Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you and other members of the Bureau on your elections. I assure you of my delegation’s full support.

I align my statement with the one delivered by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. Chairman,

Nepal’s unwavering commitment to disarmament and international peace and security emanates from “the norms of world peace” enshrined in the Constitution of Nepal as a basis of our foreign policy.

We believe that only strengthened norms of world peace can ensure time-bound, general and complete disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, including the biological, chemical, nuclear and radiological weapons.

Nepal believes that the use or threat of use of weapons of mass destruction is against the principles of UN Charter and international humanitarian, human rights, and environmental laws.

Nuclear weapons, in particular, are the source of constant security dilemma, not useful deterrents. Therefore, they should not be the part of security doctrine of any state. Total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only guarantee against its use. Until such elimination, international
community should come up with legally binding assurances to non-nuclear-weapon-states. Moreover, the nuclear-weapons-possessing-States should respect the importance of principles of transparency, irreversibility, and verifiability of the nuclear weapons for their time-bound and total elimination.

We consider that early conclusion of the Fissile Materials Cut-Off Treaty will give a true meaning to the nuclear disarmament efforts.

Establishment and maintaining the sanctity of nuclear-weapons-free-zones in various regions can complement non-proliferation efforts.

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) is an encouraging achievement. Nepal supported during the adoption of the Treaty and subsequently signed it. We are initiating internal legal and constitutional process for the ratification of the Treaty. We call upon all UN Member States to sign and ratify the treaty to ensure its early entry into force.

Mr. Chairman,

While universalization of the Chemical Weapons Convention is a notable achievement, we must consistently work towards its universal adherence. We hope that the Fourth Review Conference of the Chemical Weapons Convention to be held next month will be an important opportunity to further strengthen the treaty regime and reinforce its compliance.

In the light of rapid biological and technological advancements, Nepal recognizes the importance of Biological and Toxin Weapon Convention. There is an urgent need for a universal, non-discriminatory, and legally binding institutional mechanism to comprehensively implement the treaty provisions and tackle the issue of biological threats.

Nepal welcomes the outcome of the Third Review Conference on the implementation of the Program of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons. Specific acknowledgment, in the outcome document, of the link between the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the implementation of the POA is a welcome step.
Mr. Chairman,

Technology has been a powerful agent of change and transformation. At the same time, human control over new and automated technology has become even more important for international peace and security. Weaponization of drones, 3-D printers, artificial intelligence, automated robots and cyberspace poses serious threat to humanity. Misuse of technological advancement is bound to raise serious ethical and moral questions. It calls for a sound regulatory framework at national and international level and the need for promoting responsible behaviour among States and Non-State actors.

Nepal believes that the outer space should be used for peaceful purposes only and it should be kept absolutely free of weapons and arms race. An atmosphere of trust and security must be preserved on outer space through transparency of activities and confidence building measures.

Nepal also believes that women, youth, civil society and the private sector have important roles to play in spreading awareness in support of disarmament.

Nepal recognizes the value of the regional disarmament process to complement the global efforts. UN Regional Centers for Peace and Disarmament can play important role in promoting nuclear non-proliferation, disarmament, and confidence building measure at the regional and sub-regional levels. Regional centres should also be encouraged to share good practices and lessons learned among themselves.

As in the previous years, Nepal will table a resolution on the ‘United Nations Regional Center for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific’ at the current session of the Committee. We would appreciate continued support from all the delegations for the adoption of the resolution by consensus. We also request all traditional co-sponsors and other delegations to kindly co-sponsor the draft resolution.
Similarly, Nepal also echoes the Secretary-General’s call to countries in the region and beyond to make voluntary contributions to the Centre to ensure the sustainability of its activities and operations as well as to enable it to fulfill the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, Nepal welcomes the Secretary General's Agenda for Disarmament with a hope that it will provide a renewed impetus to disarmament. We hope its implementation plan will integrate disarmament agenda into the priorities of the United Nations. We believe the Agenda will be able to reinvigorate dialogue and negotiations on international disarmament.

However, such a dialogue should not be a repetition of positions as in the past. It should rather be a genuine dialogue to pursue disarmament and non-proliferation, a dialogue to build confidence towards eliminating existential threat to humanity, a dialogue to build a safer and more secure world, a dialogue to prevent weaponization of new technology and outer space and a dialogue to leave a secure world for the posterity.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.