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**Statement by the delegation of Nepal**

**UPR of Turkmenistan**

**30th session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**

**7 May 2018**

Mr. President,

While warmly welcoming the delegation of Turkmenistan to the current UPR Session, my delegation appreciates the positive developments achieved by them in the realm of human rights.

The Constitution of Turkmenistan adopted in September 2016 has created a wider framework for realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Enactment and amendment of a large number of laws have also provided important basis for better respect and protection of human rights.

The Ombudsman Act, 2016 has led to the establishment of the institution of the Commissioner for Human Rights. We believe that strengthening of the NHRI along with implementation of National Action Plans on Human Rights and National Action Plan against Trafficking in Persons would go a long way in the protection and promotion of human rights.

The ongoing efforts in human rights education, training and awareness-raising are noteworthy. My delegation also welcomes increased priority accorded to social, educational and health sectors.

The noble objectives of Equal Rights for Women as well as the Action Plan on Gender Equality can be better realized in tandem with combating domestic violence and gender-based violence.

**Finally, my delegation recommends Turkmenistan to continue strengthening the newly constituted national human rights institution and other relevant mechanisms.**

We wish them a successful UPR.

Thank you.