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**Statement by the Delegation of Nepal at the interactive dialogue with the Delegation of Belgium during the 24th session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, 20 January 2016**

Mr. President,

Nepal warmly welcomes the delegation of Belgium and thanks them for the comprehensive presentation of their national report.

We appreciate the efforts made by Belgium in implementation of the pledges and recommendations since the adoption of its initial UPR report. As mentioned in its national report, we take note that Belgium has clearly stipulated the promotion and protection of human rights as an integral part of its national and foreign policy. We appreciate that Belgium pursues the core values of universality, indivisibility, inseparability and interdependence of all human rights as its main ‘human rights’ objective at the international level, with a view to safeguarding these ideals. Nepal fully shares such ideals. Belgium’s liberal attitude to equality and non-discrimination is manifest in the preventive measures taken at all levels of the Government to fight against racism, extremism and xenophobia. We appreciate that Belgium has also been making generous financial contribution towards the cause of human rights through the OHCHR and various other mechanisms.

While wishing Belgium a successful UPR, my delegation would like to recommend that Belgium prioritize the early establishment of a national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles.

I thank you.