

17



23<sup>rd</sup> session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group

(2 - 13 November 2015)

Statement by Portugal

**Nepal**

Mr. President,

Portugal warmly welcomes the delegation of Nepal and thanks it for the presentation of its national UPR report.

Portugal welcomes the fact that Nepal's National Human Rights Institution has kept its "A" status, according to the Paris Principles. However, Portugal recommends that Nepal amends its National Human Rights Commission Act in order to guarantee the independence and financial autonomy of this Commission.

Portugal notes with appreciation the entry into force of the 2014-2018 National Human Rights Action Plan, as well as of several policies and programs to promote gender equality. Portugal would like to recommend that Nepal strengthens its National Commissions, namely the National Women Commission, in order to implement the adopted policies.

Portugal recommends that Nepal considers establishing a permanent inter-ministerial committee responsible for the implementation of its international human rights obligations, inter alia, for coordinating the drafting of the national reports to the Treaty Bodies. We further recommend that Nepal submits its overdue reports on CERD and CEDAW.

Portugal would like to recommend that Nepal signs and ratifies the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, as well as the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights.

Finally, Portugal would also like to recommend that Nepal ratifies the Conventions on refugees and stateless persons, and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

Thank you, Mr. President.