**29 December 2021**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Government of Nepal Launched SDGs in Mithila Postal Stamp**

**Kathmandu, Nepal –** For the first time in the history of Philatic and Postal Stamp Management, the Government of Nepal, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, issued 17 postal stamps portraying the SDGs in Mithila painting on 29 December 2021.

Hon’ble Minister of Information and Communications Technology Gyanendra Bahadur Karki, Dr Baikuntha Aryal Secretary of Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Indu Ghimire, Director General of Department of Postal Service jointly marked the first day of the issuance of the postal stamps by launching the “SGDs in Mithila” along with 14 other stamps highlighting Nepal’s natural and cultural diversity. Robert Kasca, the UN Resident Coordinator a.i. participated in the event.

“The SDG Postal Stamps reinforce Nepal’s commitment towards achieving SDGs and enhances the awareness of Nepal's art sector,” said Hon’ble Gyanendra Bahadur Karki, Minister of Information and Communications Technology.

The SDGs in Mithila original paintings, which are now issued as stamps, were created by local renowned women artists of Janakpur in 2018 as a collaborative effort between the UN in Nepal and the Janakpur Women’s Development Center.

“The issuance of the SDGs postal stamps not only highlights the UN’s effort to localize the SDGs in Nepal but symbolizes Nepal’s commitment and readiness to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. The UN in Nepal lauds the efforts of the Government of Nepal to accelerate progress,” said Robert Kasca, UN Resident Coordinator a.i. in Nepal.

With the intent of using indigenous art practices to make the SDGs accessible and understandable to all people, the UN Resident Coordinator’s Office began localizing the 17 SDGs icons into local art forms. After the creation of the 17 SDGs icons as Mithila art, the paintings also travelled to ‘Art for SDGs: the Mithila Heritage’ exhibition organized by the Permanent Mission of Nepal to the United Nations in New York and the Mithila Festival at the United Nations Headquarters in New York in 2019.

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**Notes to the Editor:**

**UN Resident Coordinator Office:** The UN Resident Coordinator’s Office (UN RCO) in Nepal works under the strategic guidance of the UN Resident Coordinator (RC) and supports the UN Country Team (UNCT) in the advancement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The UN RCO team supports the RC and UNCT in ensuring a more coordinated and coherent approach across the work of the UN and is composed of experts in development and humanitarian coordination, information management, human rights, gender equality, and communications.

**SDGs:** In 2015 the member states of the United Nations, adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development, collectively committing to a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and planet leaving no one behind. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental. They seek to realize the human rights of all and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.