



नेपाल NEPAL

Statement by Ambassador Durga Prasad Bhattarai, Permanent
Representative of Nepal to the United Nations, at the 2016 Substantive
Session of the UN Disarmament Commission

(New York, Tuesday 05 April 2016)

Please check against delivery

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation compliments you on your unanimous election as chair of the Commission for this year and pledges its full cooperation to you and your team to make this session a success.

I appreciate the untiring efforts of Ambassador of Senegal as the Commission's chair last year. I also thank the Acting High Representative for Disarmament Affairs for his presentation before the Commission.

I align my statement to that of Indonesia made on behalf of NAM, and wish to highlight certain points from my national perspective.

Mr. Chairman,

This commission commands an unquestionable authority and importance as the UN's main deliberative body on disarmament matters. Its universal membership avails the international community a unique platform to discuss all pertinent aspects of global disarmament issues and adopt concrete recommendations to the General Assembly. However, the Commission has failed to deliver any tangible outcome for the last 16 years. Its successive failures in finding common grounds for a way forward all these years have only added to our utter frustration and a sense of wasted time.

Mr. Chairman,

With an unflinching commitment to the United Nations Charter, Nepal subscribes to the idea of time-bound general and complete disarmament of nuclear and all other weapons of mass destruction. As a party to NPT and CWC and as a signatory of BWC and CTBT, Nepal reaffirms its principled position that total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only guarantee against use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

Nepal believes that there is an urgent need to start negotiations for a legally binding document granting security assurances by the nuclear powers to non-nuclear weapon states. Nepal further believes that those negotiations should aim at strengthening international peace and security, at implementing measures to end the arms race, and at realizing the ultimate goal of the elimination of the nuclear weapons. Nepal regrets that these lofty goals fell victim to the failure of 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) to reach consensus on the final outcome document.

Mr. Chairman,

Nepal supports the establishment of nuclear-weapons-free-zones in various regions of the world and welcomes any efforts of establishing weapons of mass destruction-free-zones in the Middle East. We believe establishing nuclear weapons-free zones constitute important steps towards global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, and towards securing negative security assurances.

It is a matter of concern that illicit trade of small arms and light weapons continues to threaten peace and security in many countries. Nepal notes with particular concern that the production, transfer and trading of conventional weapons, including small arms and light weapons, also witnessed a rising trend over the years. While every nation has the legitimate rights to acquire small arms and light weapons (SALW) for defence, Nepal strongly supports the non-proliferation of these weapons, and the measures to prevent and control their illicit trade.

Mr. Chairman,

Nepal believes that unilateral, bilateral and regional commitments constitute building blocs and enabling steps towards disarmament at the global level. The governments, civil society, academia and private sector have all important roles to play in creating a society willing to be free from armament. It is with this conviction that Kathmandu hosts the Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (UN-RCPD).

Nepal is committed to strengthening the regional Centre to make it into an effective UN outpost dedicated to the promotion of peace and disarmament at the regional level. Nepal calls on all sides to help enable this Centre play a greater role in more countries of the Asia-Pacific, and with an increased contribution and participation of more countries in the region and outside. In this connection, Nepal welcomes the encouraging sentiments among the Asia Pacific states for the important work and potentials of this Centre.

The RCPD was the only UN office in Kathmandu to have temporarily relocated outside Nepal after the earthquake last year, and the Government of Nepal expects the Centre to resume its work from Kathmandu at the earliest.

Mr. Chairman,

Before I conclude, allow me to point out that the current impasse in the multilateral disarmament machinery is not due to procedural reasons but due to the lack of political will. We must, therefore, demonstrate the collective political will and strength for the UNDC to break its deadlock and become an all-important entity in the UN disarmament architecture again.

In conclusion, unless and until we move ahead to deliver results on the ground by ensuring full and effective implementation of all commitments with resolute political will and commensurate visionary steps, achieving complete disarmament will be as elusive as ever. My delegation looks forward to working closely with all in the days ahead and hopes that we will be able to achieve significant progress in this cycle.

Thank you.