

Committee: United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW)

Country: Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal

Agenda: Addressing the Impact of AI-Generated Imagery, Beauty Filters and Unrealistic Beauty Standards on Youth Mental Health

The Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal recognizes that artificial intelligence has revolutionized communication, creativity and economic development. However, the rapid proliferation of AI-generated imagery, beauty filters and algorithm-driven recommendation systems has simultaneously intensified unrealistic beauty standards, disproportionately affecting women and girls. These technologies increasingly blur the distinction between reality and digitally manipulated perfection, contributing to rising cases of body dysmorphia, eating disorders, anxiety, depression and declining self-esteem among adolescents. Nepal believes that this issue extends beyond digital governance and has become a global public health, gender equality and human rights concern. Addressing this challenge is essential to achieving Sustainable Development Goals 3 (Good Health and Well-being), 5 (Gender Equality), 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), 10 (Reduced Inequalities), 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

Nepal remains committed to safeguarding the rights of women and children through both domestic legislation and international cooperation. Article 35 of the Constitution of Nepal guarantees every citizen the right to health, while Article 39 protects the rights, dignity and development of children. Nepal has strengthened these commitments through the National Mental Health Strategy and Action Plan (2020), the National Health Policy (2019) and the National Artificial Intelligence Policy (2025), which promotes ethical, transparent and human-centred AI governance. Internationally, Nepal is a State Party to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), and supports the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, as well as the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence (2021). These frameworks collectively affirm that technological innovation must uphold equality, dignity and the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.

Despite these commitments, existing international frameworks have not evolved at the same pace as artificial intelligence. Current regulations largely focus on misinformation, cybersecurity and data protection, while the psychological consequences of AI-generated beauty standards remain inadequately addressed. Furthermore, private corporations continue to prioritize engagement-driven algorithms and advertising revenue without sufficient accountability for the mental health consequences of their technologies. Nepal therefore believes that international efforts must move from reactive responses towards preventive, evidence-based governance that places the well-being of women and girls at its core.

To address these gaps, Nepal proposes the establishment of the International Algorithmic Child and Women's Safety Framework under the joint coordination of UN Women, UNESCO, WHO and UNICEF. This framework would require AI-powered beauty filters, appearance-altering technologies and recommendation systems targeting users under the age of eighteen to undergo mandatory Psychological and Gender Impact Assessments prior to deployment. Independent review panels consisting of psychologists, AI ethicists, gender experts and public health specialists would evaluate foreseeable risks relating to body image, eating disorders, discrimination and mental well-being before products enter the market. This

proposal strengthens the implementation of CEDAW, Articles 3, 17 and 24 of the CRC, the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence, while advancing SDGs 3, 5, 9 and 16.

Nepal further proposes the establishment of a Global Digital Well-being Observatory coordinated by WHO, UNESCO and UN Women. The Observatory would create a standardized international platform through which Member States voluntarily submit anonymized national data regarding eating disorders, body dysmorphia, cosmetic surgery trends, AI-generated beauty content and algorithmic harms. Annual global reports would identify emerging risks, facilitate research collaboration and provide technical assistance to developing countries with limited institutional capacity. By strengthening evidence-based policymaking and international cooperation, this initiative supports the WHO Global Strategy on Digital Health, Article 24 of the CRC and advances SDGs 3, 10 and 17.

Recognizing the growing economic influence of AI-driven social media platforms, Nepal also advocates the creation of an Algorithmic Accountability Levy based on the principles of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. Under this mechanism, major technology companies generating substantial revenue from AI-powered beauty technologies would contribute a small percentage of AI-related advertising revenue towards national mental health services, adolescent counselling programmes, digital resilience education and independent AI safety research. Rather than restricting innovation, this approach ensures that corporations benefiting economically from algorithm-driven engagement also contribute proportionately to mitigating its societal consequences. This proposal reinforces SDGs 3, 5, 16 and 17 while strengthening responsible corporate governance.

The Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal firmly believes that artificial intelligence must remain a tool for empowerment rather than exploitation. Innovation should never come at the expense of the dignity, confidence or mental well-being of women and girls. Through strengthened international cooperation, preventive governance and shared responsibility among governments, international organizations and the private sector, the international community can ensure that technological progress advances equality, safeguards human rights and leaves no one behind.