

OHCHR welcomes Human Rights Commitment in Geneva and encourages continued efforts by Government towards implementation of recommendations

Kathmandu – 07 February, 2011,

The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Nepal (OHCHR-Nepal) commends all actors who participated in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process thus far for their commitment to this important review and notes the positive spirit of collaboration and mutual understanding among all stakeholders in Geneva. Particularly, noteworthy was that the high level Government delegation was well-prepared for this review. The human rights situation of Nepal was reviewed for the first time under the UPR mechanism and the draft report was released last week.

The UPR has provided Nepal with the opportunity to discuss its human rights objectives and challenges with other member states of the United Nations. The latter made recommendations regarding various aspects of human rights promotion and protection in Nepal, including with regard to eliminating caste-based discrimination, tackling gender-based violence, ensuring accountability for human rights violations, and strengthening national human rights institutions.

"OHCHR is encouraged that the Government of Nepal has voluntarily expressed its commitments to continue its holistic and comprehensive approach to the promotion and protection of human rights and to put in practice a rights-based approach to development of all sectors," said Jyoti Sanghera, the Head of OHCHR-Nepal. "The Office commends the Government for its expressed commitment to engage the civil society and stakeholders in the promotion and protection of human rights."

"At the same time, my Office is concerned that the Government did not accept recommendations including with regard to the ratification of a few important international human rights instruments and those related to the investigations into allegations of extra-judicial killings in the Terai as set out in OHCHR's September 2010 public report," Jyoti Sanghera stated, adding "The Office will continue discussions on these recommendations as part of its efforts to strengthen human rights protection in Nepal."

"It is important that the Government and all relevant counterparts now build on the momentum of the UPR through the concrete implementation of the accepted recommendations and a detailed consideration of the other recommendations. OHCHR is ready to continue providing support in the process and hopes that government interlocutors will pursue a constructive dialogue with all human rights partners towards this goal."

The Draft report of the Working Group on the UPRs on Nepal, is available at:
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/PAGES/NPSession10.aspx>