



Human Rights Council
23rd session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group
Nepal
Delivered by DPR Carl Reaich
4 November 2015

Mr President,

New Zealand welcomes the delegation from Nepal to the Human Rights Council. There have been some encouraging developments in Nepal, including the adoption of a new constitution in September. The new constitution is a possible step towards safeguarding the economic, social and cultural rights of all Nepali people. New Zealand also commends Nepal on the establishment of specialised constitutional committees to increase protection for the rights of ethnic minorities, remove discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and increase women's equality and representation.

However, we remain concerned about women's access to sexual and reproductive health, with an estimated ten percent of women suffering ongoing and long-term complications from poor healthcare before and after childbirth. New Zealand therefore **recommends** Nepal continue to implement measures to ensure all women and girls' have equal access to quality sexual and reproductive healthcare.

Regarding the equal right of women to acquire, transfer and retain citizenship, New Zealand **recommends** that Nepal implement measures to ensure these rights are extended to all women and their children.

With respect to continued reports of torture, arbitrary detention, extra-judicial and summary executions, New Zealand **recommends** that all such allegations be promptly investigated and prosecuted, and perpetrators punished. New Zealand also **recommends** Nepal accede to and accept the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (OP-CAT).

New Zealand furthermore **recommends** Nepal investigate and prosecute those who committed human rights violations on both sides of the country's civil war and provide

reparations to victims in line with international standards under the newly formed Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Thank you Mr President.