**Statement by the delegation of Nepal**

**UPR of Montenegro**

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

**22 January 2018**

Mr. President,

Nepal warmly welcomes the delegation of Montenegro and thanks them on the presentation of a report highlighting actions undertaken to fulfill previous recommendations, and promote and protect human rights in the country.

We positively note various legislative and policy measures on judicial reform to strengthen the independence, impartiality and efficiency of the judiciary. We welcome Montenegro’s efforts on fighting corruption, including establishment of the Anti-Corruption Agency in 2016. Actions taken by the Government of Montenegro on combating discrimination against women and persons with disabilities, promoting gender equality, fighting domestic violence and violence against women and children are commendable. In this respect, we appreciate various strategic and institutional measures put in place, including the strategy for domestic violence protection; action plan for achieving gender equality; strategy for the prevention and protection of children from violence, and establishment of Child Rights Council; and anti-discrimination law, strategies and action plans to protect the rights of persons with disabilities.

While we commend various actions taken to strengthen the national human rights institutions, we encourage Montenegro to strengthen the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms of Montenegro in accordance with the Paris Principles, and provide it with adequate human and financial resources.

Finally, while wishing Montenegro a successful review, we would like to recommend them to:

1. Continue measures to combating discrimination against women, and promoting their economic and political empowerment.
2. Continue efforts to addressing domestic and gender-based violence against women.

Thank you.