



NEPAL

Statement by H.E. Mr. Durga Prasad Bhattarai, Ambassador / Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations at the 2017 substantive session of the United Nations Disarmament Commission.

New York, 4 April 2017

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Madam Chair,

First, I wish to add my voice to extend Nepal's heartfelt condolences to and express solidarity with the Russian Federation in the face of the recent explosions in a metro station in St. Petersburg. Our heart goes to the victims of the barbaric act and their loved ones at this tragic moment. Nepal condemns terrorism in all its form and manifestation anywhere in the world.

At the outset, I would like to begin by congratulating you *Ms. Gabriela Martinic of Argentina* on your election to preside over the third phase of the triennial cycle of the United Nations Disarmament Commission and wish you all success in your efforts to steer the Commission in its new substantive session. I commend the excellent and dedicated stewardship of Senegal and Vanuatu in the first and second phases of the triennial cycle respectively. I also congratulate the Bureau members as well as the Chairs of the Working Groups on their respective elections. My delegation is fully aware of the challenging task that you have assumed, and expresses its readiness to work closely with you in order to achieve a fruitful outcome at the end of this triennial cycle.

I also thank Mr. Kim Won-soo, High Representative of the Secretary General for Disarmament Affairs for sharing with us his assessment on contemporary issues of disarmament.

Nepal aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Madam Chair

Apart from conventional challenges, the international community is confronted with ever evolving and increasingly complex security challenges like terrorism, violent extremism, epidemics, environmental disasters and cyber threats which permeate the international borders. The increasing amount of worldwide military expenditures, escalations of armed conflicts in different regions, rising terrorism/violent extremism and the States' actions to counter, contain and eliminate them suggest a reversal of the two decades of post-cold war peace and consequent challenges in ensuring national security especially for smaller and weaker countries. Therefore, the UN disarmament institutions should strengthen themselves, reinforce each other's activities and work in a complementary and synchronized fashion to achieve the objective of international peace and security as envisioned by the UN Charter. The United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC) with its universal membership has particular responsibility to that end.

Despite having a commendable history of forging consensus on contentious issues of disarmament as well as that of codifying principles, guidelines and recommendations to achieve universal disarmament, we have to acknowledge that the UN Disarmament Commission has failed to deliver any substantive recommendation since 1999. However, the world community should not forget that the fate of the humanity relies on the wise decisions we make to achieve universal peace and security by rising to the challenges beyond the confines of the traditional concept of national security. The international community should have the requisite political commitment to enhancing trust and confidence so as to ensure mutual and collective security for each other. We should also be determined to address the current impasse of the Disarmament Commission collectively, effectively and in a timely manner by demonstrating our genuine political will and exercising our flexibility to the utmost.

Madam Chair,

Nepal reaffirms its principled position that it is only the time-bound, general and complete disarmament of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction that can ensure universal peace and security. Nepal continues to emphasize that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only guarantee against the use, or threat of

use of nuclear weapons. Abhorring the humanitarian and environmental consequences of the deliberate or accidental detonations of nuclear arsenals, we also believe that the use, or threat of use of nuclear weapons is against the principles of UN Charter, and international humanitarian and human rights laws. As the sole specialized and deliberative forum within the United Nations disarmament architecture, the UNDC should also reinforce the ongoing negotiations to formulate a legally-binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination.

As a party to NPT and a signatory of CTBT, Nepal emphasizes that the States possessing nuclear weapons should respect the importance of principles of transparency, irreversibility and verifiability of the nuclear weapons for their total elimination. Nepal believes that, as a core component of the global disarmament and nonproliferation architecture, the credibility of NPT lies in the effective implementation of its mutually reinforcing pillars. We also support the inalienable right of all States to the peaceful use of nuclear energy as per the framework set by this treaty.

Madam Chair,

Nepal believes that confidence building measures (CBMs) rooted in political commitments have the potential for creating conducive environment for general and complete disarmament. Apart from general exchange of information related to military capability, States should strictly adopt the reporting obligations, the compliance mechanisms and verification regimes established by different multilateral instruments like CWC, BWC, NPT and CTBT, among others. However, the major goal of such CBMs should be the realization of universally recognized principles, particularly those contained in the Charter of the United Nations. My delegation believes that the only reenergized and consensus-oriented UNDC can strengthen the call of Secretary General António Guterres' "*a surge in diplomacy for peace*", by enhancing States' capacity to prevent conflict through different CBMs.

Nepal also believes that women, youth, civil society, academia and the private sector have important roles to play in spreading awareness and educating the masses to urge their respective governments to use CBMs related to disarmaments.

My delegation, therefore, requests all Member States to fully utilize potentials of CBMs in all regions of the world in general and among countries with competing and conflicting military aspirations in particular.

As the host to the Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and Pacific (UN-RCPD), Nepal reaffirms that regional approach to disarmament complements the global approach, and therefore, should be synchronized with global approach to enhance the international peace and security. Nepal is also convinced that such regional mechanisms can play greater roles in promoting nuclear nonproliferation, general disarmament and CBMs at the regional and sub-regional levels to realize a peaceful world devoid of conflicts and misunderstanding among States. Therefore, such regional Centres should be further strengthened, well resourced and developed as repositories of best practices for disseminating disarmament related information. In this regard, Nepal is committed to continue contributing to proactive measures in promoting disarmament activities and encouraging CBMs at regional and sub-regional levels, through education as well as by providing track II forums for that purpose.

Madam Chair,

In conclusion, my delegation wishes to reiterate the central role of the UNDC in promoting the collective ownership and global responsibility of all States in the task of ensuring a peaceful world through non-proliferation, disarmament and CBMs. We must muster the political will and courage to commit ourselves to engage constructively with each other with shared objectives of ensuring global peace and security, realizing better future for humanity and strengthening collective security. As a staunch supporter of multilateral process in disarmament affairs, Nepal urges to divert the resources spent in armaments towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals for ensuring a decent living for all humanity.

We hope that the positive momentum generated by the first and second phases of the triennial cycle will be further consolidated in the current phase by forging consensus on the substantive recommendations to eliminate nuclear weapons and promote CBMs for general and complete disarmament.

I thank you, Madam Chair.