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**Statement by Mr. Krishna Arya, First Secretary,
Permanent Mission of Nepal to the United Nations
Sixteenth session of the Conference of the State Parties to the Convention
on the Rights of the Persons with Disabilities (COSP)
New York, 13-15 June 2023**

**Overarching theme: *Harmonizing national policies and strategies with the
CRPD: achievements and challenges***

Time Limit: 3 Minutes

Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you and the Bureau members on your elections. I assure you of my delegation's full support for the successful outcome of the Session.

Based on WHO's recent estimation, 1.3 billion people, i.e., about 16% of the global population, experience some form of disability.

The recent pandemic has worsened their conditions disproportionately affecting their smooth access to health care services, education, employment, and other basic services.

More than ever, realizing the rights and meeting the needs of persons with disabilities is critical to leave no one behind, the overarching commitment of the 2030 Agenda as well as the underlying philosophy of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

This will be possible only when they are treated with dignity and respect, and when they have access to all essential services including health and education.

Mr. President,

As per the Census, almost 2.5% population has some form of disability in Nepal of which more than one-third are persons with physical disabilities.

Taking this into account, the Constitution of Nepal has ensured the right of every person to live with dignity, the right to equality, and the right to social justice as fundamental rights. The Constitution guarantees their participation in [Parliament through reservation quota](#) and ensures job opportunities in the civil service.

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Nepal has ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and enacted various laws, plans, and policies in line with its provisions.

Nepal has enacted the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2017, which respects their civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights and ensures nondiscrimination in workplace and employment opportunities. It has ensured dignified participation persons with disabilities in every walk of life.

We have envisioned a disability-inclusive society, which upholds rights-based and non-discriminatory approach toward persons with disabilities.

To conclude, Mr. President, Nepal is committed to working with the international community to ensure an environment that enables persons with disabilities to earn a self-reliant and respectful living.

Thank you.