



नेपाल NEPAL

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**Statement by His Excellency Mr. Arjun Bahadur Thapa, Foreign Secretary of the
Government of Nepal at the High Level Meeting of the General Assembly on
Nuclear Disarmament**

New York, 26 September 2013

Mr. President,

**Mr. Secretary-General,
Distinguished Delegates,**

It is my honour and privilege to address this important meeting and reinforce our conviction for nuclear disarmament today.

My delegation associates itself with the statement made by the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

Mr. President,

Nepal appreciates Secretary-General Mr. Ban Ki-moon for highlighting how the world is over-armed and peace under-funded, and what can be done about it.

Nepal aspires of peaceful and prosperous societies both at home and around the world. Emerging out of conflict and seeking to end poverty soon, Nepal, where over 20 percent people still live below \$1.25 a day, is deeply concerned by the widening gap between the world's proportional spending for development and weaponization.

It is disheartening to note that in 2012, global military spending crossed \$1.75 trillion, (an average of \$249 per person), nearly two-thirds of which was spent by NATO members alone, right in the face of global financial crisis. While all stockpiles are yet to be known, it is expected that about 20,000 nuclear weapons still remain and the possessor States have long-term programmes to modernize their warheads.

The same year, net aid disbursements from developed to developing countries totaled \$126 billion, a four per cent drop in real terms from 2011, and bilateral ODA to these countries totaled about \$26 billion, a drop by 13 per cent.

It presents a moral hazard than just a disappointment for a world of 21st century pursuing MDGs as the basic minimum development for human dignity. Investment of even a small fraction of weapons expenses would help much in the LDCs to meet MDGs. It is time that the world firmly moves away from mutually assured destruction to mutually assured prosperity.

As a peace loving country and as host to the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament (RCPD) for Asia and the Pacific, Nepal believes that strengthening of regional mechanisms in building common understanding and confidence among stakeholders assumes paramount importance to this end.

Mr. President,

To be more specific,

- Nepal believes in a time-bound general and complete disarmament of all - biological, chemical, nuclear, radiological - weapons of mass destruction. Nepal calls upon the Nuclear-Weapons States to fully comply with their obligations to the total elimination of their nuclear weapons without delay, so that non-nuclear weapons are assured by Nuclear Weapons States against the use of nuclear weapons,
- Until the total elimination of nuclear weapons, the nuclear-weapon States should refrain from any threat or use of nuclear weapons against any non-nuclear-weapon States under any circumstances and all our nuclear disarmament efforts must also converge towards non-proliferation of other weapons of mass destruction.
- Nepal supports nuclear weapons free zones, believes in keeping the outer space free from such weapons, and stresses for meaningful dialogues among all states possessing nuclear weapons to reduce nuclear risks, including the grave risks posed by terrorists gaining access to weapons of mass destruction.
- Nepal, being herself most vulnerable to different disasters including earthquake, underscores the need to review the current nuclear reactors and their installations and adopt appropriate safety measures to ensure nuclear safety is not compromised by natural disasters.
- While reaffirming complete nuclear disarmament, Nepal supports the inalienable and legitimate right of all parties to the Non Proliferation Treaty for peaceful production, and use of nuclear energy adhering to the legal obligations for an effective supervision and verification of the IAEA.
- Pending the entry into force of Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), all nuclear state-parties to the NPT should declare unilateral moratorium on nuclear tests and the production of fissile material.

Our organization was created to save our planet from the scourges of war. Let us look at the facts where we stand and we realize how disappointing our journey has been. Nonetheless, we have resolved to find ways out to making the world a better, safer and prosperous place to live in. Nepal is ready to play its part to that end and calls upon the world to rise to the occasion and do away with the menace of nuclear weaponry before it is too late.

I thank you.