



**The Speech delivered by Hon. Chairperson of National Human Rights Commission, Nepal
Anup Raj Sharma on the auspicious occasion of 18th Anniversary of the Commission**

*Persons either honorable or distinguished who are presented here grasping the accountability
towards people and All the Ladies and Gentlemen,*

I am glad as well as despair today. The Commission completing 18 years became grown up. The Commission became an adult and responsibility is also enhanced on its shoulders. We requested to the Rt. Hon. Prime minister for his presence in today's significant program. We were assured but we received the information of nonattendance of the Prime minister in the late hours. Is the government of Nepal not interested to Human Rights? I am seeing that and so I am despaired. Nepal is elected as a member of Human Rights Council this year. The government has made a major issue to the "A" status of National Human Rights Commission, I know this status has played vital role for Nepal to be elected in the Human Rights Council.

Eighteen years elapsed since establishment of National human Rights Commission, Nepal as an independent and autonomous body with the mandate of ensuring the effective implementation of respect, protection and promotion of human rights. On this occasion, I would like to welcome you all for your appreciated presence by accepting our invitation.

Dignity, equality and justice for all are the ideal of the Commission for the respect of human rights. The Commission is working apprehending its main motto "*Human rights in every household: foundation for peace and justice*". For the effective implementation of this motto, the Commission this year has identified five core priority areas of human rights in the 77 districts consulting and discussing with the stakeholders and the report has been made public today. I expect, these five core human rights areas can support further planning process of NHRCN.

The Commission has also monitored from the human rights perspective of Local level election held in three phases on May and September 2017 and the Legislative elections alongside the first provincial elections were held in two phases on 26 November and 7 December 2017 to elect members of House of Representatives, the lower house of the Federal Parliament. The implementation status of the 17 recommendations made by the Commission in the past and status of the victims' report prepared visiting the victims' households has also made public today. It is crucial that the directives made by the Supreme Court have to be implemented letter by letter to address the transitional justice. The Commission this year has studied and examined

about the Chhaupadi a social evil and tradition and its impact on women's life. The report is in the process of publication. The Commission has also monitored the issue of violent actions against Muslim Women, the condition of access to justice by the rape victim women, review of laws, environment and pollution, right to development, rights of migrant workers and their families, unpleasant nature of child labor in the brick Kiln, human rights of marginalized community. Around 50% of the Commission's study of the old folks' home and senior citizens' care centers has finished. The Commission will publish its report as far as possible. After monitoring the human rights situation of the detainees and prisoners in the custody and detention centers, recommendations has made for improvement to the Nepal government. Similarly, the Commission is continuously monitoring the National Human Rights Action Plan of the government of Nepal and the situation monitoring of the victims of earthquake, flood and landslides. Similarly, the Commission is publishing the human rights journal (*Sambahak: meaning messenger*) conducting research study and investigation on various human rights issues. Its 8th issue is made public today.

In this fiscal year, the Commission has organized National Conference of Human Rights Defenders' for the protection of defenders' rights and concluded proclaiming 21 points declaration. This national level conference on the rights of the persons with disability has also been concluded recently following the provincial level conferences in all of the provinces. The Commission will publish this report within this fiscal year. Similarly, the counseling programs have been concluded in the 6 different provinces with the victims and stakeholder agencies of transitional justice.

The Commission, established from the continuous efforts of civil society and human rights activists has prioritized the coordination with the Nepal Government, human rights defenders and civil society for the protection and promotion of human rights. In accordance with the changed system of governance and structure, the Commission has initiated the orientation and training program for the newly elected local peoples' representatives on the issues like justice administration process and the human rights based approach to development and training and workshop program, Symposium and interactions with the stakeholders have been concluded. The Commission will continue such programs in the days to come.

This year, International conference on "Identifying Challenges, Assessing Progress, Moving Forward: Addressing Impunity and Realizing Human Rights in South Asia" hosted by the National Human Rights Commission of Nepal (NHRC) in Kathmandu has been concluded in participation with 13 National Human Rights Institutions of Asia, (Asia Pacific Forum for National Human Rights Institution(APF), (Global Alliance for National Human Rights Institution(GANHRI), national and international human rights experts. This conference has collectively identifying the challenges proclaimed Kathmandu Declaration for seeking solution with collective commitments.

The Commission in this year after completing investigation of complaints has recommended to the government for relief package and compensation to the victims and legal action to the perpetrators. I think, the government should be more sensitive towards full implementation of the recommendations by the Commission ensuring protection and promotion of human rights.

Distinguished persons, ladies and gentlemen

The issue of financial autonomy of the Commission is always seen from the international lens of Paris Principle. The status accreditation of the Commission as well as the vision of the concerned nation towards the human rights is expressed through this autonomy. The first basis of Nepal being elected in the Human Rights Council this year is the NHRC has retained its "A" status. Despite making financially autonomous it seems that Commission is in the control of government especially in control of Ministry of Finance. This seems to be against the international commitment towards human rights and the public commitment made by the government. It is necessary to form the stable and clear perception by the government. It is also very sad to allocate only 20 million for the program budget this year though in the current fiscal year it was 50million and 80 lakhs.

Without rule of law, end of impunity and the development of proficient state mechanism, development of democracy and human rights culture and prosperous Nepal cannot be imagined. The dignified life of all can only be ensured with the development of proficient system and good governance. In this context, the Commission will publish the name list of perpetrators and violators of human rights in accordance with the previous recommendations and the decisions of the Commission. From this all the concerned parties will realize human rights obligation.

Finally, I express my faith towards Nepal Government, security mechanism, political parties, professional organizations, human rights activists and intellectuals who will assist from own sides maintaining dignity and respect of all to fulfill people's aspiration towards protection and respect of human rights in collaboration and coordination with in the changed scenario of the globe and the nation.

I would like to express my sincere appreciations to the dignitaries, ladies and gentlemen for providing the valuable time for the Commission despite your busy schedule and would like to thank all honorable, dignified persons who are unable to be present here though received the Commission's invitation letter.

Thank You!

27th May, 2018

Lalaitpur, Nepal