

## **Voluntary National Review**

### **Nepal-CSO Statement on Progress towards the SDGs**

**Presenter: Ms. Shilpa Lamichhane**

Respected Chair, distinguished panelists, and participants,

I am Shilpa Lamichhane from Nepal, delivering this statement on behalf of the Nepalese CSOs.

We commend the government of Nepal for undertaking the 3rd VNR this year.

However, despite the progress, the VNR report has not presented disaggregated progress data, which undermines the "Leave No One Behind" principle.

Nepal is facing serious challenges, including poverty, hunger, unemployment, youth migration, caste-based discrimination, regional disparities and climate crisis.

Violence and inequalities threaten civil, political, economic, social, cultural and environmental rights.

Workers, smallholder farmers, Indigenous peoples, Dalits, Madheshi, Muslims, Persons with Disabilities, senior citizens, LGBTIQ+, youths, and minority communities are still deprived of basic needs and services.

Therefore, we urge the Government to:

- Expedite localization which requires strong political commitment and actions.
- Implement the constitution and fundamental rights of peoples.
- Improve coordination among the three tiers of governments.
- Give priority to increase productions, productivity, and creating employment.
- Guarantee inclusive and quality education and healthcare, including SRHR services.
- Combat environmental problems such as air pollution and biodiversity loss.
- Invest in youth and create decent jobs for them.
- Ensure social security for vulnerable populations, including informal sector workers and marginalized communities.
- Implement gender-responsive policies and programs.

- Embrace intersectional, intersectoral, collective rights and human rights-based approaches.
- Eliminate structural, systemic barriers like patriarchy, casteism, and neoliberalism.
- Adopt progressive taxation, and control corruption and illicit financial flows.

We call upon the international community to support Nepal in combating the climate crisis and increase assistance in resilient, inclusive, and gender sensitive development.

In conclusion, all development processes must ensure meaningful and inclusive participation of women, youth and marginalized communities.

I thank Nepali CSOs, SDGs Network Nepal, APRCEM, MGOS CC, and UNDESA for their support in delivering this statement.

Thank you!