KATHMANDU: Richard Bennett, representative of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Nepal (OHCHR-Nepal) met Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal today to bid farewell before departing at the end of his assignment.

Bennett noted the link between the peace process and human rights. He appreciated the PM’s initiative to combat gender violence and receptiveness towards the Durban Review Conference Follow-up Committee representing marginalised communities including women, Dalits, Madhesis, people with disabilities and sexual and religious minorities. “The way in which most marginalised groups in a given society are treated is a measure of that society,” he said in a press statement.

He also voiced concerns about lack of progress on issues of accountability and impunity. He encouraged efforts to move forward on cases involving both the UCPN-Maoist party and the State and the need to set up transitional justice mechanisms in accordance with international standards.