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**Statement by the Delegation of Nepal at the interactive dialogue with the Delegation of Venezuela during the 26th session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, 1 November 2016**

Mr. President,

Nepal warmly welcomes the delegation of Venezuela and thanks them for the comprehensive presentation of their national report outlining the important steps undertaken for the promotion and protection of human rights in the country.

We appreciate various legislative, procedural and institutional measures executed by Venezuela in implementation of the pledges and recommendations since the adoption of its initial UPR report. Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Protocol in 2013, creation of a National Council for Human Rights responsible for formulating and following up on binding human rights policies, and putting in place the National Human Rights Plan, 2015-2019, are some important steps recently taken by the country in strengthening the domain of human rights. The achievements of Venezuela in the socio-economic dimensions, including poverty reduction, education, health and child nutrition, would certainly have positive bearing on effective realization of human rights by its nationals.

While wishing them a successful UPR, my delegation would like to recommend that Venezuela continues its efforts to consolidating national institutions and mechanisms set up for the promotion and protection of human rights in the country.

I thank you.