



H.E. Ms. Imthusham
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Permanent Mission of the Maldives to the United Nations in Geneva

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Statement - Nepal

Thank you Mr. President,

The Maldives would like to extend a very warm welcome to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Ms. Sujatha Koirala and the delegation of Nepal to the 10th Session of the UPR Working Group. Nepal is a particularly close friend of the Maldives, with our bonds of shared lineage tracing back to the founding of the South Asian Association for Regional Coöperation.

The Maldives commends Nepal for the significant steps it has taken during the current transitional phase; in improving the lives of the Nepalese people especially post-2006. Most notable of which are the ~~express~~ guarantees of fundamental freedoms and liberties contained in the Interim Constitution. We are confident that the new Constitution, once drafted, would contain the same and would further, comply with Nepal's international obligations.

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Mr. President,

The Maldives understands the resource and capacity constraints of all LDCs, having just graduated from the category on 1st January. As such, it is important that we understand and appreciate this fact as we conduct the review. It is also important that Nepal's international partners remain engaged and committed in assisting the country fulfill its developmental goals, including the full realization of human rights of the Nepalese people.

It is clear from the 3 reports before us that, despite these constraints, Nepal has genuinely undertaken efforts in strengthening its national human rights framework. That said, as with all countries, there is room for improvement, and with this in mind, the Maldives would like to make the following recommendations:

1. We recommend that Nepal, extend a Standing Invitation to UN human rights Special Procedure so that they can visit the country and assist the government with its human rights reforms.
2. In order to help overcome the problem of the heavy burden of treaty reporting, the Maldives recommends that Nepal work with the OHCHR to develop a Common Core Document which, in conjunction with treaty-specific Lists of Issues, will help to streamline treaty reporting.
3. To safeguard the rights of detainees and to prevent any acts of torture, the Maldives recommends that Nepal become party to the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (OPCAT) and designate an official National Preventive Mechanism (NPM).
4. To consolidate the legal framework surrounding the protection of the rights of children and to ensure the proper functioning of a juvenile justice system in the country, the Maldives recommends that Nepal enact a Juvenile Justice Law compliant with international standards.
5. We recommend that through its work with the OHCHR Country Office, Nepal incorporate its international obligations into the domestic legal framework through legislative enactments.
6. Lastly, the Maldives recommends that Nepal continues its efforts, through the UNFCCC and other fora, to remind the international community, especially developed countries and other major emitting States, of their obligations to protect and promote human rights in Nepal by reducing greenhouse gas emissions to safe-levels.

Thankyou Mr. President