**Statement by the delegation of Nepal**

**37th session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**

**UPR of Austria, 22 January 2021**

Time:  1min

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**Madam President**

Nepal warmly welcomes the delegation of Austria to the third cycle of UPR.

Nepal appreciates Austria’s continued engagement with the human rights protection mechanisms.

We take positive note of the initiatives taken by Austria to improve the representation of women in leadership positions, including in politics.

The implementation of National action plans to combat human trafficking is noteworthy.

We appreciate various efforts to protect women and children from violence including through the 2019 Protection Against Violence Act.

While wishing Austria a successful review, we recommend the following:

1. Continue measures to strengthen the National human rights institutions.
2. Continue measures to promote gender equality and ensure the representation of ethnic minorities in the political and public life.

I thank you.