Mr. Chair,

Nepal aligns itself with the statement delivered by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

Nepal is a staunch supporter of disarmament and non-proliferation of all weapons of mass destruction. Their existence poses existential threats to humanity. Therefore, Nepal reaffirms its principled position that the universal peace and security can only be ensured through the time-bound, general and complete disarmament of all weapons of mass destruction.

Nepal is free from all types of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery system. It neither produces, manufactures, possesses, imports or exports any weapon of mass destruction nor does it intend to do so.

The use of weapons of mass destruction by whomsoever at whatever circumstances against innocent people is unacceptable. It is a crime against humanity.

As a State party to Chemical Weapon Convention (CWC), Nepal has been careful in regulating the cross-border movement of chemical goods. The existing legal
mechanisms of Nepal have successfully administered the import and export of dual-use chemicals.

Nepal expresses its satisfaction over the effective operation and verification mechanism of the CWC as well as the promotion of the use of chemicals for peaceful purpose.

We also welcome the completion of the verified destruction of chemical weapons of the Russian Federation.

Mr. Chair,

Nepal ratified the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) in November 2016. We are committed to the national implementation of the BTWC in compliance with the provisions of the Convention.

There is an urgent need for a universal, non-discriminatory, and legally binding mechanism to tackle the issue of biological threats. Moreover, the lack of verification mechanism has hampered the effective implementation of the Convention. Nepal recognizes the importance of strengthening the Convention through multilateral negotiations for adopting a legally binding Protocol dealing with all Articles of the Convention, in a balanced and comprehensive manner.

In conformity with UN Security Council Resolution 1540, Nepal has made legal and policy reforms to support its full implementation. Last November, Nepal, in partnership with the Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific and the 1540 Committee, organized a High-Level Roundtable on the implementation of the Resolution. This event was a part of the "Kathmandu Process" - a process of dialogue to enhance openness, transparency and confidence building for promoting peace and disarmament in the Asia-Pacific region.

Nepal reaffirms the importance of such regional dialogues for fostering understanding, cooperation, and building confidence in the field of peace and disarmament in the region and beyond.
Mr. Chair,

Despite their unwavering commitment to disarmament and non-proliferation, many countries still lack adequate technical and financial resources as well as enforcement capability to comply with the provisions of different disarmament-related treaties and resolutions. Many others are unable to fulfill their periodic reporting obligations due to lack of capacity. Their capacity building to fully implement the treaties and conventions would greatly strengthen the international mechanisms against WMDs. This fact underscores the importance of international cooperation and support. Therefore, Nepal calls for the promotion of international cooperation for strengthening the institutional capacity of the countries to support disarmament and non-proliferation. International cooperation is also required, for example, as per the provisions of CWC and BTWC, to promote the peaceful use of dual-use materials for the benefit of the humanity.

Mr. Chair,

The Government of Nepal has designated the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as the coordinating Governmental agency for fulfilling Nepal's obligations under treaties and conventions on the critical issues of disarmament to which Nepal is a party. In 1997, Government constituted National Authority for Disarmament Affairs (NADA), with the Head of the International organization and International Law Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as its convenor. I have the personal honor of leading this Division since last two years.

Nepal is committed to implementing disarmament-related international treaties, conventions, and programs of action to which the country is a party.

In conclusion, Mr. Chair, I would like to reiterate Nepal's unflinching commitment to the general and complete disarmament to all weapons of mass destruction. I also reassure you of my delegation’s full cooperation for the successful steering of this Committee.

I thank you.