Dear Chairperson, distinguished guests, ladies, and gentlemen,

Good morning/Good Afternoon, I am KP Adhikari from Nepal.

I am honored to make the submission and speak on this important occasion on Article 11 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) on behalf of the persons with disabilities (PWDs) from Nepal. I am grateful with DRF/DRAF for the good collaboration to have this opportunity.

PWDs often face various forms of discrimination and marginalization leaving them under more risks and dangers in Nepal and throughout Asia.

There are many forms of risks such as natural disasters, conflicts, violence, abuse, and neglect, among other specific groups of children, including children with disabilities, women, indigenous, Dalit children with disabilities and children working in hazardous conditions specially underrepresented and marginalized groups.

We have bitter experience during Earthquake and COVID-19 of being marginalized. The government agencies National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority do not have legal provisions, accessible mechanisms, information, communication and services and safety measures specific to PWDs as provisioned in Article 11.

Though little progress has been made, much more has to be done outright to protect the rights of PWDs and ensure their accessibility and safety in situations of emergencies.

There is a need of a comprehensive and inclusive approach that recognizes the rights of persons with disabilities and empowers them to participate actively in decision-making processes that affect their lives.

Laws and policies should fully include ensuring the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, and are effectively implemented to prevent discrimination, promote accessibility.

We must promote awareness and understanding of disability issues among all stakeholders, including government officials, civil society organizations, communities, and families fostering a culture of inclusivity and respect.

Providing adequate support and services to persons with disabilities to help them cope with risks and emergencies and providing assistive devices, sign language, caption, and technologies, and ensuring their access to healthcare and psychosocial support.

Finally, I would like to request to share the best practices, work together and create a world where all persons with disabilities can live safely and with dignity around the world.

Thank you so much for your kind attention.

Email: president@deafnepal.org.np 7th march, 2023