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**Statement by H.E. Mr. Ram Prasad Subedi, Permanent Representative/Ambassador of Nepal**

**44th Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**

**UPR of Azerbaijan,**

**14 November 2023**

**09:00-12:30**

Time: 1 min

Words: 118

**Madam Vice-President,**

Nepal welcomes the delegation of Republic of Azerbaijan to the fourth cycle of UPR.

We appreciate Azerbaijan’s constructive engagement with the international human rights mechanisms.

My delegation takes positive note of Azerbaijan’s National Action Plan to promote open government and increase participation of civil society institutions in the decision-making process.

In a constructive spirit, Nepal recommends the following:

1. Increase the efforts to combat human trafficking and protect the victims.
2. Reform labour laws and remove obstacles to women’s employment and bridge the gender pay gaps.
3. Strengthen measures to upgrade its national human right institutions to category ‘A’ in line with the Paris Principles.

We wish Azerbaijan a successful review process.

I thank you Madam