



नेपाल NEPAL

**Statement by Ms. Sewa Lamsal Adhikari, Charge´ d´ Affaires, a.i., Permanent Mission of Nepal to the United Nations, at the General Debate in 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
30 April 2015, New York**

Madam President,

First of all, allow me, on behalf of the people and the Government of Nepal to express our profound gratitude for the support, sympathy and solidarity from our friendly countries, and donor agencies including the UN for the tragic earthquake that struck Nepal on 25 April 2015. The epicentre of 7.8 magnitude earthquake was closer to the Kathmandu valley. However, the whole country experienced strong tremors and numerous aftershocks. Around forty districts out of seventy-five, have been hard hit and the number of affected population is estimated at eight million.

It is still very difficult to assess the full damage and destruction caused by the earthquake to life, property and other infrastructures. Until now, more than 5000 people already dead and over 11000 wounded, which is still increasing. Innumerable houses have collapsed, roads damaged and public property devastated. The iconic heritage sites of the Kathmandu valley, historic monuments, including those on the world heritage list, suffered an irreparable loss.

At this stage, we have focused on search, rescue and relief operations on an emergency basis, with a focus to those remote villages which are isolated and out of the transportation and communication network. This tragic event has negatively affected to our past development achievements including the MDGs, pushed our people back to poverty trap again and aggravated development challenges further to resilience, reconstruction and rebuilding.

Once again I sincerely thank you all for your support, solidarity and synergetic efforts at this time of immense grief.

Madam President,

Let me join the previous speakers in congratulating you on your election to preside over this important 2015 NPT Review Conference. I am confident that your able leadership will guide this Conference towards fruitful conclusion. I pledge my delegation's fullest cooperation in this regard.

My delegation associates itself with the statement made by the Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-aligned Movement.

Madam President,

The 2015 Review Conference is an important event in our collective efforts to achieve the objectives of the treaty, particularly at a time when we are celebrating the 70th anniversary of the founding of the United Nation as well as the 45th Anniversary of the NPT entry into force. Therefore, this Conference is an opportunity for Member-States to reinforce our commitment to NPT provisions.

History has witnessed many conferences and commitments to the non-proliferation and disarmament of the Nuclear weapons since NPT came into force in 1970. In 2010 Review Conference, Member-States agreed upon to an action plan on nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation, and peaceful uses of nuclear energy, among others. However, the world has experienced both horizontal and vertical proliferation of nuclear weapons.

The NPT regime is based on three interlinked pillars- disarmament, non-proliferation and development of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. As they are an integral whole, we cannot afford selective approach to the interrelated principles that underpin the very soul of the NPT regime. In this context, an effective implementation of the 13 Practical Steps adopted as part of the final document of the 2000 NPT Review Conference is crucial to realize the disarmament obligations of the Treaty.

Madam President,

Nepal believes in a time-bound general and complete disarmament of all - biological, chemical, nuclear, and radiological weapons of mass destruction for sustained peace. It is obvious that any detonation of nuclear arsenal comes with catastrophic and long-term consequences to the life of people and the planet. Therefore, continued existence of the stockpile of nuclear warheads and the system of their delivery as well as attempts at continued proliferation remain highly questionable, particularly at a time when the world is confronting numerous challenges like poverty, unemployment, climate change and other unprecedented natural disasters such as earthquake, tsunami to name a few.

The challenge posed by nuclear weapons is the most serious one due to its disproportionate burden on the poorest and most vulnerable countries such as LDCs that have limited resources, capacity and technological strength to confront it effectively. The unprecedented amount of natural disasters that are taking place across the globe, including the recent massive earthquake in Nepal, need our collective effort to envisage for a future without nuclear weapons as well as increase our preparedness for nuclear disaster response, pending the complete elimination of nuclear weapons.

Nepal calls upon the Nuclear-Weapons States to fully comply with their obligations to the total elimination of their nuclear weapons without delay. My delegation firmly underlines that the provision of unequivocal negative security assurances by all Nuclear Weapon States to the Non-nuclear Weapon States through a legally binding instrument is a must. Furthermore, the international community must reject the policy of nuclear deterrence and place a permanent ban on nuclear weapon testing. Similarly, the conclusion of a fissile material cut-off treaty with an international monitoring mechanism would be another crucial step in our effort towards nuclear disarmament.

Nepal believes that peaceful uses of nuclear technology with the IAEA safeguards and verification would benefit entire humanity and effectively contribute to our common endeavor to achieve Sustainable Development Goals. Equally important for us would be an active and effective technical cooperation program that facilitates the scientific use of nuclear technology for industry, health and agriculture and other useful purposes. This should be given due priority in our deliberations and final outcome of the conference.

Madam President,

The establishment of nuclear-weapon-free-zones in all regions is building blocks of the complete disarmament at global level. My delegation believes that the implementation of the resolution on the Middle East adopted at the 1995 Conference would be crucial to promote peace and stability in the region. Nepal strongly opposes the weaponization of outer space and reaffirms that outer space should be used for the betterment of the global community.

In conclusion, Madam President, let me reaffirm Nepal's profound and unflinching commitment to disarmament and non-proliferation. My country is ready to work constructively with all the Member States in realizing the goal of a nuclear free world. This is feasible and this is what we should aim at collectively.

I thank you