive inequality, inequity, discrimination and social injustice.

The current global financial crisis is pushing more people below poverty line. Poverty deprives people from many opportunities and leads towards social exclusion. We should promote the just economic growth so as to ensure equitable distribution of the fruits of development to the poor, the neglected and the lower class or community of people.

We, in Nepal, are particularly responsive to the needs of older persons and have initiated several programmes of support to the widows and persons in older age. The Government of Nepal has also been making every effort to develop the capability and skill to all Nepalese youths and make them participate in the restructuring of the state and the socio-economic transformation.

As a signatory to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its optional protocol, Nepal has formulated a national policy and action plan for disabilities in 2006 and has also constituted National Coordination Committee for the Service of Disabled Persons.

The interrelationship between family well-being and sustainable development has been the core message of many global conferences of the 1990s. We are fully supportive of the issues of integrating a family perspective into policy making and national capacity development.

As a newest republic in the world and a country emerging from a decade long conflict, we are marching ahead to bring socio-economic transformation in the country. We urge the international community to make greater efforts towards accelerating its support to augment our national efforts for providing better socio-economic development for its people.

I thank you Madame Chairperson.