Statement by H.E. Dr. Dinesh Bhattarai, Ambassador/Permanent Representative of Nepal during the panel discussion on the Right to Development at the 18th Session of the Human Rights Council, 14 September 2011, Geneva.

Madam President,

My delegation welcomes the holding of this panel discussion to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development on the theme “The way forward in the realization of the right to development: between policy and practice.” We thank the High Commissioner for Human Rights Ms. Navanethem Pillay for her opening statement and the distinguished panelists for their comprehensive presentations.

Madam President,

As we mark the 25th anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the Right to Development, it is painful to note that we are still looking for the means and ways for effective implementation of this inalienable right. The necessity of further elaboration and finding a common ground are glaring. My delegation views that mainstreaming this right to the overall development initiatives, policies and practices at the national as well as regional and international level only would go a long way in its realization.

We are beset with serious and unprecedented challenges as never before in human history. Moreover, the ongoing impacts of economic and financial crisis, energy and food crises, rising unemployment, climate change challenges and natural disasters have particularly hit hard the poorest, weakest and most vulnerable. Unless we establish cohesion and coordination at political, social, environmental and economic fronts, we will be destined to continue remaining in such a state. We believe, the global partnership for development as envisioned in the Goal 8 of the Millennium Development Goals should remain a guiding principle in such initiative.

Madam President,

Nepal accords high importance to the promotion and effective implementation of the right to development as enshrined in the United Nations Declaration on the Right to Development. We consider all human rights, civil and political as well as economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development as universal, indivisible, interrelated, interdependent and mutually reinforcing and have adopted accordingly at the national level.

As we are looking for a wider, cooperative and sustainable partnership for the realization of the right to development, we must focus on the effective implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 adopted by the UN LDCs IV which calls upon the international community to support the LDCs to develop their human and institutional capacities, address country specific needs and situations, rebuild national institutions and capacity, rebuild critical infrastructure and generate productive employment and decent work for all.

Thank you.