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**Statement by the delegation of Nepal**

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

**UPR of Panama**

**3 November 2020**

Time: 1 min 40 secs

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**Madam President,**

Nepal warmly welcomes the delegation of Panama to the third cycle of UPR and appreciates the presentation of its national report reflecting the commitment of Panama to the promotion and protection of human rights

Nepal takes encouraging note of the efforts of Panama to introducing SDGs into its public policies with the wider participation of the different sectors of Panamanian society for the timely achievement of Agenda 2030.

We commend Panama for implementing various programs such as ‘study without hunger’, the NURA Project and Complementary School Meals Program to promote universal basic education and health, and reduce school dropout rates, by addressing the needs of children from needy societies.

We welcome Panama’s Strategic Plan 2019-2024 that also focuses on addressing new environmental challenges and updating policies on climate change and conservation of biodiversity.

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

1. Continue strengthening its efforts to combat trafficking in persons and protecting the rights of victims.
2. Continue implementing measures for promoting the equal participation of women in political and public life.

Thank you.