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Statement by Ms. Manju Bhatrarai on agenda item 3: Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women, and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000:gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century at the fifty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

(New York, 3 March, 2008)

Mr. Chairman,

1. My delegation likes to congratulate you on your election as the chair of this session. I would also like to express our thanks to the Secretary General for the reports.
2. The United Nations has an important role in promoting gender equality and empowerment of women. We support the effective gender architecture in the United Nations with a strong presence at regional and country levels.
3. We have made good progress on the gender agenda after Beijing. But many more remains to-be done.

Mr. Chairman,

4. Nepal attaches great importance to the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women. The Parliamentary declaration adopted on May 30, 2006 has provided for equal property and citizenship rights to women and their representation on at least one third of the elected bodies, including in the Parliament.
5. We have adopted the right-based approach for social, economic and political empowerment of women. The Interim Constitution of Nepal guarantees the civil liberties and fundamental freedoms, including the rights of women. The new Civil Service Act allows an increased participation of women in Nepal's bureaucracy.
6. Nepal's Interim Development Plan (2007-2010) accords high priority to poverty alleviation, girl's education and health, and political and social empowerment of women.

Mr. Chairman,

7. The financing for gender equality and empowerment of women is the most important aspect of development of women. When we review financing for development this year, financing for gender equality and empowerment should be given high priority. The outcome of our discussion in this session should be adhered to in financing for development.
8. The world's financing institutions like the World Bank should not neglect financing the informal sector involving women. They should promote mechanism for lending to women's institutions and groups in informal sector, which is crucial for empowerment of women.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.