Nepal

Statement by H. E. Madhu Raman Acharya, Ambassador/ Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations at the First Committee on Agenda item 90 (f) (document A/C.1/63/INF/1) United Nations Regional centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and Pacific

(24 October 2008)

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation has the honor to introduce a draft resolution under agenda item 90 (f) entitled “United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific” contained in document A/C.1/63/L.42.

The sponsors of draft resolution are Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Maldives, Micronesia (Federated States of) Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Vietnam and along with Nepal, the host country of the Centre. My delegation expresses sincere gratitude to all the sponsors and those delegations that will co-sponsor this resolution.

Mr. Chairman,

While global instruments on disarmament and non-proliferations are stagnant, Regional Centres could play a significant role to promoting confidence at regional and sub-regional level. My delegation sincerely believes that regional initiatives to establish the intensified dialogue and interaction process with all concerned stakeholders from both government and non-governmental level will serve as building blocks to the global disarmament agenda.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation welcomes the relocation of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific from New York to Kathmandu and its coming into operation from 18 August 2008. We wish to thank Secretary General and Office of High Representative for Disarmament Affairs for the smooth relocation of the Centre as per the mandate of the General Assembly and the host country agreement and memorandum of understanding signed between the Government of Nepal and the UN Secretariat last year. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of you, individually and collectively, for your support and cooperation in this process.

As the host country of the Regional Centre, Nepal is committed to lend its full support for its enhanced and constructive role in our region by consolidating the ‘Kathmandu Process’ so that it can contribute to peace and disarmament in the region by building renewed sense of confidence and understanding.
In this draft resolution, besides factual and technical updates, we have proposed preambular and operative paragraphs with a view to reflecting the context of the relocation of the Centre. In this regard, I would like to express my gratitude to those delegations who attended informal consultations that we had convened last week on this subject. The draft takes into account the valuable suggestions that some of you provided during the informal consultations. Among other things, we have taken into account the important suggestion of the Secretary General on the subject regarding the need to provide for core funding for the Centre's staffing and operations. The formulation regarding the regular budget has been agreed upon informal consultations so that we would have chance to consider some regular budget to the Regional Centre from the next biennium (2010-11) as it has been agreed informally in the case of Regional Centre in Lima. I am pleased that this draft finds a consensus among us and I am counting on your support for adopting this resolution by consensus.

Mr. Chairman.

The lofty goals of peace, disarmament, and non-proliferation will not be achieved without effective programmes in this area in the regional level. The Regional Centre's programmes are conducted from resources generated from voluntary contribution, which is by no means sufficient to sustain its activities in mandated areas. I would like take the opportunity to thank all the governments and donors that have provided resources and staff for conducting programs and activities of the Regional Centre. I would also like to take this opportunity urge the member States to generously contribute to its programmes so that the Centre could fulfill its objective effectively.

As in the previous years, I would like to request that the Committee adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.