



# NEPAL

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**Statement by Mr. Ghana Shyam Lamsal, Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Nepal to the United Nations, at the General Debate of the First Committee of the 71st session of the United Nations General Assembly**

**10 October 2016, New York**

**Mr. Chairman,**

First of all, allow me to congratulate you on your election as Chair of the First Committee of the 71st 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 made by the distinguished representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

**Mr. Chairman,**

This year is marked by two important developments in the larger interest of humanity. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted last year, has determined to foster peaceful and just societies, free from fear and violence. Only last week, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change has been set in motion to be effective from early next month. This genuinely paves the way for the international community to take collective action against climate change as irreversible threat to human societies.

Effective and sincere execution of these agendas would require a large amount of resources. Commitments towards it, however, remain far below the expectation. On the contrary, we are witnessing an increasing trend of military expenses, which is estimated at more than 1.7 trillion per annum. We should focus our efforts to divert resources from military expenditure towards the much-needed areas like

achieving the SDGs set by our leaders for our own cause. We believe funding judicious development greatly helps prevent conflicts, which breed mostly in poverty and exclusion.

**Mr. Chairman,**

As a peace-loving country, Nepal has been playing an active role in the maintenance of international peace and security. Our engagements in disarmament initiatives, peacekeeping operations, and strong anti-terrorism stand, among others, have remained firm. Nepal's foreign policy, as enshrined in the Constitution promulgated last year embraces the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, non-alignment, the Panchsheel, international law and the norms of world peace.

In recent years, we have witnessed unprecedented increase of armed conflict, violence against civilians, and extreme forms of crimes. To address the challenges so posed, we must work collectively, by mustering our strategies and strengths and redoubling our efforts. Nepal stands ready to join hand with fellow member countries in this regard.

Nepal always supports to a time bound, general and complete disarmament of all weapons of mass destruction. Nepal always supports the inalienable rights of states to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) is a corner stone of nuclear disarmament. We believe that 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 NPT to reach consensus on the final outcome document.

As a party to the NPT and CWC and signatory to CTBT, Nepal is concerned about the threat to humanity posed by the continued existence of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction and of their possible use or threat of use. Due to its catastrophic consequences, existence of even a single nuclear weapon poses a serious threat to the humanity. Nepal believes that negative security assurances by all nuclear weapon states to the non-nuclear weapon states through a legally

binding instrument will be important step towards achieving nuclear disarmament. Nepal supports any steps towards permanent ban on nuclear test and rejects the policy of nuclear deterrence.

Nepal is in the process of ratifying the Biological Weapons Conventions (BWC). We view that establishment of nuclear-weapons-free-zones in the various regions would eventually contribute in total and complete disarmament, while welcoming the efforts towards establishing weapons of mass destruction-free-zones in the Middle East.

**Mr. Chairman,**

We are aware of the worldwide humanitarian and developmental impacts caused by the proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons. For the utter havoc they wreck on people, we should root out the menace of such weapons. In this context, 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 welcomes the adoption of the outcome document of the Sixth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action (POA) to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (BMS6) held in New York, in June this year.

Nepal also believes that coming in force of the Arms Trade Treaty will ensure international regulatory control in the trade of conventional arms as the legally binding instrument for transparency and accountability. At the same time, we should have in place measures to enhance the capacity of the states to implement the international instruments they are party to.

Weaponization in outer space is dangerous not only for environment but for humankind. So, Nepal is always against the arms race in the outer space.

Nepal attaches high importance to the multilateral negotiations in disarmament and non-proliferation with a view to promoting collective ownership, deliberations and responsibility for collective global action. An early conclusion of the Fissile Materials Cut-Off Treaty (FMCT) would be an important step towards that. We call for the revival of the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum as per its mandate.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Nepal believes that the UN regional mechanisms for peace and development can contribute significantly to the global disarmament efforts. Building of understanding and confidence among the countries in the region can make important contribution for global peace and stability. As the host to the UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (UNRCPD) Nepal sees great potentials of this Centre.

After temporary relocation to Bangkok in the aftermath of the earthquakes in 2015 in Nepal, we are expecting the UNRCPD's early resumption of its work from Kathmandu. We are encouraged by the views of support to this process expressed by the countries in the region. The Government of Nepal has extended all necessary assistance to the Centre's operation from Kathmandu and worked together with UN Office for Disarmament Affairs as well as the Centre towards revitalising the Kathmandu Process for disarmament.

As in the previous years, Nepal will be tabling a resolution on 'United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific' at the current session of the Committee. We would appreciate the continued support from all the delegations for adoption of the resolution by consensus and also call on all traditional and potential co-sponsors to co-sponsor the draft resolution.

To conclude, Mr Chairman, we are confident that the discussions here would contribute to strengthening disarmament discourse with a view to establishing a stable, safer and secure world. Please rest assured, in this context, of the fullest cooperation of the delegation of Nepal.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.