

**Meeting of the NRN Women Participants  
Kathmandu, 17 October 2007**

Dear President and ICC Members:

I completed my four year term (2003-07) as Women Representative of the International Coordination Council (ICC). I would like thank ICC officials/members for the trust and support they provided to me and all the NCCs for their assistance that helped accomplish my tasks.

The appointment of Women and Youth Representatives was one of the important decisions made by the ICC. It helped bring Nepali women and youth together both inside and outside of Nepal and establish networking and work independently. I am pleased to report that there has been a big change in our approach and attitude towards women participation in the NRN movement during the last four years. I recall - I was the only woman among the 2003 ICC members. At the 2005 global conference, a question was raised whether we need a Women Representative in the ICC. In the beginning, I had to request for women participation at the NRN conferences and meetings. To-day, women are coming forward and raising their voices, concerns and asking for more representation. Networking among women has improved and they are demanding to establish a separate women wing to work as sister association of the NCC in each country. I must say, it is a significant development.

While I was in Russia, we were able to bring out Nepali women together and establish 'Nepali Nari Nikunj' on 25 April 2003 in Moscow. This Association is working closely as women wing of the NCC, Russia by organizing various social, educational and cultural activities. Nari Nikunj, Russia has demonstrated that many things can be done if we join our hands together. They have been running a school for their children, celebrating important Nepali festivals, organizing literary and cultural activities in Moscow and supporting different charity projects in Nepal.

During the third global conference in Kathmandu, all the women participants met separately and, discussed how they could further improve networking among themselves, work closely with ICC and NCCs by establishing women wing and develop relationship with women organizations in Nepal.

Many women stated to establish a separate women wing like Nari Nikunj in Moscow, which would work as sister association of NCCs in each country. The reason being, i) women will not have proportionate representation in NCCs; ii) women have to face with different kinds of problems; iii) women can run their own social-cultural activities; and iv) establish networking among women worldwide.

Some women suggested to follow Moscow example in establishing women wing. For example, 'Nepali Nari Nikunj, Sydney' or 'Nepali Nari Nikunj, Tokyo', Germany, etc., and be part of the NCC of the respective country. I personally think it is a very good idea to follow. I therefore, request all the ICC members and NCC Presidents to consider and support this initiative.

During the second global NRN conference held in Hotel Hyatt in 2005, on behalf of NRN Women Forum, I organized the women session together with FNCCI, in attendance of prominent women and men of Nepal namely, Anuradha Koirala, Sarita Giri, Rita Thapa, Prof. Tulsi Diwas, Chandi Dhakal, Shanti Chadda and many NRN women participants (Indra Ban, Shuba Rana, etc.). This session was chaired by Ms. Yankila Sherpa, then Assistant Minister.

Following this session, women networking was established in countries where NCCs were formed. Women Focal Points were nominated by many NCCs. Thanks to all the ICC members for their support and cooperation.

Two years ago, I met with many NGOs in Nepal who are working on women empowerment and providing women with skill training and job opportunities. I found them doing many interesting activities for women - far ahead of my expectation. That's why, I appealed to all ICC members to support those genuine NGOs in Nepal rather than starting something new by NRNs and the NRN Association.

At the third global NRN conference held in Hotel Soaltee in October 2007, we (NRN and FNCCI) jointly organized a separate session of the Women Forum, which I chaired. The Guest speaker was Ms. Chitra Lekha Yadav, Deputy Speaker. This session was widely participated by both prominent women of Nepal representing different NGOs and civil society, and NRN women and men coming from various countries.

During the last four years, I got an opportunity to participate in several regional conferences (Doha and Germany) and national conventions (Sydney, Tokyo, Phoenix, Chicago, Los Angeles, Thailand). I had a wonderful experience meeting with so many NRNs, who are sincerely committed to serve the motherland, living in those countries. I will be delighted to continue to serve the Nepali women cause in any capacity.

At the end, I am pleased to state that Ms. Usha Sharma has been elected as Women Representative and I would like to express my full support to her.

I wish to attach below the list of women participants, who attended the women forum meeting in sideline of the NRN conference in Kathmandu, held on 16 and 17 October 2007.

Participants :

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>E-mail Address</u>
1.	Ranjana Udas	Lesotho	<a href="mailto:ranjanaudas@yahoo.com">ranjanaudas@yahoo.com</a>
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Regrets from

1. Usha Sharma Germany
2. Usha Adhikary Singapore

I wish you all for a prosperous, happy and joyful new year-2008. Best wishes.

Ranjana Udas  
ICC member - Lesotho

10 December 2007