



NEPAL

**Statement by Ms. Sewa Lamsal Adhikari, Minister Plenipotentiary and Deputy Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations at the General Debate of the First Committee at the 70th session of the United Nations General Assembly
New York, 16 October 2015**

(Please check against delivery)

Mr. Chairman,

First of all allow me to congratulate you on your election as Chair of the First Committee of the 70th Session of the UN General Assembly and, through you, the other Members in the Bureau for their respective elections. Let me also commend the role of outgoing Bureau for their contribution in the last session. I assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation in the discharge of your important responsibilities.

My delegation associates itself with the statement delivered in this regard by the distinguished representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. Chairman,

This year, we are celebrating the 70th year of founding of the United Nations, the organization established to maintain peace and security in the world. This year is also the 70th year of the use of atom bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The devastating effect of the use of atom bomb reminds us to redouble our efforts with collective political will for the complete and total disarmament. While we are commemorating these anniversaries, this may be an opportune moment for us to ponder in retrospect to see whether multilateralism has lived up to our expectations to maintain the principles and purposes of the UN.

Last month, our leaders has adopted the ambitious '2030 Sustainable Development Agenda,' at a time when the world is witnessing increasing trend of military expenses, which is estimated to be more than \$ 1.7 trillion a year. This amount of money if we could have spent on the development activities, the bottom billions people on the earth could have lived better lives. Time has come to invest the resources and efforts with strong commitments for the socio-economic development and cut the military expenditure if we are to address the root cause of conflicts and poverty and leave no one behind as we collectively envisioned in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

International peace, security, disarmament and non-proliferation have always been at the top of our foreign policy. As a country with unwavering commitment to the United Nations Charter, Nepal consistently stands for nuclear disarmament and strictly adheres to the principles of non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and reaffirms its steadfast support to a time-bound, general and complete disarmament of all weapons of mass destruction, including the nuclear weapons.

As a party to the NPT and CWC and as a signatory of BWC and CTBT, Nepal is concerned about the very existence of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction and their potential use or threat of use. Nepal believes that negative security assurances by all nuclear weapon states to the non-nuclear weapon states through a legally binding instrument will be an important step in achieving nuclear disarmament. We must focus our attention towards permanent ban on nuclear weapon testing and reject the policy of nuclear deterrence.

To this end, there is an urgent need to start negotiations on legally binding document granting security assurances by the nuclear powers to non-nuclear weapon states. Nepal regrets the failure of 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of NPT to reach a consensus on the final outcome document.

Nepal fully supports the effective implementation of the Program of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons. Nepal also hopes that coming into effect of the Arms Trade Treaty will certainly ensure international regulatory mechanisms in the trade of conventional arms as the legally binding instrument with greater transparency and accountability. The international community should work collectively to strengthen oversight mechanisms on small and light weapons to prevent their pervasive abuses by criminal elements.

Nepal attaches high importance to the multilateral negotiations in disarmament and non-proliferation with a view to promoting collective ownership, effective deliberations and responsibility for collective global action. Nepal stands for an early conclusion of the Fissile Materials Cut-Off Treaty (FMCT). For this, the Conference on Disarmament must be revitalized as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum under its mandate without any delay.

Mr. Chairman,

Terrorism has become a continued threat to maintaining international peace and security with multifold problems. There is an urgent need to address this problem collectively with a holistic approach as the foundation of durable peace can only be erected on the strong pillars of the economic and social justice. My delegation reaffirms its unreserved condemnation of terrorism anywhere in all its forms and manifestations and calls for an early conclusion of the negotiations on a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.

We recognize the legitimate rights of every sovereign state to pursue development of nuclear technology solely for peaceful purposes under the effective international supervision and support nuclear weapons free zones. Nepal reiterates her voice for the prevention of arms race in the outer space and underlines the importance of keeping it free of weapons for the benefit of humanity.

Nepal supports the establishment of nuclear-weapons-free-zones in the various regions as critical steps forward to give disarmament a genuine meaning and welcomes any efforts towards establishing weapons of mass destruction-free-zones in the Middle East. Nepal welcomes the adoption of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action on Iran's nuclear program in July this year.

Nepal has actively participated at the Conferences on Humanitarian Consequences of nuclear weapons in Oslo, Nayarit and Vienna and fully supports the initiative of holding conferences on humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons. We hope that it will lead our common efforts to the complete prohibition of nuclear weapons and the eventual removal of the deadly weapons from the planet.

Nepal is a host to different UN and other regional entities, including, the UN-RCPD. Nepal is of the view that regional mechanisms are of great help to integrate national perspectives into the regional dynamics for the collective prosperity in the region through the constructive engagement. We expect that the UN-RCPD, which was the only UN Office to be temporarily relocated by the Secretariat to Bangkok after the massive earthquakes of Nepal earlier this year, to resume its office in Kathmandu at the soonest.

Nepal will soon table a resolution on 'United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific' at the current session of the Committee and commends for the continued support received from all the delegations for the adoption of the resolution by consensus as in the past years.

To conclude, **Mr. Chairman**, we hope that the work of the First Committee this year, will continue to devote its time and energy to broaden understanding, create consensus and build confidence among the Member States with a view to making a safe, stable and peaceful world.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.