**Statement by the Delegation of Nepal**

**Intersessional Seminar on Youth and Human Rights**

**Session 2: Challenges and discrimination faced by young people in the realization of their rights**

**Geneva, 12 April 2021**

Time: 2 minutes

 Words: 260

**Madam High Commissioner**

**Chair/Moderator**

We thank the panelists for their insightful remarks.

Youths can be the agents of political, economic and social change. It is critical to empower youths for achieving prosperity.

Nepal has a youth population of more than 40% (16-40 years). We have developed legal and institutional frameworks to enable their meaningful participation in the nation-building. The 10-year strategic plan- ‘Youth Vision 2025’ has been formulated in our efforts towards the realization of their rights.

Our Constitution has prohibited discrimination on sex, caste, race, religion, ethnicity, tribe, physical condition, or any grounds. The participation of youth belonging to the Dalit, indigenous, minority and marginalized communities in the state organs has increased with the implementation of inclusive policies. The 2017 local-level elections have resulted in the 39% share of youth representatives in the local bodies.

The Government of Nepal has implemented flagship programs, such as Prime Minister Employment Programme, and Youth Self-Employment Fund to promote employment and entrepreneurship.

However, youths in Nepal face some challenges in terms of inadequate access to resources and technical and vocational education, unemployment, high rate of labour migration, and insufficient physical and mental health facilities, among others. As the huge Nepali youth force work overseas, ensuring their rights, and safety, security and dignity in the workplace remain a challenge, especially more so in the current context of the pandemic.

Despite the challenges, we reaffirm our commitment towards the realization of rights of the youths in our country while also underlining the need for international collaboration in promoting and protecting their rights.

I thank you.