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**Statement by H. E. Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi, Ambassador/Permanent Representative of Nepal, at an interactive dialogue with the delegation of the Republic of Cuba during the 16<sup>th</sup> session of the UPR Working Group, 1 May 2013**

Mr. President,

Nepal welcomes the delegation of Cuba to the UPR and thanks them for the comprehensive presentation of national report.

We appreciate the Cuban efforts in strengthening the legal and institutional framework for the promotion and protection of human rights. We take positive note of the progress made towards gender equality and participation of women in governance and commend the high levels of educational and human development achieved by Cuba.

The guarantee for free and universal access to public health care and commitment to ensure rights to adequate housing and adequate food are noteworthy. Cuba has already met many of the MDG targets.

We make the following recommendations:

1. Continue efforts to promote and protect the rights of all segments of the population.
2. Continue implementing measures to facilitate public access to adequate housing.

I thank you.