**Statement by the delegation of Nepal**

**UPR of Iraq**

**34th session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**

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Mr. President,

Nepal warmly welcomes the delegation of Iraq to the 3rd cycle of UPR.

Nepal appreciates Iraq’s constructive engagement in this process.

It is encouraging to note increasing presence of women in the judiciary and other government institutions of Iraq. We also appreciate the initiatives taken by Iraq for putting legal and policy framework in place for empowering women in social and economic spheres.

We also welcome the Iraqi initiative to combat domestic violence against women and protect the victims of violence.

Nepal recommends the following for their consideration:

1. Take measures to strengthen the National Human Rights Commission in accordance with Paris Principles.
2. Continue to take necessary measures to ensure the protection of the rights of women and girls.

Nepal wishes Iraq a successful review.

Thank you.