



नेपाल NEPAL

**Statement by Mr. Deepak Dhital, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nepal at the
General Debate of the First Committee during the 68th Session of the General Assembly, New
York, 11 October 2012**

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Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you on your election as chairman of the First Committee of the 68th Session of the UN General Assembly. I extend my congratulations to other members of the Bureau as well. I assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation in the discharge of your responsibilities.

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

Mr. Chairman,

Nepal believes that disarmament bears crucial importance not only in the maintenance of global peace and security, but also in unlocking valuable resources for much-needed social and economic development, attainment of the internationally agreed development goals including the Millennium Development Goals and framing of an inclusive post-2015 sustainable development agenda, which provide real freedom and prosperity to all peoples of the world. Disarmament is a moral issue for the cause of humanity.

Nepal has constantly stood for general and complete disarmament of all weapons of mass destruction (WMD) including nuclear, radiological, biological and chemical weapons in a time-bound and credible manner. The inhuman and morally hazardous aspects of the weapons of mass destruction should guide the world community to come out with a strong commitment to non-proliferation of these dangerous weapons and their subsequent elimination within a specified period of time.

It is obvious that any detonation of nuclear arsenal comes with catastrophic and long-term consequences in the life of human beings and the environment, so continued existence of the stockpile of nuclear warheads and the system of their delivery as well as attempts at continued proliferation remain highly questionable. As a party to Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, Nepal strongly believes in the complete elimination of nuclear weapons to attain a credible regime of

nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation for sustained peace. We stand for early conclusion of Fissile Materials Cut-off Treaty and prevention of arms race in the outer space.

While upholding the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, Nepal emphasizes on strong and infallible measures for nuclear safety and security, and specific assurances for non-use or threat of use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapons states.

We appreciate the continuing progress in establishment of nuclear weapons-free zones in various parts of the world, and to that end welcome the efforts directed to establishing a zone free from nuclear weapons and all weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. We welcome any initiative to peace and disarmament from any quarters of the world – at the national, bilateral, regional and global levels.

The Chemical Weapons Convention, which provides non-discriminatory, comprehensive and verifiable prohibition of all categories of chemical weapons, has proved an important instrument towards eliminating weapons of mass destruction. It is heartening that the CWC has set a precedence of reaching near universalization in its scope and operation. Nepal urges for elimination of all stockpiles of chemical weapons as early as possible from all parts of the world.

Nepal believes that promotion of multilateralism, wider confidence-building measures and pursuit of collective security constitute essential prerequisites for achieving the ultimate goals of peace and disarmament. The Conference on Disarmament (CD), which is the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, is in need of revitalization for advancing the multilateral disarmament negotiations for more concrete actions and results in its mandated areas.

Mr. Chairman,

International regulatory control in the trade of conventional arms through a legally binding instrument is a felt need of our time. The Arms Trade Treaty adopted by the General Assembly in April this year is a landmark achievement in this direction. While it is necessary to control the illicit diversion of arms into the hands of non-state actors, every state has the legitimate right to acquire conventional arms for self-defence purposes.

The proliferation of illicit trade in small arms and light weapons has taken the lives of millions and become a source for sustaining conflicts and exacerbating armed violence in troubled areas of the world. It has also helped sustain organized crimes, money laundering and terrorism. More political will and commitment should come at all levels to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects.

Mr. Chairman,

Nepal is hosting the United Nations Regional Center for Peace and Disarmament (UNRCPD) with the conviction that regional mechanisms like this play an important and complementary role in promoting global agenda for peace and disarmament. We believe that the 'Kathmandu Process' needs to be revitalized to spread relevant education and awareness as well as facilitate dialogues and deliberations for fostering understanding, cooperation and confidence-building for the promotion of peace and disarmament in the region.

Nepal is tabling a resolution on 'United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific' at the current session of the Committee like in the previous years. We appreciate the continued support from all the delegations for adoption of the resolution.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, we believe that multilateral approach is best suited for the advancement of disarmament and non-proliferation that eventually helps in the promotion of peace and security on a sustained basis. The First Committee is an inclusive multilateral forum poised to play an immensely important role in steering the course of deliberations to broaden understanding, create consensus and build confidence among Member States for the greater cause of peace, security and disarmament, which is of paramount importance to the world.

Thank you for your kind attention !