***Check Against Delivery***

**Concluding Remarks by Hon. Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, Minister for Foreign Affairs & the Head of Nepali Delegation to the 3rd Cycle of Universal Periodic Review of Nepal at the 37th Session of the Human Rights Council Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**

**Virtual Platform Webex, Geneva, 21 January 2021**

**(Time: Five Minutes)**

**(Words to Read: 655)**

**Madam Vice President,**

**Distinguished Delegates.**

1. It is indeed a great honour for Nepali delegation to have participated in the fruitful deliberations of the third cycle of Nepal’s Universal Periodic Review today.
2. In the review, we heard the views from ninety-nine delegates. We also received advance questions from eight delegations. We take the active engagement of member states as a recognition of our efforts and contribution to promote and protect human rights.
3. On behalf of the Nepali delegation, I wish to extend profound gratitude to all the Member States for their suggestions, comments, questions, and recommendations. Members of my delegation have covered all major concerns raised during the interactive dialogue.
4. Nepal remains committed to address genuine concerns and implement the recommendations in a coordinated, comprehensive, and result-oriented manner. We will continue our efforts in devising robust plans, policies, and programmes with legal and institutional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights of all our people.
5. The democratic and inclusive Constitution of Nepal is now in full implementation under the federal set-up of governance. Besides the National Human Right Commission, seven thematic Constitutional Commissions are active for upholding the rights and wellbeing of marginalized and disadvantaged communities. We have ensured requisite resources to these constitutional bodies for effective functioning and carrying out their mandates. Elected governments at the provincial and local levels are also instrumental in responding to the needs of the people and tackling the challenges faced by them in an inclusive manner.
6. As in elsewhere, Nepal is also confronted with complex challenges such as, climate-induced disasters, poverty, inequality, socio-cultural taboos, public health concerns, including the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. No matter what the impediments caused by these challenges, Nepal’s commitment to fulfilling human rights obligations remains stronger.
7. The Constitution of Nepal provides overarching basis for the enjoyment of civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights by all. We have put in place requisite legal and policy measures and accelerated the implementation of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.
8. After successful transformation from a decade-long armed conflict, Nepal has been marching ahead with the vision of ‘Prosperous Nepal and Happy Nepali’. Significant achievements have been made in the lives and livelihoods of Nepali people through targeted programmes devised to ensure inclusion and leave no one behind. Despite the harsh realities in the aftermath of the 2015 earthquake, other weather-induced disasters, and the COVID-19 pandemic, we are all set to achieve the graduation from LDC at the earliest and reach a middle-income country by 2030.
9. Nepal’s judiciary and parliament have played crucial roles in ensuring the implementation of national laws and international obligations arising from the human rights instruments. The Government has been constructively engaged with relevant stakeholders, including civil society organizations and the mass media, which have been very active in Nepal and have expanded the scope of human rights in the country.
10. Nepal has also accorded high priority to the monitoring and reporting of UPR implementation while remaining engaged with UN human rights bodies and mechanisms. Our policy is oriented towards improving human rights by uplifting the living standards of the people, achieving SDGs, building resilience to climate change, ensuring safe and orderly migration, and addressing structural challenges of being an LDC and LLDC, among others.
11. Before I conclude, I wish to express gratitude to all those involved in this review process, including the UPR Secretariat and OHCHR officials, interpreters and the technical teams. I extend profound appreciation to the President and the Bureau of the Council for successfully steering the UPR sessions and ensuring constructive participation of all delegations in a hybrid format despite challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.
12. Nepal’s Permanent Representative and his team in Geneva will be happy to coordinate with the distinguished Troika members- India, Argentina and Burkina Faso and the UPR Secretariat for the next step in the preparation of the report.

I thank you.