**Statement by the delegation of Nepal**

**UPR of Burundi**

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

**18 January 2018**

Mr. President,

Nepal warmly welcomes the delegation of Burundi.

Nepal appreciates that Burundi has been putting efforts in improving the socio-economic condition, and protecting and promoting human rights of its citizens. As a fellow LDC and LLDC, Nepal is familiar of the challenges political instability and adverse security situation such as the one faced by Burundi in recent years can bring in realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Despite such challenges, measures taken to combat discrimination and violence against women, increase women’s participation in the political process, and promote girls’ education are noteworthy. Promulgation of an act on the prevention and punishment of gender-based violence and protection of its victims in 2016 is a welcome step. While we commend the ratification of the CRPD and its Optional Protocol, as well as submission of national reports to various treaty bodies in recent time, we encourage the Government of Burundi to further engage and cooperate with the OHCHR and the Human Rights Council mechanisms in a constructive manner.

We recommend the Government of Burundi to:

1. Continue strengthening national human rights institutions and mechanisms.
2. Address persistently high rates of maternal and infant mortality in the country.
3. Continue efforts to combat gender-based violence against women and promote gender equality.

My delegation wishes the delegation of Burundi a successful UPR.

Thank you.