**Statement by the delegation of Nepal**

**UPR of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic**

**35th session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**

**21 January 2020**

Time 1 min 15

Madam President,

Nepal warmly welcomes the delegation of the Lao PDR to the third cycle of UPR process.

We appreciate the continued cooperation and engagement of the Lao PDR with the UN human rights mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights.

We welcome the adoption by the Lao PDR of the 10-year Strategic Development Plan with the vision of graduating from the LDC status by 2024.

We commend the efforts of the Lao PDR to promoting gender equality, women empowerment and improving maternal health care services.

While wishing the Lao PDR a successful review, we recommend the following:

1. Make efforts to strengthen national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles.
2. Continue measures towards inclusive socio-economic development through investment in health and education sectors including in the rural areas.

Thank you.