

**Statement by Nepal at the Thematic discussion on**

**All forms of discrimination, including racism,**

**xenophobia and intolerance**

**Geneva, 9 May 2017.**

Thank you, Mr. Moderator!

I thank the panelists for their presentations.

Human rights are universal, interdependent and interrelated in nature, non-discrimination constituting their cornerstone.

When we talk about the protection of the human rights and combating all forms of discrimination, including racism, xenophobia and intolerance, our discussion should also consider the human rights of the vulnerable groups particularly women, children and differently able people, and migrants in unskilled or semi-skilled low paying jobs, among others. Protection of their rights in education, health, economic, political and cultural spheres are essential.

Though there are some landmark initiatives like Vienna Declaration and Program of Action, 1993, Durban Declaration and program of Action, 2001 and various resolutions on human rights towards elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, the existence of prejudice, xenophobia, racial discrimination, forced labour and exploitation of migrants do remain as serious blemishes in modern societies, which undermine the foundation of humanity and human dignity. Cyber racism, including spread of hate message and anti-migrants sentiments through social media is a dangerous development. Hatred directed to certain faiths, races and/or nationalities in general will not only put innocent people into jeopardy, but also exacerbate the fault lines of international conflict and confrontation.

Nepal is a party to Durban Declaration and is always committed towards the fulfillment of the objectives of these international instruments in creating and promoting the right to equality. The constitution of Nepal has guaranteed the right to equality as one of the fundamental rights of its people, and contains the provision that no people can be denied equal protection of law. It also contains the provision that there shall be no discrimination in the application of general laws on the grounds of origin, religion, race, caste, tribe, sex, physical conditions, disability, health condition, matrimonial status, pregnancy, economic condition, language or geographical region, or ideology, or any other such grounds.

It is important to formulate and enforce national and international policy frameworks for control of heinous crimes against migrants, xenophobia, hatred and spread of anti-migration sentiments, racial discrimination and intolerance. As the domestic realities vary according to place, situation and the community involved, and elements of discrimination and intolerance may be highly sensitive and complex in nature, these situations must be handled meticulously. Our concerted

and continuous efforts, and our commitment towards international policy frameworks will help build integrated and peaceful societies free from all worst forms of discrimination.

Thank you!