

Nepal's human rights situation reviewed by the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva

24 March, 2011

Kathmandu - The United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights Ms. Kyung-wha Kang on Wednesday presented the report of the High Commissioner on the situation of human rights in Nepal at the 16th session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva. The report is an annual submission focusing on the key human rights developments and challenges over the previous year and setting out the activities of the OHCHR office in Nepal, including its' monitoring of the human rights situation and provision of technical assistance to state institutions and civil society.

This year's report highlights the consequences of the prolonged political stalemate on the peace process, including delays in finalising the new constitution and establishing the transitional justice mechanisms, crucial to addressing impunity. The lack of accountability for conflict-related and post-conflict human rights violations, and for widespread discriminatory practices on grounds of caste, gender and sexual orientation, remain a considerable concern.

During her presentation in Geneva the Deputy High Commissioner emphasised that OHCHR remains fully committed to supporting the Government, national human rights institutions, and civil society in meeting these challenges, including through implementation of the Universal Periodic Review recommendations. The report also includes a series of concrete recommendations towards improving the human rights situation in Nepal, including the establishment of an external oversight mechanism for the security forces, and the expeditious passage of the draft Bill for criminalising caste-based discrimination and untouchability in line with the highest international standards.

The Deputy High Commissioner also highlighted advances made during the previous 12 months in the country. In her statement she welcomed "progress achieved by the Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers in the implementation of the National Plan of Action against Gender-based Violence" and she added that OHCHR "also commends Nepal for being the first country in South Asia to finalise the National Plan of Action on Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820."

The report will be available at: <http://nepal.ohchr.org/en/reports.html>

OHCHR will distribute a printed version, in English and Nepali languages, next week.