**Statement by the delegation of Nepal**

**UPR of Switzerland**

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

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Mr. President,

Nepal warmly welcomes the Swiss delegation to their 3rd UPR.

The Swiss financial and technical assistance dedicated to the socio-economic progress of developing countries helps in amelioration of human rights situation. The human rights-based approach has been a systematic component of the Swiss foreign policy as revealed in the ongoing FDFA Human Rights Strategy. Switzerland has played an active role in the Human Rights Council during its tenure spanning over three terms. We appreciate the regular financial contributions it has made to the OHCHR and other UN human rights mechanisms.

Switzerland has continued ratification of international human rights instruments in recent years, including its accession to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2014. We welcome efforts in empowering women and increasing their representation in State mechanisms. Promoting higher level of gender equality, combating gender-based discrimination and domestic violence and promoting child rights are commendable steps in furthering human rights domains.

We note the ongoing efforts of turning the Swiss Centre of Expertise in Human Rights into a national human rights institution. We recommend for **the creation of an independent NHRI with a broad mandate and matching resources, in accordance with the Paris principles**.

Finally, we wish Switzerland a successful review.

Thank you.