

Please check against delivery

Statement by H. E. Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi, Ambassador/Permanent Representative of Nepal, at an interactive dialogue with the delegation of the French Republic during the 15th session of the UPR Working Group, 21 January 2013

Mr. President,

Nepal welcomes the delegation of the French Republic to the UPR led by His Excellency *Mr. François... Zimmeray, Ambassador for Human Rights..* and congratulates for the comprehensive presentation of the national human rights situation.

France's efforts in promoting and protecting human rights through diverse institutional and policy measures are commendable. My delegation especially takes note with satisfaction the introduction of a new institution, the Defender of Rights, into the Constitution in 2011 with the aim of safeguarding individual rights and liberties. Similarly, the adoption of a national plan of action on the protection of women against violence and respect for their fundamental rights in conflict and post-conflict situations in 2010 and the establishment of the Ministry of Women's Rights in May 2012 for ensuring women's rights, parity and gender equality are welcome steps.

My delegation commends the initiatives taken for promoting equality and social diversity in the civil service and the priority attached to the promotion and protection of the rights of the child and to addressing the issues of the persons with disabilities.

While appreciating the continued commitment of the Government of France for the advancement of human rights, my delegation would like to make the following recommendations for its consideration:

1. Continue efforts in safeguarding the welfare of all segments of society and the protection of their rights.
2. Give continuity to strengthening national human rights institutions.

Thank you.