



PERMANENT MISSION OF
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Statement by Amrit Bahadur Rai, Minister Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of Nepal to the UN at the General Debate of the First Committee during the 64th Session of the UN General Assembly
New York, 7 October 2009

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, let me congratulate you and other members for election to the bureau of the Committee. We are confident that you and your team will steer the business of the Committee smoothly and effectively towards fruitful bearings.

I sincerely appreciate Mr. Sergio Duarte, High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, for his comprehensive presentation.

My delegation associates itself with the statement made by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-aligned Movement.

Mr. Chairman,

Ever growing military expenditure evidently reminds us that disarmament is still bundled with rhetoric. It is clear that there is a need of strong and shared political commitment and determination to divert the resources from dreadful armaments to prosperous development.

Today the world is doomed to the vicious cycle of arms race and security threat. But this cycle could be broken by creating the atmosphere of common understanding and heightened level of confidence amongst us through the bilateral, regional and multilateral mechanisms.

As a party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), Nepal always attaches great importance on non-proliferation and complete disarmament of nuclear weapons. We believe in the inalienable right of the state to develop research, production and the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination and in conformity with the provisions of the NPT. This must be put under the safeguards and verification mechanisms of International Atomic Energy Agency.

We need to redouble our effort to make the 2010 NPT Review Conference more fruitful.

We would like to reaffirm our conviction on the importance of resuming multilateral negotiation on disarmament and welcome the adoption of General Assembly Resolution 63/50 on Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation at its 63rd Session. The Conference on Disarmament (CD) as the sole multilateral negotiating body on disarmament should start negotiations for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons with a specified framework of time. It should also endeavor to conclude the negotiations on Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT). Adoption of the Program of Work for the 2009 by the CD on 29 May 2009 is a welcoming gesture towards the revival of multilateral negotiating body.

Mr. Chairman,

Nepal strongly opposes placing of any armaments in outer space by any country. It should be protected for peaceful purposes and for the benefit of the common interest of all humankind.

We are very much concerned with the alarming rate of proliferation of conventional weapons, especially of small arms and light weapons and their reckless use in internal conflicts and terrorist activities. These weapons have a wide range of humanitarian and socio-economic consequences and pose a serious threat to peace, security, stability and sustainable development at national and international level. There is need of effective implementation of United Nations Program of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects adopted in 2001.

We believe that early convening of the Fourth Special Session of the General Assembly on Disarmament (SSOD IV) would take the discussions on entire arrays of disarmament into a new height and would create the ambience of confidence for starting true multilateralism on disarmament negotiation.

We believe that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones by the various treaties helps boosting confidence and stability in the region and we welcome the entry into force of the Treaty on the nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asian on 21 March 2009, as well as the entry into force of the African nuclear-weapon-free zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba) on 15 July 2009.

Mr. Chairman,

As a host country of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific, Nepal strongly supports regional initiatives and arrangements that complement to the broader goals of disarmament and non-proliferation at global level.

The Regional Centre has become fully operational from Kathmandu since its relocation last year. We appreciate its organizing of various regional conferences even in its transitional phase of relocation. As the Centre is the nodal UN institution for building confidence among the member states in the region, it has to be strengthened with commensurate financial and human resources to discharge its responsibilities effectively. In this line, I would like to urge the member states to generously contribute to the programs of the Centre.

We will introduce a resolution updating on the activities and developments related to the Regional Centre during this session of the Committee as we did in the previous years.

Mr. Chairman,

Our past commitments must be realized into our behavior. Lofty goals on disarmament and non-proliferation remain misleading unless we honor our commitments and implement treaties and other international arrangements which are agreed upon among us.

My delegation takes note of the commitment between President Obama and President Medvedev for achieving nuclear free world through fulfilling obligations under Article VI of the NPT including renewing the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty. We also welcome the Security Council resolution 1887 on nuclear-nonproliferation and disarmament adopted by the summit of the Council on 24 September.

True strength of negotiations hinges on optimum utilization of United Nations mechanisms such as Conference on Disarmament and the UN Disarmament Commission. We have to trust on our multilateral mechanisms and reinvigorate these mechanisms for accelerating multilateral negotiations for disarmament and non-proliferation.

My delegation sincerely urges the international community to launch meaningful multilateral deliberations with renewed commitment for non-proliferation and disarmament.

I thank you.