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**Statement by H.E. Mr. Gyan Chandra Acharya, Ambassador/Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations at the General Debate of the First Committee during 65th Session of the UN General Assembly
New York, 7 October 2010**

Mr. Chairman,

I congratulate you and other members on election to the Bureau of the Committee. We are confident that the business of the Committee will be brought to a successful conclusion under your able leadership. My delegation associates itself with the statement made by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-aligned Movement.

The United Nations has come a long way since the adoption of a resolution to deal with atomic power in 1946. It took the horror of the nuclear devastation and several decades of efforts to agree on non proliferation. We have gone through a cycle of limited progress on specific disarmament issues and continuous development of ever more destructive arms and armaments. We had moments of great hope when we banned one whole class of weapons, yet we have not been able to seize the opportunity to realize our common goal of complete and general disarmament. Today, spending on weapons worldwide has crossed well above US \$1 trillion a year with unabated rise. It is important for us to have a greater reflection on the overall landscape of disarmament.

Over a billion people live in poverty and hunger. Still, our precious yet scarce resources are consistently being diverted towards the procurement, research and development of ever sophisticated weapons system. This runs contrary to our moral standing. It is not enhancing our common security. The secretary general in his annual report on the work of the organization has aptly remarked that we are over armed and underfed. This is a clear case of mismatch of our priorities and concerns. This needs to be corrected.

Mr. Chairman,

The year 2010 has witnessed some positive developments on disarmament within and outside the United Nations. The 4th Biannual Review meeting of the 2001 Program of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons, First Preparatory Committee Meeting for the Arms Trade Treaty and the 2010 NPT Review Conference have succeeded in bringing member states together towards building trust and understanding in some important areas. The signing earlier this year of a New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty by the Russian Federation and the United States has renewed our hope for further progress on disarmament.

The adoption of a forward-looking action plan by the 2010 NPT Review Conference covering nuclear disarmament, nuclear nonproliferation, and nuclear energy, and the Middle East has been a welcome development on which future progress could be consolidated. It is our hope that 2012 Conference on later will bring all concerned parties together for consensus and positively contribute towards realizing the goal of a nuclear weapons free world.

Mr. Chairman,

Nepal believes in general and complete disarmament of all weapons of mass destruction including biological, chemical, nuclear, radiological weapons in a time bound manner. Weapons by themselves have never ensured a complete security to anyone. Nuclear weapons because of their unlimited and indiscriminate power have posed a grave security threat and also have triggered a destabilising arms race around the world. As a party to NPT and CWC, Nepal strongly supports the elimination of nuclear weapons to resolve the issue of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation once and for all. In this context, we appreciate the Secretary-General for making disarmament as one of his priority issues and his continued advocacy for disarmament including through a Five-Point Action Plan for a nuclear-weapon-free world.

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. We support the adoption of a legally binding instrument to regulate international arms transfer for transparency and accountability. Nepal stands for prevention of arms race in the outer space and encourages an early conclusion of a Fissile Materials Cut-Off Treaty (FMCT). For this, the Conference on Disarmament must be revived as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum as per its mandate. In this context, we commend the

Secretary General for having convened the high-level meeting last month with the objective of revitalizing the Conference on Disarmament.

We are convinced that the convening of the Fourth Special Session of the General Assembly on Disarmament (SSOD-IV) would ensure a high priority to the issues of disarmament through multilateral negotiations and focus our efforts towards that direction.

In today's interconnected world, challenges to security are multiple, complex and often interrelated. The non-state actors, mostly terrorist outfits, have emerged as a threat to all. Terrorists nurture and pursue senseless violence and destruction. Securing nuclear security as well as preventing the terrorists from acquiring the weapons of mass destruction thus becomes an important challenge for the international community.

As the host to the UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific, Nepal believes that regional mechanisms can contribute as building blocks to global disarmament efforts. Regional understanding and confidence among the countries in the region is vitally important for global peace and stability. It is our hope that the UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (RCPD), relocated to Kathmandu in 2008, will be able to respond to the needs of Member States in the region and intensify its activities in collaboration with Member States and other stakeholders in the region.

As in the previous years, Nepal will table a resolution on "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific" at the current Session of the Committee.

Mr. Chairman,

Faith in multilateralism has to be resurrected and strengthened in the field of disarmament, non-proliferation and international peace and security. This will certainly inject the requisite dynamism and effectiveness in the process. This Committee, being a true multilateral and inclusive deliberative forum, has an important responsibility to guide the course of disarmament, non-proliferation and international peace and security. My delegation is confident that this Committee will continue to devote its time and energy to broaden understanding, create consensus and build confidence amongst Member States with a view to making the world a safe, stable, peaceful and prosperous place for all to live in.

I thank you.