**Statement by the delegation of Nepal**

**UPR of Benin**

**28th session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**

**10 November 2017**

Mr. President,

Nepal warmly welcomes the delegation of Benin to their 3rd UPR. We appreciate the initiatives of the Beninese government to fulfil commitment made for the second UPR cycle.

Since then, Benin has taken various legislative, institutional and strategic measures to ensure promotion and protection of human rights. The adoption of an Act in 2013 to establish a Human Rights Commission is encouraging. Steps should be taken to operationalize it as early as possible. Adoption of legislation for protecting the rights of children and the launching of a national child protection policy and an action plan in this regard are significant steps with a vision. We welcome the efforts being made for legal abolition of death penalty. My delegation also appreciates efforts for protecting women’s rights through economic empowerment and combating gender-based violence. Despite the constraints posed by an LDC economy, efforts made by Benin towards realizing economic, social and cultural rights of the people, including the right to food, health and education, are noteworthy, which, in our view, deserve the attention of the international community for enhanced support and partnership.

While wishing Benin a successful review, my delegation makes the following recommendations for their consideration:

1. Take necessary measures to make the National Human Rights Commission fully functional and equipped with necessary mandate and resources in line with the Paris principles.
2. Continue efforts to protect the rights of women and children as well as other vulnerable groups.

Thank you.