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Statement submitted by
Swiss Catholic Lenten Fund

With the support of
Community Self Reliance Centre (CSRC)
National Land Rights Forum (NLRF)
Nepal Mahila Ekata Samaj (NMES)

Swiss Catholic Lenten Fund, on behalf of this NGO coalition welcomes Nepal's active role in the UPR and its support for important recommendations on food security and access to land.

Landlessness is a major cause of poverty and inequality in Nepal. Despite existing reforms, insecure land tenure still limits people's access to housing, food, and livelihoods, leaving landless families and sharecroppers at risk of eviction and legal uncertainty.

We welcome Nepal's acceptance of recommendation 61.206 (Romania) to effectively implement the 2021 Land Act, ensuring women's equal inheritance and ownership rights and their participation in land tenure decision-making. Similarly, recommendation 61.269 (Colombia) calls for strengthening land titling processes and advancing reforms for small-scale farmers, women, youth, and Indigenous Peoples.

On the right to food, we welcome Nepal's support for recommendation 61.141 (Eritrea) to strengthen the monitoring of food security, housing, land, and water programmes by finalizing the National Food Plan and prioritizing equitable access to safe drinking water, especially in rural and disaster-prone areas. Recommendation 61.142 (Brazil) urges structural strategies to prevent hunger and ensure long-term food security, with accountability mechanisms and

attention to disadvantaged castes and vulnerable rural communities. Recommendation 61.144 (Pakistan) further emphasizes self-reliance, and nutrition-focused programmes, which are critical for sustaining small-scale agriculture and food sovereignty.

Although Nepal has adopted relevant policies, we remain deeply concerned that weak coordination and gaps in policy alignment have slowed its implementation. We therefore urge Nepal to undertake concrete actions to promptly and effectively implement the abovementioned UPR recommendations.¹

Ensuring secure land tenure, equitable food systems, and inclusive participation of rural communities is extremely important, as key steps to advance justice and sustainable livelihoods for peasants, women, youth, and Indigenous communities across Nepal.

Thank you.

¹ Report of the UPR Working Group, UN Document A/HRC/62/9, 10 April 2026 and Addendum A/HRC/62/9/Add.1.