

**Statement by Hon. Mr. Prakash Man Singh, Deputy Prime Minister of Nepal at " Global Leader's Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: A Commitment to Action" 27 September 2015, New York**

*Check against delivery.*

**Mr. Chairperson,**

**The Under-Secretary-General of UN-WOMEN**

**Excellencies,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I would like to thank the People's Republic of China and UN Women for organizing this very important meeting of global leaders on such a highly relevant topic. The deliberations on this issue are of great significance as they coincide with the adoption of the 2030 Agenda that has also brought these issues at the centre of global agenda.

In Nepal, there exist a general understanding and awareness about the significance of these issues. The adoption of various policies and measures in the country has already begun to generate positive difference. We are committed to pursuing further with the firm belief that women's empowerment through their full and effective participation in all spheres of society and elimination of violence and discrimination constitute the key to socio-economic development on a sustainable basis.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

Nepal is fully committed towards Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. The following constitute the highlights of the measures undertaken in the areas of gender equality and women's empowerment:

- Proportionate, inclusive and affirmative policies and laws;
- Mandatory participation of women in all security agencies;
- Action plans including Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action;
- Nepal has been the first country in South Asia to adopt the National Action Plan on the UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820;
- Acts to curb domestic violence, workplace-related sexual harassment, witchcraft allegations as well as other gender-based discriminatory laws;
- Recognition of National Women's Commission as a constitutional body;
- Placement of gender as a cross-cutting issue in all development policies and programmes;
- Gender responsive budgeting system

The new constitution promulgated just a week ago also gives due emphasis on the elimination of gender-based discrimination. It ensures at least 33% representation of women in the parliament, right to lineage, right against all forms of exploitation, equal rights in the family matters and property, proportional representation in all state organs, positive discriminations, among others.

Before I conclude, Mr. Chairperson, I would like to express confidence that the commitments made here today will significantly contribute towards supporting the cause of gender equality and women's participation.

Thank You