Thank you, Mr. Chair.

At the outset, I would like to thank Ms. Mary Soliman, [Chief of the Regional Disarmament Branch of the UNODA] for her briefing to the Committee yesterday. Nepal associates itself with the statement delivered by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Alignment Movement.

Nepal strongly believes that the regional and global approaches to disarmament and non-proliferation complement each other and should be pursued simultaneously to promote regional and international peace and security. With this conviction, Nepal has been strongly advocating for the important role of the regional disarmament in maintaining international peace and security.

As identified in the Secretary General’s agenda for disarmament, we must foster new cooperation and dialogue, especially at the regional level, to reduce military spending and build confidence.

My delegation also believes that women, youth and non-governmental agencies are important partners of regional disarmament mechanisms of the UN. They are the real change agent with a capacity to impress upon the government policymakers. Nepal encourages the Regional Centres to develop a meaningful partnership with them. The formal track of disarmament and non-proliferation should be
complemented by track two tools for developing innovative confidence building measures.

Nepal believes that disarmament education helps change the basic attitudes of people and policymakers with respect to peace and security. Therefore, the regional centers should be encouraged to disseminate information and develop educational modules for the different age group of people to enhance their awareness level. In this connection, with the support of the UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament for Asia and the Pacific (UNRCPD), the Government of Nepal has developed textbook content on peace and disarmament education for grade 8 to 10.

Three UN Regional Centres for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, Asia and Latin America should be further strengthened, well-resourced and developed as repositories of best practices of regional disarmament efforts. Similarly, the regional centres should also be encouraged to share good practices and lessons learned among themselves for emulating them in their respective geographical context.

Mr. Chair,

Since the late 1980s, Nepal, in partnership with UNRCPD, has been organizing regional meetings and dialogue under the “Kathmandu Process”. Nepal reaffirms the importance of such regional dialogues for fostering understanding, cooperation, and confidence building in the field of peace and disarmament in the region and beyond.

Nepal appreciates the UNRCPD for the supports provided to the member States of the region for their capacity-building and implementation of programs of actions related to disarmament and non-proliferation. My delegation encourages the Member States of the region to identify their areas of interest and need to work with the Centre for promoting disarmament and non-proliferation in the region.

We also acknowledge the contribution of the Centre towards achieving SDG 16 as well as in encouraging the participation of women and youth, including through universities and schools, in its disarmament and non-proliferation activities.
My delegation also commends the UNRCPD for organizing the youth-focused outreach activities to commemorate the tenth anniversary of its physical operation from Kathmandu.

Mr. Chair,

Nepal appreciates the Secretary General’s report A/73/126 which provides an overview of the activities undertaken by the UNRCPD during the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018.

Nepal also echoes his call to countries and non-governmental organizations in the region and beyond to make voluntary contributions to this Centre to ensure the sustainability of its activities and operations as mandated by the General Assembly.

As the host for the UNRCPD, Nepal has tabled a draft resolution on the UNRCPD contained in document L-38 for the consideration of the Committee. We are confident that, as in previous years, we will have the valuable support from all delegations for the adoption of this draft resolution by consensus.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.