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Statement by Mrs. Bindra Hada Bhattarai, Secretary of the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare of Nepal on agenda item 3: Follow-up to the (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-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

New York 6 March 2000

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, let me congratulate you on your election to the chairman of the fifty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women. We assure you and the bureau of our fullest cooperation for the productive deliberation of the session.

We would also like to thank Secretary-General and his staff for the preparation of excellent reports on the cluster of agenda items which would be

The Outcome of the World Summit for Social Development 2005, Beijing
Declaration and Platform for Action, the outcome of the twenty-third Social

Session of the General Assembly, Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security and adoption of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are some of landmarks that provide us unyielding foundation for more investment to the Gender equality and empowerment of women. Considerable progress has been made in translating the internationally agreed commitments into action. But many more remains to be done in moving towards the achievement of all the internationally agreed development goals, including MDGs.

Mr. Chairman,

children Cells have been established under the Nepal Police to curb domestic violence against women and children. Human Trafficking Control Act has been enacted to stop trafficking of women and children.

Nepal supports the concept of shared responsibility between men and women in the context of care giving, especially in combating the HIV/AIDS. We need stronger cooperation and technical support from the relevant United Nations agencies to make this concept work nationally.

Mr. Chairman,

Nepal believes that the United Nations can and should play significant role for the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women, especially leading by example. We support the proposals for effective gender architecture, including the composite option that takes into account operational needs of the programs aimed at women empowerment and gender mainstreaming. We emphasize strong gender architecture of the United Nations at regional and country levels.

Collective commitment and efforts at the international arena including at