



human rights, and independent judiciary. This bears eloquent testimony of Nepali people's commitment to the rule of law at national level.

Following the achievement of political stability, Nepal is currently focused on ensuring good governance; and achieving economic development. Our good governance efforts take a cue from the 2030 Agenda, and the notion of comprehensive democracy that looks after not only political rights and freedoms but also the economic, social and cultural rights and wellbeing of people.

We pursue the policy of zero-tolerance against corruption. Utmost priority is laid on transparency and accountability in all public affairs.

We believe that that human rights, the rule of law and democracy are interdependent and mutually reinforcing.

The Criminal Procedure Code and Civil Code that came into effect in 2018 aim at strengthening rule of law and ensuring accountability in cases of both civil and criminal liability.

**Mr. Chair,**

Nepal stands for the principle of sovereign equality among States and for democratic, inclusive, just and fair international order.

Achieving the rule of law at the international level warrants that there is a balance between enjoyment of rights and fulfillment of obligations by all States in good faith.

Every nation, regardless of their size and state of development, should abide by international legal system and customary international law.

It is hard to defend and sustain democracies within the borders of nations, if the global community of nations is dominated by undemocratic mechanisms.

In fact, maintaining rule of law is about giving equal opportunities to everyone and 'leaving no one behind'.

We believe that the values and principles enshrined in SDG 16 and 2030 Agenda become even more relevant, particularly in overcoming the ongoing crisis and ensuring a just, equitable and sustainable recovery for all.

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