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**Statement by the delegation of Nepal**

**43rd session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**

**UPR of the Kingdom of Tonga, 01 May 2023**

**14:30-18:00**

Time: 2 mins

Words: 197

**Mr. President,**

Nepal welcomes the delegation of the Kingdom of Tonga to the fourth cycle of UPR and thanks them for the presentation of the national report.

We appreciate the efforts of the Kingdom of Tonga in launching the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics 2019-2023, the guiding framework for establishing, and monitoring & evaluating the SDG human rights indicators.

The advancement in the Social Welfare policies targeted to older persons and persons with disabilities is noteworthy.

We welcome the adoption of Joint National Action Plan on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management 2018- 2028.

We also take positive note of the National Women’s Empowerment and Gender Equality Tonga Policy launched with a view to advance gender equality.

Likewise, the endorsement of the Public Service Sexual Harassment Policy in 2022 is appreciable.

For the consideration, we recommend the Kingdom of Tonga to:

1. Step up efforts to ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political rights and International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural rights.
2. Strengthen the legal and policy frameworks to enhance access for persons with disabilities to health, education and employment.

We wish the Kingdom of Tonga a successful fourth cycle review.

Thank you.