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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 Russian Federation during the 16<sup>th</sup> session of the UPR Working Group, 29 April 2013**

Mr. President,

Nepal welcomes the delegation of the Russian Federation to the UPR led by H. E. Mr. Alexander Konovalov, Minister of Justice..... and congratulates *them* for the comprehensive presentation of the national report that highlights the developments since the first review.

My delegation takes note with satisfaction the steady work undertaken by the Russian Federation to improve and strengthen the statutory framework and human rights institutions in the country. Continuous action to combat trafficking in persons in accordance with international legal instruments is ~~commendable~~ *worth noting*.

It is *significant* ~~commendable~~ that the proportion of the population living on incomes below the absolute poverty threshold continued to fall in the aftermath of the economic crisis as a result of the steady growth in industrial output and gross domestic product. My delegation appreciates the efforts of the Russian Federation in ensuring the right to social security, rights of the family, children and women, right to education, rights of indigenous peoples and sustainable development.

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

1. Continue efforts to promote the rights of the vulnerable and marginalized groups in the country.
2. Give continuity to legislative and institutional reforms for the promotion and protection of human rights.

I thank you.