

Statement by the Delegation of Nepal at the interactive dialogue with the Delegation of Liberia during the 22nd session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, 4 May 2015

Mr. President,

My delegation warmly welcomes the delegation of Liberia and congratulates them for the presentation of a comprehensive national report. We note with appreciation the various legislative, procedural and institutional measures executed by Liberia in implementation of the pledges and recommendations since the adoption of its initial UPR report.

As a fellow LDC and also a post-conflict nation, Nepal is fully aware of the difficulties Liberia has been facing, that are further exacerbated by the epidemic of Ebola Virus Disease in the country in recent years. In spite of the myriad of challenges, Liberia's notable achievements, such as sustained peace, and institutional and legal reforms including progress towards ratification of international human rights treaties are impressive. Establishment of Independent National Commission on Human Rights in 2010 and Independent Information Commission in 2013, and launching of the five-year National Human Rights Action Plan in 2013 are important steps towards strengthening the human rights regime in the country. Its long-term strategy for development - National Vision: Liberia RISING 2030 - and the Agenda for Transformation encourage participatory governance and focus on promoting peace, security, rule of law, human rights, and achieving economic transformation.

While wishing Liberia all success in its UPR engagement, my delegation would like to make the following recommendations:

1. Give continuity to strengthening of national human rights institutions and mechanisms.
2. Continue investing in women's empowerment and promoting their participation in all aspects of the State machinery.
3. Continue the de facto moratorium on death penalty and further take steps towards its legal abolition.

I thank you.