



नेपाल NEPAL

Statement by Ms. Sewa Lamsal Adhikari, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Nepal to the UN, at the 48th Session of the Commission on Population and Development on Agenda item 4 "General Debate on national experience in population matters: realizing the future we want: integrating population issues into sustainable development, including in the post-2015 development agenda"

New York, 15 April 2015

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Madam Chair,

I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to you on your election to the Chair of this important Commission. I am confident that under your able leadership, we would be able to bring the Session to a successful conclusion. I pledge my delegation's full support to that end.

I would also like to extend our sincere gratitude to the Secretary-General for his comprehensive reports under this agenda item.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the distinguished representative of South Africa on behalf of G77 and China.

Madam Chair,

Nepal welcomes "Realizing the future we want: integrating population issues into sustainable development, including in the post-2015 development agenda" as the main theme of this session, which fits very well in our deliberations, particularly at a time when we are heavily engaged in crafting the post-2015 development agenda. The projected demographic changes, as outlined in the reports of the Secretary-General, require our concerted efforts in all cross-cutting issues, with a particular focus on women and girls, youth and elderly, in a holistic manner to improve the lives and dignity of all as envisioned in "the future we want".

Nepal underlines the principles, goals and objectives set out in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) held in Cairo in 1994. The Government has recently unveiled Long-term Population Perspective Plan, based on the Sustainable Development Goals in order to achieve key demographic targets in 20 years. It focuses on the post- ICPD framework, with special consideration on population dynamics and its inter-linkages with other development sectors.

Nepal also formulated National Health Policy to implement the Long-term Perspective Plan. The policy, among other things, aims at improving people's lives by integrating population issues

into development, ensuring people's reproductive health and reproductive rights as fundamental human rights and promoting gender equality and inclusion in all sustainable development strategies.

While the majority of health-related MDGs have met in Nepal, the full achievement of gender equality and women's empowerment remains a critical challenge for us. Our efforts are guided by the conviction that gender equality and women's empowerment cannot be achieved without guaranteeing economic, social, and political rights of women and girls, including their sexual and reproductive rights. Nepal reaffirms its commitment to ensuring the universal and life-long access of women and girls to comprehensive, easily affordable gender-responsive quality health services, including safe abortion and comprehensive sexuality education.

Madam Chair,

With the rapid globalization, poverty, unemployment and migration anywhere are inextricably interlinked. Nearly 10 percent of Nepalese people are currently in foreign employment, continuously contributing to the progress and prosperity of the global community. It is essential to ensure that the basic human rights and dignity of migrant workers are not undermined.

Therefore, we underline the need for concerted efforts with highest political will to promote extensive dialogues between countries of origin, transit and destination to address this issue with the participation of all stakeholders to ensure the rights and dignity of migrant workers. Equally important is to provide social protection, health care services, low cost money transfer options and financial literacy programmes to the migrants and their families. Nepal supports the Secretary-General's eight-point agenda for action on migration work.

In conclusion, **Madam Chair**, my delegation underlines the importance of addressing the special needs and challenges of LDCs and LLDCs as agreed in the Internationally Agreed Development Goals. Nepal stands ready to fulfill her commitment despite her limited capacity and resources and calls for the international community for strengthened partnership and enhanced cooperation in a sustained and predictable manner to integrate population and development in the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Thank you Madam Chair.