



## South Asia's first guide on indicators for monitoring human rights released in Kathmandu

20 September, 2011

Kathmandu - The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and the United Nations Human Rights Office in Nepal (OHCHR-Nepal), in collaboration with civil society members of the Working Group on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Indicators, have together developed a user's guide on *Indicators for Monitoring Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*. Nepal is the first country in South Asia - and one of the few worldwide - to have finalized such a tool in support of actors engaged in the monitoring of these rights.

The Chairperson of National Human Rights Commission Kedar Nath Upadhyay will launch the *User's Guide* at an event on Tuesday 20 September. There will be invited guest speakers from the national human rights institutions, as well as senior government officials, civil society, UN agencies and members of the international community.

The denial of the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights, such as the right to adequate food, adequate housing, health, education and work, contributed to creating significant disparities between different communities within Nepal. This is particularly acute in relation to the most marginalised communities. Ensuring the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights is crucial for a successful transition to peace in Nepal, as envisaged by the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and the Interim Constitution.

The User's Guide is designed to provide the necessary tools and methods to be able to properly monitor the enjoyment of these rights and the performance of the Government in the realisation of these rights. In so doing the guide can actively assist policy makers in the formulation of improved plans, programmes and policies to improve the enjoyment of these fundamental human rights in Nepal. The guide will be used by human rights actors across Nepal, including the national human rights institutions and human rights defenders.

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