

Concluding remarks by Honorable Sujata Koirala, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, and leader of the Nepali delegation at the Tenth Session of the Human Rights Council Working Group on Universal Periodic Review, January 27, 2011, Geneva, Switzerland.

Mr. President,

I thank the distinguished delegates for their active and constructive participation in Nepal's UPR. Let me express the appreciation of the people of Nepal for encouraging remarks, goodwill, understanding and constructive support for the ongoing democratic transformation and the success of peace process in Nepal. Thank you very, very much.

Human rights are universal and indivisible. They are to be seen in an overall context. We do not claim that we have no problems and challenges. But we are working to seriously address the remnants of the armed conflict which are social, economic, political, and even psychological. We have evolved consensus to address root causes that led to conflict and sustained it for over a decade. At this important juncture of our history, sustained support from the international community is of critical importance to deliver the peace dividends to the people and contribute to stability and development in the country.

Nepal's peace process is nationally driven and remains unique in every sense. It grew out of our commitment to democracy and human rights. Consensus among the parties has been the driving force for the peace process's journey to this stage. With the centrality of inclusive democracy, human rights and social justice, the peace process has created the ground environment for the respect of human rights. Nepal's peace process has shown that violence can never ever be an instrument to the solution of any problem.

We are engaged in the process of reconstruction, rehabilitation and reconciliation. We are working hard to leave behind the bitter legacy of the armed conflict that witnessed the worst human rights violations in the country. We are in a multiple transition. Transition is a sensitive and difficult period. Despite difficulties, challenges and constraints, how much we have contributed to democratic cause and what we have achieved needs to be acknowledged.

The Constituent Assembly is working hard to meet the historic task of promulgating an inclusive democratic constitution. The constitutional committee and other ten thematic committees have already submitted their reports to the Chairman of the Constituent Assembly. The high level task force headed by the leader of the opposition has cleared several irritants in the draft constitution. The work is in progress and the discussion to sort out the remaining issues of differences continues.

Nepal has come a long way in terms of peaceful resolution of armed conflict and political transformation. The nationally driven peace process has produced a lot to demonstrate in favor of human rights improvement. Technical assistance and capacity building is needed to strengthen the capacity of national institutions. The existence of democratic institutions is a must to maintain the credibility of commitments we make here.

Mr. President,

We appreciate the international community including the United Nations for their assistance and contributions to the certain components of the home grown peace process. The Government of Nepal expects an enhanced level of support for its efforts in the process of post conflict reconstruction and rehabilitation to firmly institutionalize peace building efforts, create a network of

national democratic institutions, and expedite the socio-economic transformation within the democratic framework to create an environment for the enjoyment of human rights by the people.

Let me conclude with a quote from the architect of the Nepali peace process, the late G.P.Koirala, who said after the signing the Comprehensive Peace Agreement on November 21, 2006 and I quote:

'I am a democrat and a democrat's duty is to bring all non-democrats within a democratic constitutional framework. If democrats cannot do this, democracy has no meaning or significance.'
Unquote.

The task to develop an inclusive democratic constitutional framework continues with the centrality of democratic pluralism and human rights. Our path to democracy and commitment to human rights is total. It is our firm belief that democracy and human rights provide a strong foundation to make Nepal a peaceful, stable, democratic and prosperous country. We value the goodwill and support of our friends in this work and we look forward to working together.

I thank you all very much.

Thank you Mr. President.