Statement by Mr. Dilip Kumar Paudel, Under Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nepal, at the thematic Debate on UN Disarmament Machinery at the First Committee during the 73rd Session of the UNGA

31 October 2018

Thank you, Mr. Chairman for giving me the floor.
Nepal aligns itself with the statement delivered by Indonesia on behalf of Non-Aligned Movement.
I wish to begin by expressing Nepal's consistent commitment to completer and general disarmament. In this context, we believe that international disarmament machinery have important roles to play.
Nuclear weapons today have remained the biggest source of insecurity to the world community irrespective of who owns them. Since weapons can never be useful deterrents, their total elimination is the only guarantee against their use or threat of use.
Nepal also believes that a legally binding instrument requiring nuclear weapons states to provide negative security assurances to non-nuclear weapons states will be an important step towards achieving nuclear disarmament.
Until the weapons of mass destruction are not eliminated, the ideals of international peace and security enshrined in the UN charter are difficult to achieve.
Mr. Chairman,
We support the effective multilateralism and rule-based system for achieving complete and total disarmament and non-proliferation. With this belief, Nepal served as a vice chair for the 2018 substantive session of the UN Disarmament Commission. We also served as the vice chair for the third UN Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.
We also welcome the recent developments in the Conference on Disarmament regarding the establishment of subsidiary bodies. The consensus adoption of recommendations on the objectives and agenda of SSOD-IV an expression of the commitment of member states to continue multilateral disarmament deliberations. We look forward to the early convening of SSOD-IV.

Mr. Chairman,
We are convinced that the existing disarmament machinery and disarmament organs are well-intentioned and capable of making progress in the disarmament regime if utilized more regularly and effectively. The political commitment of member states, particularly that of member states with nuclear weapons, is even more important in this regard. The active engagement of all member states can facilitate effective and sustainable outcomes in all areas of policy discussion. We, therefore, recommend that all nations, irrespective of their capabilities, nuclear or other, be taken on board in the disarmament deliberations and negotiations. The least developed countries are not just silent observers. They also face the disproportionate and indiscriminate consequences or armament and arms proliferation. Therefore, they should be given equal opportunity in the international disarmament mechanisms.

Mr. Chairman
The UN Regional Centres for peace and disarmament could be of enormous significance for the regional disarmament discussions and building confidence at regional levels. This will ultimately contribute to broader disarmament deliberations and negotiations. Hence, as important contributors to the disarmament process, these centres should be further strengthened, well-resourced and developed to their fullest strength.
To conclude, Mr. Chairman, we must work together with utmost commitment within the existing UN disarmament machinery and organs to realize the ideals of international peace and security in this highly interdependent world.
I thank you.