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**Statement by Nepal**

**at the 23rd session of the Working Group on the Right to Development**

**(16-20 May 2022)**

**Item 4- Review of progress made in the promotion and implementation of the right to development, 4.1- General statement,**

**16 May 2022**

Words: 410

Mr. Chair-Rapporteur,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates.

My delegation would like to congratulate Ambassador Zamir Akram for his re-election as the Chairperson-Rapporteur of the 23rd session of the Working Group on the Right to Development. We appreciate the continued efforts of the Working Group and members of the drafting group in bringing out the revised draft text. We also take this opportunity to commend the Special Rapporteur and Expert Mechanism on their sustained efforts towards the promotion of the right to development.

Nepal views all fundamental human rights, including the right to development as universal, indivisible, interdependent, interrelated and mutually reinforcing. The right to development needs to be mainstreamed at all levels and be treated on equal footing as civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

The crises facing the world, including the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the deteriorating impacts of climate change, widening digital divide and the uneven pace of digital transformation has made it more evident than ever to operationalize the right to development.

We believe that the Right to Development creates a level playing field for developed and developing countries including the LDCs to realize the fruition of development and make development a reality for all. It aims to address the ever-increasing inequalities within and among countries through equitable and fair distribution of resources and benefits.

The concept of the right to development as an inalienable human right has been contextualized in major human rights documents and that the elaboration of a separate legally binding instrument remains important to promote the effective realization of the right to development.

**Mr. Chair-Rapporteur,**

The Right to development is both an end and means of sustainable development. We believe that the development and environmental protection should be complementary to each other. States should mainstream the right to development in their policies and legislations for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In order to effectively implement this right, the national efforts of developing and least developed countries should be supported by adequate provision of international cooperation and assistance.

States have the primary responsibility for the creation of national and international conditions favourable to the realization of the right to development. We, therefore, underscore the importance of engagement of all states in the process of devising the legally binding instrument as its universalization is, indeed, the core of its effective implementation.

To conclude, Mr. Chair-Rapporteur, my delegation wishes for the successful conclusion of this session with a meaningful outcome.

I thank you.