**79th session on the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women**

**Thursday, 24 June 2021**

**Geneva, Switzerland**

Statement by

the Consortium of National Indigenous Women’s Federation (NIWF), National Indigenous Women Forum (NIWF), National Indigenous Disabled Women Association Nepal (NIDWAN), and Indigenous Women’s Legal Awareness Group (INWOLAG)

on the **G**eneral Recommendation on the Rights of Indigenous Women and Girls

in

**a virtual Day of General Discussion**

Madam Chair,

I am Chanda Thapa Magar speaking on behalf of the 4 Indigenous Women Consortium members of Nepal. We are honored to present a statement about General Recommendation on the Rights of Indigenous Women and Girls with priority recommendations.

We, Indigenous Women in Nepal express our happiness and deep gratitude to the UN CEDAW Committee for its Concluding Observations made on the 6th periodic report of Nepal, (2018) that included, among others, a recommendation at paragraph 41(a) to the State party Nepal to "Amend the Constitution to explicitly recognize the rights of Indigenous Women, in particular their right to self-determination, in line with the UNDRIP." We firmly believe that this recommendation to Nepal need to be made a General Recommendation as it is equally important to all Indigenous Women and girls of the world.

We, Indigenous Women and Girls, and Indigenous Women with Disabilities (IWWDs) continue to suffer from multiple and intersectional discriminations due to continuing colonization and systematic discriminations depriving us from enjoying our collective rights leading to our cultural genocide. State has been violating, interfering, denying, abusing, noncomplying or ignoring our human rights. Our vulnerability has been further increased by the State as they are taking undue advantages from COVID-19 pandemic. In brief, stories of Indigenous Women and Girls are same in all over the world, including Nepal.

In this context, we urge the UN CEDAW Committee to include the following on the General Recommendations on Indigenous Women and Girls to the State parties:

* recognize all the rights, both non-discrimination & equality, and self-determination, of Indigenous Women and Girls fully in line with the UNDRIP;
* recognize collective rights of Indigenous Women and Girls;
* recognize rights to Indigenous Peoples' self-determination, autonomy and customary self-government systems with no gender discrimination against Indigenous Women;
* ensure mandatory national framework on Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) in line with UNDRIP;
* recognize collective ownership and control over ancestral lands, territories, and resources,
* recognize Indigenous guardianship, especially significant roles of Indigenous Women, on biodiversity and climate change;
* establish enabling institutional, legal and policy frameworks to ensure effective and meaningful participation and representation of Indigenous Women at all levels of decision making in political and public life;
* respect and recognize the Indigenous Customary Judiciary Systems;
* develop mechanisms to provide services in Indigenous languages to make the justice system easily accessible in their Indigenous and disability friendly languages; and
* integrate disaggregated data system by collective identity, race, age, gender, disability, language, religion, culture and region in all services and measures;

Thank you.

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