NEPAL

Country Statement

Delivered by Hon' Min Bahadur Shahi, Member of National Planning Commission,
Leader of the Delegation
at the 75th Session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia
and the Pacific (UNESCAP)

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United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok, Thailand
Mr. Chair,
Excellences,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. First and foremost, on behalf of the Government of Nepal, the Nepali delegation and on my own, I would like to express gratitude to the people and the Royal Thai Government for warm hospitality and logistic arrangement for the commission meeting. Allow me to also thank the UNESCAP secretariat and the Executive Secretary for the outstanding arrangements.

2. The theme of this year “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality”, rightly captures the common vision of the 2030 Agenda - Leaving no one behind. Notwithstanding remarkable achievements made in terms of reducing inequality and promoting inclusiveness in the societies across the world, inequality is still on the rise in Asia and the Pacific. In order to bring transformation in these areas, we need to address the inequalities of different forms and dimensions, that is, social, economic and environmental to ensure sustainable development and to establish just and equitable societies.

3. All of us are aware that for people and societies left behind in the development process, their empowerment is very paramount by ensuring meaningful participation. To this end, it is essential to enhance the capacity of marginalized segments of the society and mainstream them on economic, social and political process. In view of promoting inclusion, one of the vital parts of 2030 Agenda, we need to act to ensure their freedom, participation and decision making.

4. The crucial inter-linkage between empowerment, inclusion and equality is vital for the achievement of the sustainable development goals. An enabling environment for all individuals to participate and be immersed in development activities, institutions and policy making is absolutely necessary to not only decrease global poverty rates but also to promote wider social cohesion and stability in the world.

Mr. Chair,
5. Acknowledging the global principles and instruments of empowerment and inclusion framework, which includes, Rights and Justice, Norms and institutions, Participation and voice, Resources and capabilities, Nepal has taken steps forward, in the national context, by guaranteeing fundamental civic rights and justice in the constitution.

6. On the area of norms and institutions, we have put into place various policy reforms and initiatives for institutional arrangements. The Government of Nepal has formulated 25 years long term vision and 15th plan to address the issues including inclusion as well as empowerment. Likewise, Nepal has already published the SDG-Roadmap and Costing Report which takes stock of Nepal’s present development and financial status and provides a roadmap to 2030.

7. We believe that information, skills and knowledge are required for sustainable and meaningful involvement of all people in all sectors of development initiatives. Therefore, we are seeking for a broader engagement of all stakeholders and communities for the effective implementation of the 15th periodic plan.

8. Realizing that access to resources and developing capabilities is crucial, we have made landmark achievements towards gender equality by provisioning Gender Empowerment and Social Inclusion (GESI) and introducing gender coding and budgeting system. We are investing on social development sector to capacitate quality human resources. Government of Nepal is dedicated towards girl's school enrollment, decent work for women, basic medicine and equal opportunity for all. The share of women in politics is also gaining momentum. The women representation in federal and provincial parliament and local assemblies has gone up to 32.7, 34, and 41% respectively.

Mr. Chair,

9. Nepal has envisioned “Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali”. Therein, we aim to eradicate poverty, reduce inequality and ensure social justice. This 15th Plan will be a first stage towards building a prosperous nation. We expect the global communities to join hands in our dream of prosperity and happiness.

10. In addition, we are also working towards bringing every citizen into a broader social security framework for greater equality. We have already started contribution based social
security scheme and our government is working towards providing minimum employment opportunities to all working age population as guaranteed by the Constitution. We must move together in the direction with the aim to achieve decent work for all.

11. Mr. Chair, before I close, on behalf of the Government of Nepal, my delegation and on my own, once again we wish to extend our gratitude to UNESCAP, and its members of Asia and the Pacific region.

I thank you all.