

Bhujin Dhungana

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Statement by the Delegation of Nepal, at an interactive dialogue with the delegation of Afghanistan during the 18th session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, 27 January 2014

Mr. President

Nepal congratulates the delegation of Afghanistan led by H. E. *Mr. Mohammad Qasim Hashimzai, Senior Adviser to the Minister of Justice* for the comprehensive presentation of the national report that highlights the developments since the first review.

My delegation appreciates significant efforts made by Afghanistan towards improvement of human rights situation in the country despite numerous impediments and challenges. In particular, the reforms undertaken to strengthen institutional, legislative and policy mechanisms for ensuring peace, stability, democracy and a strong foundation for protection of human rights are noteworthy. We also appreciate the special attention paid to vulnerable clusters particularly women and children.

While wishing Afghanistan all success in its peace, development and human rights endeavours, my delegation would like to make the following recommendations:

1. Give continuity to fighting poverty and improving the quality of life of people.
2. Continue strengthening national democratic institutions.

I thank you.