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Statement by the Delegation of Nepal at the interactive dialogue with the Delegation of Malawi during the 22nd session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, 5 May 2015

Mr. President,

My delegation warmly welcomes the delegation of Malawi and congratulates them for the presentation of a comprehensive national report outlining important steps undertaken by the Government of Malawi for the promotion and protection of human rights in the country. We note with appreciation the various legislative, procedural and institutional measures executed by Malawi in implementation of the pledges and recommendations since the adoption of its initial UPR report.

We commend the adoption of the Disability Act in 2012 and the Gender Equality Act in 2013. The Gender Equality Act is an important step towards protecting women from harmful traditional practices and other discrimination. Malawi has also taken several initiatives to address the issue of maternal mortality, such as Roadmap on Accelerated Reduction of Maternal and Neonatal Death (2011-2016) and National Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights Strategy (2011-2016). The Education Act of 2013 guarantees compulsory universal and free primary education.

While wishing Malawi a successful UPR, my delegation would like to make the following recommendations:

1. Give continuity to strengthening of national human rights institutions and mechanisms.
2. Continue efforts to curb discriminatory and harmful practices towards women as well as existing high rate of maternal mortality.
3. Continue the moratorium on death penalty and consider towards its legal abolition.

I thank you.