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**Statement by the delegation of Nepal**

**36th session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**

**UPR of Belarus**

**2 November 2020**

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**Madam President**

Nepal warmly welcomes the delegation of Belarus to the third cycle of UPR.

Nepal commends Belarus for acceding to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and formulating the national plan of action for its effective implementation.

We welcome the measures taken by Belarus towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through the establishment of institutional and coordination mechanisms for effective implementation of the SDGs.

Belarus’s initiatives to increase women representation in the Parliament and public sectors including through implementation of the action plan to ensure gender equality are noteworthy.

We encourage Belarus to continue efforts to ensure freedom of information and freedom of assembly.

While wishing Belarus a successful review, we recommend the following for their consideration:

1. Consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of death penalty.
2. Step up efforts to establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles.

Thank you.