

11 week against delivery

Statement by Ambassador Dr. Dinesh Bhattarai, Permanent Representative of Nepal at the Intergovernmental Ministerial Event on the occasion of 60th anniversary of the 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees and 50th anniversary of the 1961 Convention on Reduction of Statelessness, December 8, 2011 PIR

Mr. Chairman,

We thank the High Commissioner for his statement and congratulate him for the inspirational leadership of the Organization. ✱

We share his concerns over the rising scale of intolerance and discrimination ^{that} have undermined the very foundations of humanity, human values, and human conscience.

What can be more disgraceful to the international community than states turning violent on their own citizens and evicting them out of homeland on grounds of their faiths, ethnicity, and culture? ✱ We greatly appreciate the valuable work the UNHCR has been doing in promoting the international protection of refugees. We praise the courage and dedicated service of UNHCR staff in the most difficult circumstances.

Mr. Chairman,

Nepal has been providing shelter to refugees on humanitarian ground. We respect the core principle of voluntary repatriation in full honor and dignity. This is exemplified in Government of Nepal's ensuring protection and security to refugees on its soil even in the midst of pressing national priorities.

Nepal has always adopted a pragmatic approach with utmost sincerity, good faith and genuine expectation of finding a lasting solution to the protracted humanitarian problem of refugees from Bhutan. However, our efforts to resolve this tragic humanitarian issue through bilateral process remain stalled due to the non-implementation of the agreed decisions by Bhutan.

The Government of Nepal reiterates its commitments to bring this humanitarian problem to an end through bilateral talks and close the refugee camps in the country.

Mr. Chairman,

We express our commitment to remain engaged with the international community for resolving this distressing humanitarian problem. Nepal firmly believes that safe, secure and dignified voluntary repatriation to the home country and their participation in all spheres of national life is the most honorable and durable solution to the refugee problem.