**Statement by the delegation of Nepal**

**UPR of Mali**

**29th session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**

**16 January 2018**

Mr. President,

Nepal warmly welcomes the delegation of Mali to their 3rd UPR. We appreciate the various legislative, strategic and institutional measures executed by Mali in implementation of the pledges and recommendations since its last review.

As a fellow LDC and LLDC, Nepal is cognizant of the challenges armed conflict and political crisis such as the one faced by Mali in recent years can bring in realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Despite these difficulties, Mali has been putting sincere efforts in improving the socio-economic condition of its citizens, and protecting and promoting human rights in the country. Establishment of the National Human Rights Commission in 2016, and the Ministry of Human Rights and State Reform in 2017 are important institutionalized commitments in the right direction. While welcoming the adoption of the national human rights and transitional justice policies and action plans, Nepal wishes Mali to gather strength to successfully carry out the peace process.

Combating gender-based violence such as the harmful traditional practice of female genital mutilation is crucial to ensure women’s equal rights and their socio-economic empowerment.

A country like Mali, in our view, deserves liberal support of the international community to implement its efforts in socio-economic development, establishment of durable peace and human rights advancement.

We recommend the Government of Mali to:

1. Continue strengthening national human rights institutions and mechanisms.
2. Continue its efforts to promote gender equality and combat gender-based violence against women.

My delegation wishes the delegation of Mali a successful UPR.

Thank you.