

**Statement by the Head of Delegation of Nepal
at the Eighth Conference of the State Parties to the United Nations
Convention against Corruption
Abu Dhabi, 17 December 2019**

**Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen.**

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you on your election as the President of this Conference. I am confident that, under your able leadership and guidance, the Conference will be able to achieve its objectives.

Let me extend our sincere gratitude to the Government of the United Arab Emirates for hosting this Conference in this beautiful capital city of Abu Dhabi. I also wish to thank the Secretariat for excellent documentation of the Conference.

Mr. President,

Needless to note that corruption is a major challenge to global prosperity, security and justice, undermining democratic values and institutions, rule of law and human rights. Corruption continues to be a major hindrance in achievement of Sustainable Development Goals. Also, it has grown in its scope to organized crimes and financing of terrorism, transcending national frontiers.

Mr. President,

As a state party to the Convention since 2011, Nepal recognizes prevention, criminalization, law enforcement, asset recovery and international cooperation as critical aspects of the global unity against corruption. I wish to briefly highlight some of the recent policy, legal and institutional measures taken by Nepal to achieve effective implementation of the Convention.

The Constitution of Nepal has established the Commission for the Investigation of Abuse of Authority (CIAA) as a constitutional anti-corruption body mandated to investigate and probe cases of corruption against public officials and associated persons. Under the legal framework, it can also make suggestions for improvements or revisions, as appropriate, in the existing policy and legal frameworks.

CIAA plays the role of an ombudsman, investigator and prosecutor at the same time. Being guided by the principles of the rule of law, human rights, fairness and impartiality, it functions through its four-pronged strategic approach-punitive, preventive, promotional and institutional

capacity building.

Mr. President,

Nepal has also established several other anti-corruption agencies which include the Office of the Auditor General, National Vigilance Center, Department of Money Laundering Investigation, Department of Revenue Investigation and Special Court for adjudication of cases involving corruption. The Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers carries out overall coordination and monitoring of the implementation of the Government's policy of 'zero tolerance against corruption' and other anti-corruption measures.

Mr. President,

Soon after joining the Convention, the Government of Nepal adopted the 'National Strategy and Action Plan for Implementation of the Convention' in 2012. The Action Plan has set five strategies- prevention of corruption through all punitive measures, adoption of legislation to criminalize all corrupt practices, promotion of coordination between the member states in matters of crimes related with corruption, extradition and mutual legal assistance, making arrangements necessary to implement provisions on asset recovery, and exchange of information for prevention of corruption.

The Concept Paper of the Fifteenth National Periodic Plan aims to establish the society of integrity by achieving the objective of good governance through control of corruption. Nepal is implementing the Second Anti-Money Laundering Investigation Strategy and Action Plan adopted this year.

Also, a number of laws have been either revised and some new laws enacted to achieve legal harmonization with the Convention. The CIAA Act, Prevention of Corruption Act, Money Laundering Prevention Act, Good Governance Act, Public Procurement Act, Right to Information Act, Prevention of Organized Crimes Act and Proceeds of Crimes Forfeiture Act represent some prominent examples in this respect. The Government is also in the process of revising the existing legal framework with the objective of criminalizing corruption in the private sector and preventing conflict of interest, among others.

Mr. President,

We have launched the Media Campaign for Youth Awareness and On-line Complaint Registration System, which have been very effective. We accord high importance to collaboration with the civil society and the media in the fight against corruption.

In view of the crucial role of international cooperation in combating corruption, Nepal upholds the principle of cooperation in prevention, investigation and prosecution of corruption cases. With a view to achieving it, Nepal has enacted the Mutual Legal Assistance and Extradition Acts in 2014. On this occasion, I wish to reiterate the importance of technical and mutual legal assistance and information exchange between member states, in the context of wider international cooperation.

Mr. President,

I would like to underline that Nepal's first review under the Convention was very fruitful, and an advanced draft of self-assessment checklist for the second review is already prepared.

Finally, I wish to reiterate the need for more efficient cooperation between the member states in the fight against corruption, and reaffirm Nepal's firm commitment to this end for full and effective implementation of the Convention.

Thank You.