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**Statement by the delegation of Nepal**

**UPR of Uzbekistan**

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

**9 May 2018**

Mr. President,

Nepal warmly welcomes the delegation of Uzbekistan, and commends its comprehensive national report.

We appreciate various legislative and institutional measures undertaken by the Government to further promote and protect human rights. Several National Action Plans on human rights related issues have been adopted and implemented in the review period. We welcome the emphasis given to counter corruption and combat human trafficking.

Increased constructive engagements of the Uzbek Government with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and other UN Human Rights mechanisms, including the Treaty Bodies are appreciable.

While we note the steps taken to strengthen the independence and autonomy of the judiciary, we encourage the Government to put further efforts in this area.

We request the Government to continue measures to combat domestic and gender-based violence and ensure women’s rights and gender equality. The emphasis given to promote the right to health and quality education is noteworthy.

My delegation recommends the following for the consideration of the Government of Uzbekistan:

1. Continue strengthening the national human rights institution in full conformity with the Paris principles.
2. Continue efforts to promoting women’s empowerment and gender equality.

Finally, we wish them a successful UPR.

Thank you.