STATEMENT

BY

HIS EXCELLENCY MR. MADHU RAMAN ACHARYA
AMBASSADOR/PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE KINGDOM OF NEPAL TO THE UNITED NATIONS

AT THE FIRST COMMITTEE
OF THE 60TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NEW YORK, 4 OCTOBER 2005
Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to express my warm congratulations on your election to preside over the works of the Committee. May I also extend congratulations to the members of the Bureau for their well deserved elections.

I also express appreciation to Mr. Nobuyasu Abe, Under-Secretary General of Disarmament Affairs for his comprehensive statement.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation fully associates with the statement made on behalf of the Non-aligned Movement, which reflects its commitment for global disarmament, peace and security.

Nepal has always believed that the international community must work together for peaceful coexistence, collective security and disarmament as they constitute the fundamental pillars of international peace and stability. These objectives can only be achieved if we make a genuine progress in disarmament and eliminate weapons of mass destruction from the face of the earth.

Nepal has consistently maintained that all weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear, chemical, biological, and radiological weapons should be eliminated, in a time bound manner. We are firmly convinced that unless we realize this goal, the aspiration of humanity to live in a world of peace and security will remain a distant dream.

However, at the High Level Plenary Meeting, we could not agree to incorporate the issues of disarmament and non-proliferation in the final outcome document.

It is also disappointing that the 2005 NPT Review Conference could not make headway on non-proliferation, including attaining the objective of universality of the Convention.

Notwithstanding these apparent setbacks, we should pick up the pieces and work together to attain the cherished goals of comprehensive disarmament. This can be realized, through collective efforts, including bilateral, sub-regional, regional and multilateral efforts.

Nepal welcomes the establishment of nuclear weapons free zones in every part of the world. The expansion and consolidation of such zones will provide strong building blocks for confidence building to collective security, peace and disarmament. My delegation supports for the establishment of
nuclear weapons free zone in South-East Asia and the Middle East. We believe they will create conducive atmosphere for disarmament.

No less serious threat to international peace and security emanates from the illicit use and trafficking of small arms and light weapons, particularly the danger of acquiring of such weapons by criminals and international terrorist groups. My delegation, therefore, strongly calls upon for concrete collaborative measures to prevent such weapons falling in the hands of terrorists.

Mr. Chairman,

We firmly believe that regional centres for peace and disarmament can make important contribution to global disarmament campaign by way of confidence building, transparency and advocacy at regional and sub-regional levels.

As the host to the UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and Pacific Region, we would like to see the Centre play a more constructive and proactive role to move forward the 'Kathmandu Process' for peace and disarmament in the region. His Majesty's Government of Nepal is committed to relocating the Centre from the UN headquarters, from where it is presently carrying out its activities, to Kathmandu.

His Majesty's Government of Nepal has demonstrated flexibility and has shown its eagerness to sign the host country agreement by accommodating the concerns of the Secretariat. We strongly reiterate our desire to relocate the Centre to Kathmandu, and make it operational within the Sixtieth Session of the General Assembly and call upon the Secretariat to conclude the Agreement at the earliest.

Mr. Chairman,

At a time, when global disarmament negotiations are in jeopardy, we must strive to continue our efforts at every level and every front to rekindle the aspirations of humanity to get rid of the real danger of the menace of the deadly weapons.

In the daunting tasks of achieving the goals of peace, security and disarmament, we should work together collectively as we must work together in the fight against international terrorism.

Thank you.