

Welcome Speech delivered by Honorable Justice Anup Raj Sharma, Chairperson of National Human Rights Commission, Nepal on Blended Learning course on Monitoring Economic Social And Cultural Rights (ESCR) jointly organized by Asia Pacific Forum for NHRIs, Center for Economic and Social Rights and NHRC Nepal.

Officiating Secretary of NHRC Nepal, Representative from APF, Representative from Center for Economic and Social Rights, Resource Persons of this program and Participants from NHRIs of Asia Pacific Region

I am delighted to welcome you all in Kathmandu, Nepal; it is my honour to welcome you all in the workshop on Blended Learning course on Monitoring Economic Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR) jointly organized by APF, Center for Economic and Social Rights and NHRC Nepal.

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights are related to person's day to day life and their livelihood. Economic, Social and cultural

Rights are expected to take progressive realization towards their fulfillment.

We all recognize that most of the countries have ratified several International Human rights treaties and conventions including International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR). Being the party of these international treaties, state has its obligation to implement those international provisions and to comply these provisions within domestic legal framework. Furthermore, what are the relationship between Sustainable development Goals (SDGs) and ESCR? The workshop should focus its discussion on this issue too. Most of the goal of SDG correlated with ESCR as well. Their links and issues will also be examined in this workshop

National Human Rights Commission, Nepal has broad constitutional mandate to respect, protect and promote human rights and ensure effective enforcement. The strategic plan of National Human Rights Commission, 2015-2020 has identified the strategic objectives to ensure Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, as well as Civil and

Political Rights. It has also identified to strengthening the monitoring of ESCR as priority issues.

As a watch dog organization we have to monitor, conduct inquiries and investigations on the matters of violation of human rights of person or group of persons. For effectiveness of monitoring, we need guidelines, indicators, benchmarks and checklists. I hope these four days Learning Course will support participants to boost up your knowledge and skills on monitoring Economic, Social and Cultural Rights effectively from our experience experts. This program may also facilitate you to share your best practices, tools and strategies applied on monitoring ESCR in your specific country. I am sure; the course will also make a constructive contribution to you all in the protection and promotion of human rights.

Thank you

12th November, 2018