

**Remarks by the Hon'ble Sujata Koirala, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal at the adoption of the UPR Report on January 27, 2011, Geneva**

Mr. President,

I would like to thank the Chair of the Human Rights Council Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review and troika members – Republic of Moldova, Cuba and Qatar for their hard work. My delegation would also like to thank the Secretariat for their cooperation and support.

On behalf of the Government of Nepal, I would like to thank member/observer states for their participation, encouraging remarks and valuable support, and comments on the human rights situation in Nepal as well as recommendations for its further improvement.

As I said during my remarks on Tuesday, there have been significant achievements made in the human rights situation in Nepal after the end of decade long armed conflict and start of the peace process. The protection and promotion of human rights remains at the centre of the peace process.

We are engaged in the process of institutionalizing the democratic achievements and progress in human rights through the writing of a democratic constitution. The process has the centrality of building the capacity of national democratic institutions. As UPR is a cooperative mechanism with due consideration given to the capacity building needs of the state under review, continuing goodwill and support from the international community at this juncture for building democratic institutions will go a long way in making Nepal a peaceful, stable, democratic and prosperous country.

Regarding the recommendations, we have studied them in detail. Nepal is in the midst of great political transition. We have made achievements on the face of daunting challenges, and constraints. Our commitment to human rights remains firm. Democracy is not an event, it is a process. Democratization is not achieved by putting out fires of conflict; the process requires addressing the root causes that refuel them. Transition is not complete by a single election. Transition path to democracy from armed

conflict and authoritarian rule is not free from potholes and pitfalls. And also the attitude and behaviour take time to change.

There are 28 political parties in the parliament. Parties within and outside the parliament are partners in the peace process. They need to be taken on board. Our experience says that consensus building requires patience to endure stalemate and even setbacks. We understand that obligations arising from the commitments already made need to be fully complied with before undertaking further obligations from new commitments. My delegation is of the opinion that failure to build strong democratic institutions in order to honor the commitments made reduces the credibility of further commitments. It is in this light that we have expressed our opinions.

I would like to reiterate that my government firmly remains committed to respect human rights and look to a peaceful, secure, stable and democratic future. I thank all our friends and well wishers for their continued goodwill and close understanding leading to the adoption of the report today. We have accepted a good number of recommendations for further improvement in human rights situation, and will initiate measures accordingly. We would continue to work with international community including the United Nations, as well as civil society, media and human rights institutions.

Finally, I would like to express sincere thanks to all those who took part in interactive dialogue and expressed respect for the sacrifices the people of Nepal have made over the years for the establishment of inclusive democracy that respects the worth and dignity of every person. We are grateful for their support to the ongoing peace process, and for taking it to a meaningful conclusion with the promulgation of a new democratic constitution.

Thank you very much