**Statement by the delegation of Nepal**

**UPR of Sri Lanka**

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

**15 November 2017**

Mr. President,

Nepal warmly welcomes the delegation of Sri Lanka to their 3rd UPR and congratulates them on the presentation of a comprehensive national report.

We take positive note of the sincere efforts undertaken by the Sri Lankan Government in consolidating democracy, human rights and the rule of law in recent years. Ongoing process of constitutional and administrative reforms to further strengthen national institutions and create greater democratic space in Sri Lanka is praiseworthy. Sri Lanka has ratified all major international human rights treaties, and maintains constructive engagements with the UN Human Rights mechanisms. We commend its efforts to further strengthen the National Human Rights Commission, and note the formulation of the new National Human Rights Action Plan for the next five years. Sri Lanka being a country that has successfully come out of long armed conflict, we acknowledge its sincere efforts directed towards promoting reconciliation and accountability in the society through various institutional and reform measures.

Sri Lankan nationals are enjoying economic, social and cultural rights, including the rights to health and education in an inclusive manner. While we note its commitment towards the right to life, we encourage Sri Lanka to legally abolish death penalty from the country.

My delegation makes the following recommendations for Sri Lankan delegation’s consideration:

1. Continue the ongoing process of consolidating democracy and the rule of law in the country.
2. Continue efforts to protect and promote the rights of the marginalized and vulnerable sections of the society.

We wish Sri Lanka a successful review.

Thank you.