



**Speeches  
of  
Heads of the Nepalese Delegation to the  
United Nations General Assembly  
1990-2009**



**Institute of Foreign Affairs (IFA)  
2010**

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## Preface

The Institute of Foreign Affairs is happy to publish this handbook, containing the Speeches of Heads of the Nepalese Delegation to the United Nations General Assembly, covering the periods from 1990 to 2009.

Indeed, the principles and purposes enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations capture the highest ideals of mankind. Maintenance of international peace and security and promoting socio-economic development are the two overriding concerns of the world body. Nepal has always looked upon the UN as the only global institution with a global reach to promote peace and development, understanding and cooperation among the member countries.

As can be seen, the addresses included in the handbook have underlined the undying faith of Nepal in the United Nations as an effective global organization for the promotion of universal values, such as democracy, human rights, peace, disarmament and development. A dominant theme that reverberates in almost all these addresses is Nepal's endeavor to pursue healthy democratic exercise at home and the pursuit of a mature, Pragmatic and transparent foreign policy, based on the lofty principles and purposes of the United Nations, ever since the reestablishment of multiparty democracy so as to enhance Nepal's dignity and international standing as a democratic and peace-loving country, while at the same time maintaining the sovereignty, integrity and independence of the country. Nepal's participation in the UN Peacekeeping Operations is another important aspect which has been amply highlighted in these addresses. It may be noted that Nepal has been consistently participating in these operations more than five decades, regardless of the loss of lives and limbs of many of its peace keepers

The problems being faced by Nepal; as one of the least developed and landlocked member countries and its paramount desire to seek increased international assistance and cooperation, bilateral and multilateral for her speedy socio-economic development have also been prominently placed on the focus. Reform and revitalization of the UN to render it more reflective of the changing time, needs and aspirations of its member countries with a view to making it capable of playing more pro-active role in combating, among others, the menace of terrorism and climate change, on the one hand and poverty and underdevelopment, on the other, have also been sufficiently stressed upon. Similarly, addresses of the post-Janaandolan-2 periods underscore, among others, Federal Democratic Republic Nepal's unflinching commitments to the

World Body, and express deep appreciation for its constructive engagement through the UNMIN in helping complete the ongoing peace process.

In sum, these addresses encapsulate the post-90 Nepal's views and perspectives, expectations and aspirations on the World Body, while also restating Nepal's abiding faith in the lofty ideals of the UN Charter, which constitute as one of the cornerstones of her foreign policy. It is hoped, therefore, that this hand book would serve as a small window to have a glimpse on Nepal's engagement with the UN for interested researchers, scholars and readers.

Finally, all the staff of the Institute of Foreign Affairs including Deputy Executive Director Ms. Anjan Shakya deserve appreciation for their valued cooperation in bringing this publication out.

**Tika Jung Thapa**

Executive Director  
IFA, Tripureswor  
Kathmandu, Nepal.

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Address By

**H.E. Mr. Jai Pratap Rana**

Permanent Representative of Nepal and Head of the Nepalese Delegation,  
45<sup>th</sup> Session of the UNGA, New York, 8<sup>th</sup> October 1990

Allow me at the outset to convey to you, Sir, my delegation's sincere felicitations on your unanimous election as President of the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly. Our satisfaction at your election is even greater as Nepal shares with the friendly Government and people of Malta a deep and abiding commitment to the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and to the policy of non-alignment. Your wide experience as a political leader and your knowledge of multilateral diplomacy will no doubt provide you with the particular sensitivity and skill to guide us through the complex issues on the agenda of the General Assembly. My delegation pledges its full cooperation to you.

Nepal welcomes the admission of the Principality of Liechtenstein as a Member of the Organization, an event that has moved us even closer to the goal of universal membership of the United Nations. We look forward to working in close cooperation with the delegation of this friendly country, which represents one of the most successful combinations of democracy, human rights and economic prosperity.

I should like to avail myself of this opportunity to express my delegation's appreciation to Mr. Joseph N. Garba of Nigeria for the admirable manner in which he guided the work of the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly.

The past 12 months have been a busy period for the United Nations. There is today a renewal of faith in the Organization as an irreplaceable instrument in promoting international peace and cooperation. Much of this welcome resurgence is the result of the diplomatic skill and efforts of the Secretary General, Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar. He deserves our gratitude and full support.

The year has been marked by events extraordinary in sweep and importance. Almost a half century ago the peoples of the United Nations through its Charter reaffirmed faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and

worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small. For the majority of the peoples around the world, this vision was little more than a dream. Symptoms of positive changes in international relations, accompanied by a new and legitimate assertion of peoples' rights, became evident beginning with the middle of the decade of the 1980s. That the momentum towards the vision of freedom and dignity outlined in the Charter would gather the strength of a massive tidal wave was beyond anyone's imagination only 12 months ago. This spontaneous wave has awakened people to assert their fundamental rights and freedom not only in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe but also in many parts of Asia and Africa, including my own country, Nepal. The movement for the restoration of multiparty democracy in Nepal, which started only days after the first breach in the Berlin Wall, has ushered in a new political era in our country. The interim Government, representing major political parties, is now engaged in the task of consolidating democracy. The Prime Minister himself would have liked to come and acquaint the Assembly with the recent political changes in the country. However, that was not possible at this stage owing to the consultations he is undertaking on the draft of a new Constitution that is soon to be promulgated. The new Constitution, reflecting the democratic aspirations of the Nepalese people, will institutionalize a constitutional monarchy and a multiparty system and adhere to the values of people's sovereignty and accountable government. The Constitution will also guarantee the inviolability of fundamental rights and freedom, in keeping with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, other covenants and the principle of the supremacy of law. General elections held on the basis of universal adult suffrage scheduled for the first of 1991 will strengthen political stability and freedom. The people of Nepal are proud to be part of the global movement towards democracy and freedom, the people of Nepal are grateful for the understanding and support they have received from people around the world. Having set ourselves the irreversible goal of democracy and pluralism, we now look forward to meaningful cooperation and assistance from friendly countries and multilateral institutions in the daunting task of economic and social development.

Nepal most heartily welcomes the creation of a more relaxed international climate, characterized by the big-Power détente. The most concrete symbol of revolutionary change in the political atmosphere is the reunification of Germany. I take this opportunity to extend the most cordial welcome to the delegation of the united Germany to this family of nations.

The euphoria over the end of the cold war and the hopes for a more stable and democratic world order have, however, been dampened by the present situation in the Persian Gulf region. The aggression against Kuwait, a sovereign and independent State and a Member of this Organization, is

a rude reminder that the agreement the two major Powers to settle their conflicts is a necessary but insufficient condition for the maintenance of international peace, security and stability. The aggression is an open violation of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations. It has also caused immense sufferings and dislocations to nationals of third countries, including Nepal, residing and working there. The aggression has evoked a swift and unprecedented response from the Security Council. The series of resolutions the Council has adopted demanding unconditional compliance with the rule of law in inter-State relations has ushered in a new phase in the application of the authority of the Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and security.

The five permanent members of the Security Council bear a special responsibility under the Charter for the maintenance of international peace. It is true that there are and will be many more influential actors in world affairs. This will require consultations, coordination and compromise. The renewed interest in the international organization and the willingness of the major powers to use the mechanism of the Charter have the potential of restoring to the collective security system its original design. Nepal, therefore, welcomes the emergence of the unique convergence of views among the permanent members of the Security Council over the grave situation in the Persian Gulf region. We earnestly hope that this unity of the United Nations will be the rule rather than an exception. My delegation also agrees with the view expressed by the Secretary General that agreement among the major powers must carry with it the support of the international community to counter any legitimate anxiety that world affairs may be run by a directorate.

As the international community prepares for a new millennium, we are witnessing a rapid crumbling of many comfortable assumptions of yesteryear. At the same time, it is heartening to note that schisms which characterized the post-Second-World-War era are also being rapidly bridged. These positive changes have enhanced the capacity of the United Nations to work for a peaceful settlement of various outstanding bilateral and regional conflicts.

The peaceful transition of Namibia to independence is an outstanding example of what this Organization could achieve, given the support and cooperation of its Members. The potentials of peacekeeping and peace-making operations of the United Nations have also been evident elsewhere, especially in Central America. We welcome the recent agreement between Iran and Iraq to settle their disputes in keeping with Security Council resolution 598 (1987). While the situation in Lebanon continues to be alarming, admirable services are being rendered by the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, to which Nepal is a contributor. Implementation of the Taif formula, fully supported by the United Nations, has held out promise of an end to the tragic fratricide in that country. The situation in the Middle East continues to be explosive

with the stalling of all efforts to promote a dialogue between the Israelis and the Palestinians. My delegation feels that the opportunity created by a new climate of international relations must be seized for a collective and concerted effort for the resolution of the conflict on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973). As in the case of the Middle East, the spirit of conciliation among the major powers offers hope for a settlement of the situation in Afghanistan. This spirit of conciliation has already raised the expectation that a solution of the problem of Cambodia with the active involvement of the United Nations may be within sight. Elsewhere in Asia, we welcome the unification of Yemen. My delegation is looking forward to the day, and we hope it is sooner rather than later, when the Korean people will be reunited through their own peaceful efforts. We have long respected their aspirations for reunification and welcome the continuing high-level negotiations between the two sides. Each side has been exercising all the attributes of sovereignty, and they will doubtless settle between them in the course of negotiations the question of membership of the United Nations. My delegation understands and will fully respect the wish of each side in the matter. In South Africa, the universally condemned system of apartheid is still in place. While we are encouraged by some recent developments, we believe that concerted efforts and pressure will have to be maintained to make the process irreversible and comprehensive with the establishment of a multiracial democratic society in South Africa. We share the disappointment of the Secretary General at the lack of progress towards an overall solution in Cyprus and continue to support the use of his good offices for the restoration of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-aligned character of Cyprus.

The growing consensus on the need to wage a concerted war against drugs and terrorism is indicative of the new climate in international relations, in which nations are willing to work together for the general well being of the people. The programme of action adopted at the seventeenth special session provides a useful framework for combating the scourge of drug abuse and trafficking, which threaten to tear the very fabric of civilized society apart.

Looking to the future, there are some imperatives which need to be taken into consideration by the Governments if we are to ensure peace and justice, human freedom and dignity. The United Nations provides an indispensable instrument for the coordination and harmonization of actions in these areas.

The first of these imperatives is that of arresting and reversing the arms race. Recognition by two of the world's most powerful States of the fact that the arms race has reached an absurd limit beyond all legitimate needs of national security has opened a new era of hope for disarmament.

Address By

**Hon. Ram Hari Joshi**

Minister for Education, Culture and Tourism of Nepal and Head of the Nepalese Delegation, 46<sup>th</sup> Session of the UNGA, New York, 25<sup>th</sup> September 1991

Allow me to congratulate Ambassador Shahabud of Saudi Arabia most warmly on his election to the presidency of the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session. I wish him every success in guiding our deliberations to a successful conclusion. May I also avail myself of this opportunity to express my delegation's appreciation to his predecessor, Foreign Minister Guido de Marco of Malta, for the excellent manner in which he presided over the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly. I should like also to pay a very warm tribute to the Secretary General, Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar. The United Nations has benefited greatly from his wisdom and dedication.

The founders envisaged this Organization as a peaceful and universal family of nations. It is a great pleasure, therefore, to welcome the new Members in our midst - the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Republic of Korea, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Latvia and the Republic of Lithuania. Their admission has moved us even closer to, the goal of universal membership of the United Nations.

The year under review has been marked by events extraordinary in sweep and importance. The vision of the Charter - a vision of a world of tolerance, of equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, a vision of social progress and better standards of life based on greater freedoms and the dignity and worth of the human person- is still far from becoming realized. But hopes have never been higher. A spontaneous wave of democracy, freedom and human rights is sweeping the world. A spirit of cooperation and mutual trust has replaced the atmosphere of confrontation that marred East-West relations for over forty years and rendered this Organization ineffective. During the past year the world community has made it abundantly clear that aggression will not be tolerated, will not succeed and will not pay. This commitment to collective action has brought about a renaissance of the

United Nations.

These important developments have given hopes to millions of people around the world. Nepal is proud to be a part of the global movement towards pluralistic political systems. A little over a year ago the people of Nepal joined hands in a mass movement for the restoration of multi-party democracy. This restoration of democracy has brought the King and the people of Nepal together in the process of nation-building. We are convinced that democracy, pluralism and human rights are indispensable for economic development. Our new Constitution has vested sovereignty in the people. Constitutional monarchy, a multi-party political system, an independent judiciary and a guarantee of all human rights are its hallmarks. The vigour and enthusiasm of the Nepalese people for the right to choose their government were amply demonstrated in the general elections held in May this year- the first free elections in Nepal in over three decades. Our new Government has started the process of consolidating the institutions of a liberal democratic society as outlined in the Constitution. The Government is committed to ensuring a decent standard of life for all citizens and to creating a society where all our people can exercise their rights and freedom to the fullest extent. To help us reach these goals, we look forward to greater understanding and cooperation from friendly countries and multilateral institutions. We place great value on our warm and cooperative relations with the countries in our immediate neighbourhood. With our neighbours in South Asia, we have joined in a cooperative venture under the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation to lay the groundwork of a grand vision of common benefit and an enduring relationship of sincerity and trust among all members. We cherish our friendship with all countries of the world and are prepared to cooperate to work for peace and security. Our commitment to human rights is enshrined in our Constitution, and we are determined to make human rights an important cornerstone of our foreign policy.

As the Secretary General has noted in his annual report on the work of the organization, the world situation presents a unique juxtaposition of promises and perils. Dramatic events in Europe are the expression of the will of the people. The people's revolution has led to the dismantling of the iron curtain. It has enabled the three Baltic republics to take their rightful place among nations of the world. We welcome the move towards an integrated approach towards the solution of European problems. A dynamic Europe is vital for democracy and economic development world-wide. Nothing would be more unfortunate than for a united Europe to drift towards becoming fortress Europe. Paradoxically, the winds of change have also raised the spectre of nationalistic and ethnic strife. If allowed to fester, it contains seeds of destabilization with

far-reaching implications. These flashpoints can be contained only through a scrupulous adherence to the norms of human rights and the rights of minorities. The solutions demand statesmanship of the highest order.

Opportunities created by a new climate of international relations must be seized to resolve the Middle East crisis on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973).

A solution to the problem of Cambodia now seems within our grasp. We welcome the efforts of the Cambodian parties to implement the plan drawn up by the five permanent members of the Security Council for a comprehensive political settlement. We strongly support the role of the United Nations in the process.

We sincerely hope that the admission of the two Koreas into the United Nations will facilitate reunification through the peaceful efforts of the Korean people.

We welcome the important developments towards the complete dismantling of apartheid in South Africa. We appeal for an end to violence in that country for violence can only jeopardize the goal of the eradication of apartheid. While supporting the determination of the majority population to bring lasting changes in South Africa through negotiations and peaceful means, we believe that the United Nations must continue to exert all possible efforts towards that end.

Without acknowledgement of the common interest in the survival of the human race, there can be no peaceful world. Without questioning the legitimate right to self-defence, we feel that the present obsession with military security is in fundamental contradiction of the avowed pursuit of a new international order based on law and justice. Therefore the international community must press ahead with disarmament on a world-wide scale. A series of crises have dramatically illustrated the importance of preventing the horizontal and vertical proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Disarmament has to include all categories of weapons: nuclear, conventional and chemical. The progress in negotiations between the Soviet Union and the United States gives us encouragement. Nepal welcomes the signing of the treaty on strategic arms reduction (START) and looks forward to a continuation of the process leading to deeper cuts in strategic arsenals. We welcome the decision of China and France to accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, a step which will greatly enhance the credibility of that vital cornerstone of nuclear disarmament. We reiterate our appeal for the early conclusion of a universal convention on the banning of chemical weapons.

Many of the hopes of peoples in developing countries focus on economic and social development. The world political situation today presents an opportunity to deal with the interrelated economic, financial, monetary and trade issues as parts of a wider political process. The continued deterioration in the economic situation of the majority of developing countries is in itself a threat to international peace and stability. It is detrimental to the consolidation of democracy and human rights. It has become imperative to act urgently in the spheres of debt, trade and commodities and human resources development. Continued difficulties in the international economic situation have hit the least developed countries the hardest. Unless urgent measures are taken, it will be difficult to reverse their growing marginalization in the world economy. They need financial assistance and debt relief, combined with comprehensive plans for structural change. In this context, Nepal looks forward to full and expeditious implementation of the Programme of Action adopted by the Second United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries.

Environment has become a major issue on the global agenda. The challenge is to find ways and means to enable developing countries to participate effectively in international environmental cooperation without sacrificing their development imperatives. It is clear that the hugely varied problems of our environment can be tackled only if the world acts together. The 1992 Rio Conference presents a unique opportunity to rise above empty generalities and to adopt environmentally sound development strategies based on the transfer of adequate resources and technologies.

It could take years to understand fully the implications of the changes we have been witnessing in recent years. At a time when the pace of events is outstripping our capacity to adjust, there is a consensus that the principles of the Charter should govern the history-in-making, thereby ensuring smooth transition to a stable and democratic world order. The unanimity in the Security Council in the face of the crisis in the Persian Gulf is a matter of extraordinary consequence for the future. It has upheld the principle of unconditional compliance with the rule of law. It also marked the beginning of a new phase in the application of the authority of the Council in the maintenance of international peace and security.

While we welcome the convergence of views among the five permanent members of the Security Council on a number of regional issues of grave importance, we wish to underline the critical importance of ensuring that such agreement is legitimized by wider support from the international community.

In the light of the volatility of the present situation, the appeal of the Secretary General that a renewed emphasis be placed on preventive diplomacy is most

timely. The successful United Nations operations in Namibia and Nicaragua, the ongoing missions in Angola and Central America, the United Nations plan for a referendum in Western Sahara, the planned operation in Cambodia and the prospects in Afghanistan have added new dimensions to the possibilities of the world organization.

The fundamental importance of the peace-keeping operations has long been established, but an even more important aspect of United Nations involvement in peacemaking is rapidly emerging. Nepal remains a firm supporter of both in the peace-keeping and the peacemaking activities of the United Nations. We believe that those must be based on a clear mandate and on the principles of cost-effectiveness, flexibility and efficiency. A sound financial basis is as important as the cooperation of the parties concerned. This requires a renewed commitment of all members to live up to their responsibility in carrying out a duly authorized peace-keeping and/or peacemaking operation.

As the vision of the Charter does not limit itself to the solution of political problems, the United Nations must play a role in the creation of a world where each individual has a right to a decent life. This involves a role in the search for global solutions to persistent widespread poverty, in the protection and preservation of the environment, in the fight against the scourge of terrorism and drug trafficking, and in the protection of human rights.

In the last analysis, the welfare of an individual human being is the ultimate reason for our common efforts to realize the ideals of the Charter. It is for the full realization of the rights and fundamental freedoms of each individual human being that we are engaged in the search for a democratic international order. The end of the ideological divide has created a unique opportunity to make human rights the fulcrum around which our Commitment should evolve.

To turn the tide in matters like these - matters of peace and survival in decency - is a major undertaking even for a regenerated United Nations. But we cannot fail to take advantage of the sweeping changes that are making possible a renaissance of the ideas enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

Address By

**Hon. Mahesh Acharya**

Minister of State for Finance of Nepal and Head of the Nepalese Delegation,  
47<sup>th</sup> session of the UNGA, New York, 28<sup>th</sup> september 1992

I have the pleasure to extend to Mr. Ganev the warm congratulations of the delegation of Nepal on his unanimous election to the presidency of the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly. We are happy to have an eminent person like him, with wide experience and skill, to guide our deliberations at this particularly important stage in the history of the United Nations. I take this opportunity to express the great appreciation of my delegation to Mr. Samir Shihabi, who presided over the forty-sixth session with great distinction.

I should also like to pay a tribute to our Secretary General, Mr. Boutros Boutros Ghali, for his dedication to the ideals of the United Nations. His statesmanship and wise leadership are crucial in our collective efforts towards realizing the vision of the Charter.

The pace of change in the world has presented humanity both with promises and with challenges. The events of the last few years have underlined the universal applicability of the Charter of the United Nations. Its validity as a universal guide has withstood the test of time and flux. Confidence in the organization as the central agency for upholding the rule of law and as a forum for harmonizing the actions of nations has never been greater. We have seen a united international community, acting on the precepts of the Charter, overcome an act of aggression. After decades of paralysis, the Security Council is functioning as envisaged in the Charter. Efforts to revitalize the role of the United Nations in the economic and social fields have gained momentum. This unparalleled resurgence of faith in the United Nations is best symbolized in the admission of 20 new Members in a single year. We are closer than ever before to the cherished goal of universal membership.

A period of rapid changes is also a period of uncertainties. The old global order has passed but the new order is still very fluid. At this threshold of a new era in international life, we have a broad framework for a better future in the Charter of this organization. The challenge before the United Nations

is to harness the new mood and dynamism in international life and bring them to bear on the global problems facing mankind. It is the challenge to seize the opportunity to end war, to protect the dignity, and worth of the individual, to ensure freedom and the rule of law and to promote economic development. In an interdependent world, the United Nations is indispensable for international cooperation.

The task is by no means simple. In one single year, there have been upheavals of epic proportion: the break-up of political entities of long standing and brutal ethnic and religious wars. Narrow nationalism is threatening the norms of a stable international order. The cost in terms of human suffering has been appalling. The horrors of Somalia and of Bosnia and Herzegovina force us to ask if we, the peoples of the United Nations, are really determined to combine our strength to maintain international peace and security. The persistence of widespread poverty and destitution forces us to ask if we are indeed resolved to employ international machinery for the economic and social advancement of all peoples.

The historic summit-level meeting of the Security Council in January this year was an important landmark in the search for answers to these and other questions. That meeting launched a serious search for new ideas and provided an impetus to meet new situations in the world. As the Secretary General has pointed out, the tumultuous events of the last few years have already driven home several lessons: the need for democratization at the national level with a corresponding process at the global level; the defence of human rights, including minority rights and the right to development; the need for new ways to prevent internal and inter-State confrontations, including the increasing use of regional arrangements; and universal acceptance of the rule of law transcending changing perceptions of expediency.

These observations form the core of the Secretary General's report, "An Agenda for Peace". Several of the Secretary General's recommendations can and should be implemented immediately. These relate to the more effective use of the traditional forms of peace-keeping, the safety of peace-keeping personnel, and the finances involved. His recommendation for greater resort to fact-finding missions is equally pertinent. Some other recommendations raise fundamental issues related to the perception of an international organization, its role vis-a-vis State sovereignty, and the role of the Secretary General himself. My delegation looks forward to a full-scale discussion of this important document during the present session.

It is obvious that there is today a greater need for the United Nations to address itself more seriously to the great divide between the rich and poor

nations. This, along with the universalisation of a human rights regime, is a fundamental issue of the new era.

As a least developed country, Nepal accepts the principal responsibility for its economic and social development. Our development policies are directed towards creating a basic infrastructure for development. Human resources development is a priority with us. We consider it extremely important to improve the living conditions of our people, to raise the level of literacy, improve basic health and nutrition, and reduce the rate of infant mortality. We are committed to these goals because we believe that it is the human being and not the State which has the ultimate right to development. We fully share the view that these goals can be attained only in a society that is committed to the inalienable right of its people to elect their own leaders in free and honest exercise of their will. We have already put in place the foundations necessary to achieve these objectives. Principal among them are the constitutional guarantee of political pluralism, the rule of law, the independence of the judiciary, and safeguards for human rights. We now have the legal framework to enable people locally to take primary responsibility for their own development. With the basic political and legal grounds in place, I wish to reiterate our appeal for measures to reach the targets set out in the programme of action adopted by the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries. While expressing deep gratitude for the generous assistance we have been receiving from donor countries and multilateral agencies, we look forward to increase cooperation to complement our own efforts to meet the needs of the poorest of our poor.

It is now universally recognized that, if development is to be possible, the life-sustaining ecological systems must be preserved, and that development alone can make it possible to safeguard the environment. It is imperative to improve the living conditions of the poor in developing countries so that they are not forced to destroy the ecological basis of their children's future to meet the immediate challenges of sheer survival. The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in June this year was the most potent expression of global interdependence. The Conference has established that developing countries need to mobilize their own resources for sustainable development. It obliges developing countries to take global environmental consequences into consideration in their development planning. It has also established the right of developing countries to development. It has underscored the need for the transfer of additional resources and technology from industrialized countries to enable developing countries to fulfill their responsibility to safeguard the environment for present and future generations. Equally important the Conference has established that developed countries need to reduce the great burden they impose on the environment.

The Rio Declaration and Agenda 21 place people at the centre of concern. Agenda 21, with its far-reaching implications, can be the centerpiece of a mutually beneficial international cooperation. Nepal sincerely hopes that the philosophical commitment of Rio will be followed through and strengthened. We hope that establishing a high-level commission on sustainable development will receive the utmost priority it deserves during this session of the General Assembly.

While speaking of international cooperation in economic and social fields, I appreciate the ongoing efforts to enable the Economic and Social Council to play the role envisioned in the Charter. Political justice will mean little if the health and happiness of people, especially those in developing countries, are ignored. Indeed, global economic and social development alone can constitute the lasting foundation of international peace and security. We welcome the serious and out-of-the-ordinary approach of the 1992 session of the Council as the first tangible move towards restructuring set in motion by General Assembly resolution 45/264. The holding of the first high-level segment of a regular session of the Council was a promising beginning. Also important was the examination of operational activities including the workings of organs and agencies of the United Nations family in economic and social fields. The times call for an integrated approach to economic and social issues in the field as well as at headquarters. They demand that we avoid inter-agency competition, duplication and waste of limited resources by improving coordination among agencies, including the Bretton Woods institutions. My delegation has noted with appreciation the Secretary General's determination to pursue restructuring of the Secretariat to meet these larger goals.

One of the most satisfying reforms undertaken during the last year has been in the area of coordinating humanitarian assistance. My delegation welcomes the establishment of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs and expresses its warm appreciation to Under-Secretary General Ambassador Jan Eliasson for his good leadership. We have already seen several examples of effective balance between principles and operational guidelines, improved coordination and governance. The situations in Somalia and the former Yugoslavia present unique tests of international commitment in this area. Indeed, it might not be too far-fetched to visualize the operation of effective humanitarian emergency assistance and the equally important roles of follow-up rehabilitation and development phases as new arms of the United Nations in preventive diplomacy and peacemaking.

Address By

## **Rt. Hon. Girija Prasad Koirala**

Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal and Head of the Nepalese Delegation, 48<sup>th</sup> Session of the UNGA, New York, 13<sup>th</sup> October 1993

I have the honour to convey to the General Assembly greetings from the people and Government of Nepal and the best wishes of His Majesty King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev for the success of its forty-eighth session.

As I stand before members today, my thoughts go back to 1960, when the first elected Prime Minister of Nepal, the late B.P. Koirala, addressed the Assembly and declared that the foreign policy of Nepal was inspired by the purposes and principles of the United Nations. He said then that Nepal looked upon the Organization as an instrument for promoting peace and justice among nations.

The late Prime Minister's visit to the United Nations was an event of historic significance for Nepal. A revolutionary transformation had then taken place in my country. As a result, a conscious and coherent foreign policy, with centrality given to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, had started to take shape.

Similar revolutionary changes again took place in my country in 1990, after a gap of more than three decades. In accordance with the wishes of our people, multiparty democracy has been restored in Nepal. Now there is a constitutional guarantee of human rights and fundamental freedoms. As the second elected Prime Minister to address this body, after 33 years, I must say that this moment has a deep personal overtone for me.

Restoration of multiparty democracy and respect for fundamental human rights does not necessarily mean that we have solved all our problems. The expectations of the people are naturally high, but the means at our disposal are extremely limited.

Faced with such problems, my Government has been making every effort to ensure a better standard of living for our people in larger freedom. Our

development plans are based on the premise that it is the individual citizen and not the State which has the right to development. Along with economic liberalization, we are pursuing a people-oriented development policy focused on poverty alleviation. To achieve our goals we have increased investments in human-priority areas. Given the enormous constraints upon us, ranging from lack of resources to the high cost of infrastructure, a shortage of skilled personnel and institutional deficiencies, our problems are daunting. We look forward to greater understanding from donor countries and multilateral agencies in helping us to implement our people-oriented development programmes, in upgrading local skills and in building the capacity to accelerate human development.

The foreign policy of Nepal is guided by the objective of ensuring its sovereignty, political independence and national security while promoting international peace and cooperation. Inspired by the purposes and principles of the United Nations, the policy of non-alignment, and respect for human rights, we seek friendship and cooperation with all countries of the world, and in particular with our neighbours. We have reason to be satisfied with the excellent relations we enjoy with the countries in our immediate neighbourhood. We are partners with our friends in South Asia in an effort to forge a mutually beneficial scheme of cooperation for the welfare of our people under the aegis of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.

With the sudden end of the cold war the world is at the threshold of a new era of shared responsibility for global peace and development. The post-cold-war world is very much in need of order, but it is a world that cannot be ordered by military and economic Powers alone. At this time of historic transition, political leadership in all countries must show a higher order of statesmanship. It is time to shed old prejudices and parochialism. We should be able to pool the best of every civilization and culture for the greater good of mankind.

Changes in international relations have also created opportunities to devise new partnership in global responsibility. The world today is poised to consider new approaches to international law based not on unilateralism but on multilateralism. The United Nations is an organization of the powerful and the weak, the large and the small, the wealthy and the poor, each contributing its share to the common interest. It is in the interest of all to make the United Nations an effective and influential agent of constructive change in a turbulent world.

If the United Nations is to fulfil its Charter obligations it must deal with the root causes of conflicts and instability. The mechanisms and processes at its disposal for achieving that goal must be strengthened and refined. In

this context, there are four areas which demand immediate attention: first, international cooperation to combat poverty; secondly, strengthening of the role of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security; thirdly, progressive reduction and finally elimination of weapons of mass destruction and, fourthly, universalization of human rights.

Democracy and human rights are easily eroded when widespread poverty prevails. Poverty undermines human dignity, contributes to environmental degradation and undermines the cohesion of a society. It also poses a lasting threat to peace and stability. The search for collective security cannot, therefore, be separated from the sustained efforts to improve the economic and social conditions of peoples everywhere. Agenda 21, adopted at the Rio Conference on Environment and Development, is a comprehensive blueprint for sustainable development. To turn that vision into reality there is an urgent need for resumption of the North-South dialogue and for economic cooperation between developing nations.

In this context, I look forward to the Secretary General's agenda for development. We sincerely hope that an agenda for development will form the basis of accelerating international cooperation to the mutual benefit of developed and developing countries alike. The upcoming International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women should also be occasions to focus on the human dimensions of socio-economic problems.

In speaking of social and economic issues, I recall the initiative taken by countries of South Asia under the aegis of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation to work together for the cause of children. That initiative provided the major motivation for the holding of the World Summit for Children. The mid-decade review in 1995 must be an occasion to evaluate the implementation of the promises the international community made to children at the World Summit. Despite conflicting demands on our limited resources, we in Nepal are allocating an increasing portion of our national budget to child and maternal health and welfare and on other basic human-services areas. We are in favour of the proposal for matching resource allocations by donor countries for such national initiatives.

The dramatic increase in the demands on and heightened expectations of the United Nations is nowhere more compelling than in the area of peace and security. With experience spanning over 35 years in United Nations missions, Nepal welcomes the expansion in the mandates of peace-keeping operations. The recent successes of the missions in El Salvador and Cambodia are testimony to the potential of a United Nations operation with a clearly

defined and practicable mandate. The joint venture of the United Nations and the Organization of American States in Haiti is breaking newer ground in international cooperation to restore a democratically elected Government and to protect and promote human rights.

Without minimizing the enormity of the problems the United Nations has to take into account in Somalia, I feel that the emphasis on military action will overshadow the larger goal of the mission in that country. I urge the redoubling of efforts to seek lasting political solutions to the problems in Somalia.

I appeal to the parties concerned in Bosnia and Herzegovina to respond immediately to the successive resolutions of the Security Council and halt the senseless carnage of innocent people. The continuing tragedy in the territory of the former Yugoslavia presents a test-case for viable cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in the maintenance of peace and security.

Nepal will continue to support the further development of preventive diplomacy by the Secretary General and the Security Council. In the maintenance of peace and security, the implementation of enforcement measures under the Charter should be the step of last resort. It should be the exception to rather than the rule of the game. The real strength of collective security lies in the ability to implement the provisions of the Charter relating to peaceful settlement of disputes.

The grounds for the intervention of the Security Council have also raised questions of consistency. As the principal organ entrusted with the maintenance of international peace and security, the Council must act in an even-handed and impartial manner and must be perceived as doing so.

The recent comments of the Secretary General on the financial situation of the Organization should be a cause of concern to all. Investments in peace-keeping, peacemaking and preventive diplomacy are investments in collective stability. It is not possible for the United Nations to play its role without adequate resources.

Along with other non-aligned countries, Nepal has always subscribed to the call for a more active United Nations role in arms control and disarmament. Since mutual fear is the source of any arms race, confidence-building measures must be seriously pursued in order to achieve the goals of disarmament. Nations should pursue a culture of ensuring security at the lowest possible level of armaments. Successes in bilateral negotiations on nuclear weapons, conventional forces in Europe and chemical weapons prove that it is a feasible goal.

Nepal deems it extremely significant that all five nuclear-weapon States are now parties to the nuclear non-proliferation Treaty. We have long advocated an early conclusion of a comprehensive test-ban treaty. Meaningful progress in this area will have important implications for the review and extension Conference on the non-proliferation Treaty.

Protection of human rights has emerged as an important factor in the development of friendly relations among States. The United Nations must spare no effort in establishing an international norm of human rights. The World Conference on Human Rights was a major step in this direction. Human rights cannot be secure without a universal conscience on the part of all peoples to uphold each other's rights in full understanding of the just demands of the individual, the community, the State and the international order. Human rights cannot be secured unless there is an absolute freedom from fear from any source. There is a direct correlation between the status of human rights, the democratic process and an evolution of a culture of peaceful settlement of disputes. The threat to peace is the greatest when human rights are denied.

The world is at a vital turningpoint. The old order has come to an end while the new has yet to take shape. While some old contradictions persist and new ones appear, some unexpected bright areas have also dawned. Nepal welcomes the agreement reached by the negotiating parties in South Africa to hold an election in April 1994. We share the deep concern of the international community over the continued violence which threatens the peaceful transition of South Africa to a non-racial democratic society.

Nepal has long enjoyed friendship with both the Israeli and the Palestinian peoples. We welcome the Declaration of Principles as well as the exchange of letters of mutual recognition between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). The statesmanship shown by the leaders of Israel and the PLO promises a new beginning for the Middle East and, indeed, the world. We earnestly hope that this historic breakthrough will facilitate the search for a comprehensive and lasting solution of the Middle East problem.

As I come towards the end of my statement, I wish to extend to you, Sir, my hearty congratulations on your election to the high, office of President of the General Assembly at a time when the United Nations is passing through a very important phase in its history. I also take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to Mr. Stoyan Ganev for his stewardship of the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

I must also take this opportunity to pay our warmest tribute to the Secretary General, Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali. His efforts to reform and strengthen the United Nations with the courage of conviction have been universally appreciated. We are impressed by his vision and dynamism, which are necessary for the United Nations to cope with the new realities and challenges of our time. Mr. Boutros-Ghali was a well-known figure in my country even before he became the Secretary General of the United Nations. We consider him to be a sincere friend of Nepal.

Although small in military and economic strength, Nepal is fully alive to its responsibilities as a Member of this world Organization. Nepal will not hesitate to take an independent and objective stand in favour of larger good and justice. For us, the Charter of the United Nations captures the highest ideals of mankind. I take this opportunity to rededicate the commitment of the people and the Government of Nepal to the United Nations.

Address By

**H.E. Prof. Dr. Jaya Raj Acharya**

Permanent Representative of Nepal and Head of the Nepalese Delegation,  
49<sup>th</sup> Session of the UNGA, New York, 10<sup>th</sup> October 1994

It is a special pleasure for me to congratulate His Excellency Mr. Amara Essy, Foreign Minister of Côte d'Ivoire, on his unanimous election to the presidency of the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session. We are confident that under his able leadership the deliberations of this session will come to a fruitful conclusion. My delegation extends its full support to him in carrying out his important duties.

I should also like to express my delegation's appreciation to His Excellency Ambassador Samuel R. Insanally, the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Guyana to the United Nations, for successfully presiding over the General Assembly during its forty- eighth session. I also take this opportunity to express my admiration to the Secretary General, Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, for the dedication, commitment and insight with which he has been serving the United Nations.

Since the end of the cold war the world community has faced many developments, both encouraging and disturbing. As a Vice-Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid- now dissolved- Nepal feels particularly happy about the end of the apartheid regime in South Africa. As President Mandela said in his speech earlier in this session, it was one of the ironies of our age that it was only so late in the twentieth century that such a regime came to an end. The United Nations role in the establishment of a united democratic and non-racist South Africa has been gratifying to all of us. The end of apartheid represents progress on the part of mankind in its history of civilization. The statesmanship of President Mandela can be a source of inspiration for those who are in search of freedom, peace and justice elsewhere in the world.

Nepal also welcomes the progress in the Middle East peace process and looks forward to the establishment of comprehensive peace in the region. We hope that such achievements will inspire peoples in conflict with each other elsewhere to end their hostilities, and to start similar peace processes.

There are also disturbing areas of conflict. The Nepalese people are grieved at the enormous loss of life and the extensive material devastation in Rwanda. It is our hope that with the active support of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in conflict resolution, the United Nations peace-keeping efforts will facilitate the process of restoring normalcy and a peaceful civil society in Rwanda.

Nepal also appreciates the role played by the OAU in Burundi in terms of conflict prevention, management and resolution. We hope that the OAU mechanism will be applied effectively to other troubled parts of the region such as Somalia, Angola and Liberia, in order to restore normalcy.

Nepal is also deeply distressed by the tragedy which, despite the Security Council's resolutions, continues unabated in Bosnia and Herzegovina. We would like to urge all the parties concerned to seek peace through dialogue and negotiation rather than through violence. Nepal also looks forward to an early restoration of the democratically elected Government in Haiti, which alone can ensure full respect for human rights in that country.

We are meeting on the eve of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, which will be a time for us to reflect on the past five decades and plan for the next 50 years. Born as a result of the Second World War, the United Nations has over the past five decades ceaselessly deployed efforts to prevent a third world war. Disarmament, especially nuclear disarmament, has therefore been one of its major concerns. The United Nations also made constant efforts to bring peace to the Middle East and to put an end to apartheid in South Africa, and it remained engaged in many other areas of conflict. However, the last five decades, characterized by the cold war, almost paralysed the United Nations.

The East-West divide seriously hampered the United Nations efforts in most conflict situations. A number of important agreements were reached and many peace negotiations were held outside the United Nations. Nevertheless, those achievements were in conformity with the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations, and the United Nations provided an important global forum for discussion, which helped defuse major global catastrophes. Thus, in the ultimate analysis, the United Nations has undoubtedly made significant contributions to international relations. Moreover, the United Nations and its specialized agencies and other related bodies, such as the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Population Fund, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and many others, have been engaged in improving social and economic conditions around the world.

Since the cold war, whose enormous cost adversely affected the lives of billions of people, is now over, we at the United Nations, standing- as it were- at the crossroads of history, can now define the Organization's role and work for the next 50 years.

With such rapid changes taking place in international relations, particularly in recent years, the United Nations needs to be restructured and revitalized. The restructuring of the Security Council has assumed a particular urgency. Nepal strongly supports an increase in the membership of the Council to reflect, not only the increase in the general membership of the United Nations, but also the reality of the present world. A review of the Council's membership has also to take into account the contributions of Member States to the maintenance of international peace and security. We attach a high priority to greater transparency and openness in the Council's work, and also attach great importance to the principle of equitable representation, which would give all United Nations Members- large or small, rich or poor, powerful or weak- a reasonable opportunity to contribute to the work of the Council.

We hope that the work of the Open-ended Working Group on the Security Council and related issues will be fruitful in due time. Our delegation considers that the reform and expansion of the Security Council should also include measures geared to reforming its working methods and procedures. In addition, there is a need to enhance the relationship between the Security Council and the General Assembly, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations.

The changed context of international relations and the United Nations preoccupation with peace-keeping operations should not be allowed to deflect attention from efforts to achieve general and complete disarmament under effective international control. Rather, the propitious climate now prevailing calls for strengthening the role of the United Nations in arms control and disarmament. In this context, I wish to recall the unanimous political support expressed by the General Assembly at its last session for the decision of the Conference on Disarmament to give to its Ad Hoc Committee on a Nuclear Test Ban a mandate to negotiate such a ban. To this end, the Non-Aligned Movement, of which Nepal is a founding member, has called for a special session of the United Nations General Assembly on disarmament in order to undertake a comprehensive assessment of progress towards global disarmament.

Like the rest of the international community, Nepal looks forward to the early conclusion of a comprehensive treaty prohibiting nuclear tests in all atmospheres. A nondiscriminatory and effectively verifiable test-ban treaty

would have a positive impact on the success of the Conference on the review and extension of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which is due to be held in 1995.

In addition to pursuing confidence-building measures, the United Nations role in arms control and disarmament needs to be effectively strengthened. In this context, the United Nations Regional Centres for Peace and Disarmament can play an important role, as they provide much-needed forums for the exchange of views. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific has already held several meetings to promote such a process of dialogue and interaction.

Nepal is firm in its conviction that peace-keeping operations, though extremely important, especially in this post-cold-war period, are no substitute for the peaceful resolution of conflicts through political dialogue and mediation. Application of Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations in the restoration and maintenance of international peace and security should be invoked by the Security Council only as a last resort, fully respecting the principles of impartiality and non-selectivity. Nepal has supported fully the Secretary General's initiative in expanding preventive diplomacy and conflict resolution. We have consistently committed our troops to the peacekeeping operations undertaken by the United Nations through the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon and the United Nations Protection Force.

Besides serving in Cambodia during the critical stage of democratic elections there, Nepal has also sent civilian police monitors for electoral assistance in Mozambique. Nepal has also sent troops to Somalia, despite the heavy loss of life and casualties suffered by our young men. We would like to pay tribute to those Nepalese soldiers and to the others who gave their lives in the relentless pursuit of international peace and security. Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala, in a recent statement to the roundtable on United Nations peace-keeping operations in Kathmandu, stated:

“While the Government (of Nepal) has raised its voice at the United Nations and in appropriate international forums for more effective mechanisms for the safety and protection of our personnel, the Government reaffirms its commitment to continue to participate in such operations with a sense of responsibility and solemn obligation.”

Since peace-keeping operations have become more complicated and more expensive in recent years, there is greater urgency to make those operations cost-effective and efficient. Peace-keeping contributions must be paid in full and on time so that the troop-contributing countries may be in a better position to maintain the most critical element in peace-keeping operations—the troops. My Government holds the firm view that the death and disability

compensation to all troops should be based on equity. We hope to review the current guidelines on this matter in order to arrive at a standard compensation package applicable to all.

Every peace-keeping operation should be devised with a clear mandate, a realistic time frame and a correct assessment of the situation. Furthermore, we would like to reiterate that timely consultations with troop-contributing countries are essential elements for the enhancement of the peace-keeping capability of the United Nations. Nepal welcomes the Secretary General's initiative on stand-by arrangements for peace-keeping. We are studying the proposal seriously, especially in view of current events that highlight the need for the establishment of such an arrangement.

Since the threat to security lies, inter alia, in non-military sources such as the lack of economic and social development, Nepal stresses the need for timely implementation of Agenda 21 for ensuring the sustainability of the planet for present and future generations. The Commission on Sustainable Development has made a good start. It must not be allowed to falter or to be turned into a discussion forum only. The Commission should build a bridge between the North and the South to enable the developing countries to follow the path of sustainable development. By providing additional financial resources and transferring environmentally sound technology to developing countries, the international community can surely reach the goals set in Agenda 21. In our view, the level of consumption and wastage in most industrialized countries also needs to be moderated if we are to achieve the goals of sustainable development.

The success of population and socio-economic development programmes hinges on the full empowerment of women. The focus given to the empowerment of women in decision-making, especially in planning the size of a family, at the recent International Conference on Population and Development is a matter of satisfaction to my delegation. However, the success of the Plan of Action as adopted requires increased financial resources. The developing countries, despite their severe resource constraints, have been committing significant amounts in population activities at the cost of other important areas that are required for economic growth and development.

That important conference will be followed by the World Summit for Social Development, the fourth World Conference on Women and the 1996 United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II). This year alone, we have participated in many important conferences: on natural disaster reduction, on the sustainable development of small island States, on combating desertification and drought, and on population and development. A question remains outstanding: that of the availability of the critical resources for the

successful implementation of the recommendations of these conferences. The developing countries find themselves in an exasperating situation, trying to cope with their responsibilities, as outlined in previous agreements and resolutions, without the necessary actions from the industrialized countries.

Nepal fully shares the Secretary General's view that an alternative to the United Nations in the field of development simply does not exist, especially in the light of the new vision of development as inextricably linked with peace and security. We reiterate our view that there must be close cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions. The main objectives of the proposed agenda for development should be directed towards ensuring successful implementation of existing programmes for the alleviation of poverty. The agenda should be an instrument that looks after the most vulnerable and the weakest nations of the world.

The conclusion of the Uruguay Round and the signing of the agreements at Marrakesh undoubtedly constitute a historic breakthrough in the international trade regime. The window of opportunity is now open for many developing countries to enhance their trade and development. Once again, the least developed countries will be left out, in spite of this tremendous opportunity now available to many. The lack of basic physical infrastructure and the absence of a manufacturing base will prevent the least developed countries from taking advantage of this new opportunity. The least developed countries, including my own country, have suffered for decades. These handicaps, however, have not deterred us from our determination to cooperate fully with the international community by instituting structural adjustment programmes and economic liberalization policies, including privatization.

Structural adjustment programmes lacking due consideration for social safety nets have pushed a large sector of the world's population towards more misery and discontent. Economic liberalization programmes without adequate institutional and organizational set-ups have not yielded the desired results in many countries. The major purpose of the privatization programmes undertaken by many developing countries- the efficient and productive use of resources- has yet to be fulfilled. At the same time, it may be appreciated that these inadequate measures, resulting in higher inflation, a distorted market system and increasing unemployment, may result in greater social tension.

We are happy to note that in the context of the follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Plan of Action, an open-ended Working Group of the Third Committee has been established; we hope it will review the mandates of existing human rights machinery, taking into account the balanced emphasis between civil, political, cultural, economic and social rights, as well as improving

human rights on the basis of the principles of impartiality, objectivity and non-selectivity.

Violation or suppression of human rights within a nation's boundary have consequences outside its boundaries as well. People unable to live in conditions where human rights are suppressed are forced to flee their own homelands and take refuge elsewhere. United Nations agencies such as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the World Food Programme, and international and non-governmental humanitarian organizations, are well aware of this. My delegation would like to commend the work of these United Nations agencies. We also feel that the agencies must be mandated to serve all the people in such difficult situations.

The Constitution of Nepal enshrines the principle of universal human rights. We believe that the right to development is an integral part of human rights. Nepal is now party to 14 international human rights instruments, including all the major Conventions and Covenants. A national action plan on human rights is being prepared in line with the final document of the Vienna Conference on Human Rights.

Nepal is also consolidating the multi-party democratic system that was restored by the people through a popular movement in 1990. Nepal participated actively in the Second International Conference of New or Restored Democracies, at Managua, Nicaragua, in July this year. The Conference provided us with an opportunity to share each other's experience of nascent democracy. In November this year the people of Nepal are participating in our second general elections on the basis of adult franchise. We are confident that this exercise in democracy will give an impetus to the long- term economic development of our country.

The Charter of the United Nations captures the highest ideals of mankind. However, much remains to be done to put those ideals into practice. We look forward to the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations as the occasion to work for instituting dynamism and efficiency in the United Nations. My delegation is fully confident that our vision of the United Nations as a symbol of peace, security, human rights and development will be realized if Member States demonstrate the political will and provide the necessary financial and material support to the organization.

Address By

**Rt. Hon. Sher Bahadur Deuba**

Prime Minister of Nepal and Head of the Nepalese Delegation,  
50<sup>th</sup> Session of the UNGA, New York, 23<sup>rd</sup> October 1995

To this great assembly of Heads of State and Government, the Secretary General, distinguished representatives and to you, Mr. President, I bring the greetings of the Government and people of Nepal, as well as the best wishes of His Majesty King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev for the success of the fiftieth anniversary session of the United Nations.

On this historic occasion, allow me first of all to reiterate my country's deep and abiding commitment to the principles and purposes enshrined in the United Nations Charter, whose ideals of peace, justice and progress continue to sustain the hopes of humanity. For a country which is the birthplace of the Buddha, the foremost of the apostles of peace and non-violence for over two and half millenniums, these ideals, together with the concept of tolerance, understanding and equality, are values which are rooted deep in our national psyche and culture. It is a tribute to the vision of the founding fathers of our Organization that the seminal ideas which have guided the United Nations in its first half-century should also prepare us for its second.

Perhaps the greatest achievement of our Organization has been its ability to adapt to the changing conditions and work towards its goals even in the face of an inhospitable international environment. As a result, there is greater room for hope in the world today. The spectre of a global nuclear catastrophe which has haunted humanity since 1945 is less threatening now with the end of the cold war. The abhorrent practice of colonialism that once justified the subjugation of nations and peoples is no longer acceptable. The novel concepts of preventive diplomacy and international peace-keeping introduced by the United Nations have helped defuse international crisis situations and prepare the groundwork for peacemaking, the rewards of which are becoming increasingly visible in the once conflict-prone regions of the globe. Similarly, the Organization's functional approach to peace has provided economic relief to the less privileged regions of the world and restored human dignity to the neglected segments of our global society.

As we seek solace in these achievements during the Special Commemorative Meeting, we would not be casting aspersions on the abilities of the United Nations by suggesting that much more needs to be done as we approach the dawn of the next century. While we are currently caught in a dilemma between our efforts to forge a new world order and face the reality of global disorder, there is a strong need to reinforce some of its mechanisms to cope with the demanding times. These relate to expansion of the Security Council, a more efficient management of the Secretariat, and greater democratization of international relations by extending the authority of the General Assembly, truly the representative body of the United Nations.

There is also an equally palpable need to better coordinate the activities between our Organization and its programmes, funds, the specialized agencies and other international development institutions, particularly with an eye towards enhancing the role of grass-root movements and citizen groups. Lately these movements, focusing on social, gender, population, environment and human rights issues, have not only become a strong international force in their own right, but have also been justified in expecting more from this global institution. For its part, Nepal will support a coordinated examination of studies aimed at strengthening the Organization, particularly those measures which also seek to free it from the vagaries of its insecure financial base.

Ever since Nepal joined the United Nations, it has supported and participated actively in the peace-keeping and peace-building efforts of the Organization. Our efforts in this direction will continue as we look forward to participating in the new initiative for a stand-by United Nations force designed to enable it to respond to any call for assistance in time.

Nepal sees no substitute for a United Nations that is both robust in standing and responsive to the needs of global security and the progress of its individual member nations. With the current preoccupation of the organization in many new civil and regional conflicts, its activities on the development side have been weakened. The much-talked-about peace dividend in a post-cold-war era has proved so far to be elusive, as the condition of the least developed and land-locked countries continue to decline. It would be unfortunate if things were to be left in their present state, especially when the developing countries with their weak economic base have to cater to the dictates of market mechanisms alone.

Today, nations seek social and economic development within a framework of political freedom and justice in which the rights of individuals to live in dignity are respected. It is therefore not enough for Governments to pay lip service to

these principles: they have to deliver the goods to the people by lifting them up from dire economic conditions and providing them with political stability to enjoy the fruits of freedom and prosperity.

The United Nations exemplifies a global dream and has no peer in matching the aspirations of men and women everywhere. It is a dream of a world in which the strong and the well-to-do are comfortable with their power and seek to act with confidence and magnanimity. It is a dream in which the weak and the less fortunate can feel secure when seeking to work for greater international harmony. For this collective vision of our world, we in Nepal continue to remain committed to the ideals of the United Nations.

Address By

**Hon. Dr. Prakash Chandra Lohani**

Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal and Head of the Nepalese Delegation,  
51<sup>st</sup> Session of the UNGA, New York, 9<sup>th</sup> October 1996

On behalf of my delegation and on my own behalf, I should like at the outset to congratulate Mr. Razali Ismail on his unanimous election to the presidency of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly, and to express my happiness at seeing a fellow Asian, from Malaysia, with which my country enjoys the best of relations, guiding our deliberations. I pledge to him the full cooperation of my delegation. I wish also to thank Mr. Diogo Freitas do Amaral for having guided the fiftieth session of the General Assembly to a successful conclusion.

My profound appreciation and gratitude also go to the Secretary General, Mr. Boutros Boutros Ghali, for his tireless efforts in quest of a world of peace, progress, justice and humanity.

The past five decades have seen the United Nations striving to fulfil its Charter objectives. Yet peace and prosperity — mankind's highest dream — remain unrealized. Conflicts, enormous cruelty, poverty, hunger and, of late, population and environmental problems, have been relentlessly on the rise. The United Nations, which has limited resources at its disposal and is thus ill-prepared to deal with such situations, has become the target of increasing public criticism. The tendency to focus on the Organization's set-backs while ignoring its record of real and substantive success threatens to undermine the *raison d'être* of the United Nations.

Those formidable odds notwithstanding, the world body has achieved a great deal of success in the field of peace, democracy and human rights. It has many recent achievements to its credit, in Namibia, Mozambique, Cambodia, Haiti and El Salvador, to name but a few. Thanks to the efforts of the United Nations, the hope for stability and democracy has been a living reality in those countries.

The presence of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force and the United Nations Truce

Supervision Organization continues to make a difference in the Middle East. Similarly, the United Nations has exerted efforts to keep and mediate peace in many countries of Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America through use of its good offices and through peacekeeping operations. In spite of perceived setbacks suffered by the Organization in some peacekeeping operations, which were undermanned and lacked clear-cut mandates, we must not forget the real good that has been achieved through the prevention of further genocides, the provision of massive humanitarian relief and paving the way for political settlements.

A year ago, many world leaders gathered here to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations. With a deep sense of optimism, they took stock of the past and present performance of the Organization, as they also pondered the future course that it may have to traverse. They reaffirmed their faith in the principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter, renewed their commitment to the world body and pledged their support to enable the Organization to come to grips with new realities and challenges. No doubt the fiftieth anniversary underlined the need to reactivate the United Nations as the centrepiece of international relations, thereby further deepening our hopes in the world body.

Nepal takes comfort in the fact that the Dayton peace process has provided the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina with a chance to realize their long-cherished dream of a peaceful homeland. The recently concluded elections, we hope, will contribute to a lasting peace in the Balkans, and we take this opportunity to extend our appreciation to all who contributed to this election process. We are equally happy to be part of this peace process through our contribution of civilian police monitors to the International Police Task Force and the United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium, under the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina. We hope that the next local elections will also be held peacefully.

Last year in this Hall I said that the peace process in the Middle East had become irreversible. That is still the view of Nepal, but the recent aggravation of the situation, involving heavy loss of lives and consequent negative implications for peace, has given us deep concern. It is my earnest hope that the recent Washington summit meeting between Prime Minister Netanyahu and Chairman Arafat will restore trust between the two sides and be instrumental in the immediate resumption of serious negotiations within the Middle East peace process.

More than any other country, the landlocked country of Afghanistan has been a victim of the cold war, and the Afghan people are still suffering from its far-

reaching consequences. We hope that peace prevails in that country. Nepal, however, was deeply concerned at the flagrant violation of the United Nations sanctuary.

We believe that United Nations peacekeeping operations are indispensable in the maintenance of international peace and security. Nepal has been a major troop-contributing country to peacekeeping missions of the United Nations. Over the years we have participated in various peacekeeping operations with a total of 30,000 troops and hundreds of civilian police. Our commitment to United Nations peace initiatives continues undiminished.

Nepal supports ongoing efforts for the establishment of a rapidly deployable Headquarters team in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the United Nations Secretariat, within the framework of a system of stand-by arrangements to enhance the rapid response capabilities of the United Nations — a system to which Nepal has made a stand-by commitment to provide upto 2,000 troops and 200 police monitors. Work on such a Headquarters team should proceed in a transparent manner and involve all interested Member States, particularly troop-contributing nations. We believe that it should be composed of staff recruited by the United Nations.

The United Nations is unfortunately beset with a chronic financial crisis, which has seriously impaired the Organization's ability to perform well. Despite the year long meetings of the High-level Open-ended Working Group on the Financial Situation of the United Nations, the financial health of the Organization is still precarious, and cross-funding of the regular budget from the peacekeeping account is becoming almost the rule rather than the exception. The continuation of such practice, which invariably results in late reimbursements to the troop-contributing countries, is detrimental to the rapid deployment capability expected of the United Nations. The capacity of the United Nations to plan and execute peacekeeping missions will be greatly undermined if the present financial crisis persists. Without a secure financial base, the international community cannot expect the United Nations to play the role demanded of it in the maintenance of international peace and security.

Modern peacekeeping missions, involving complex intra-State conflicts combined with massive humanitarian relief operations, expose peacekeepers to an unprecedented level of danger. It is therefore only fitting that those brave harbingers of peace who are put in harm's way be treated on an equal footing by the United Nations. We hope that a just system of death and disability compensation, as mandated by the fiftieth session of the General Assembly, will be established soon.

For Nepal, the recent adoption by the General Assembly of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty is a landmark in the history of nuclear non-proliferation and arms control. We hope that it is the culmination of our efforts to ban nuclear testing once and for all. We believe that the conclusion of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty brings us a step closer to our dream of a nuclear-weapon-free world. It is precisely for that reason that Nepal supported the Treaty, to which I put my signature yesterday on behalf of my country.

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty is only a partial fulfilment of our Treaty commitment to pursue in good faith the goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons. With the adoption of the Treaty, it has become more urgent than ever that we seriously consider other priority issues of nuclear disarmament in a practicable, time-bound framework. In this regard, Nepal wishes to underline its support for the programme of action recently put forward by 28 non-aligned and neutral countries for the elimination of nuclear weapons through a phased programme.

In recent times, substantial progress has been made in the creation and expansion of nuclear-weapon-free zones. The Treaty of Bangkok and the Treaty of Pelindaba have established South-East Asia and the continent of Africa, respectively, as nuclear-weapon-free zones. Indeed, these are steps, in the best tradition of the Treaties of Tlatelolco and Rarotonga, that could contribute greatly to the cause of nuclear disarmament and the global nuclear nonproliferation regime. We earnestly hope that efforts will be intensified in the Middle East and in our own region of South Asia so that the goal of nuclear-weapon-free zones becomes a reality in those regions as well.

We are of the view that our efforts towards the goal of total nuclear disarmament must be matched by efforts to achieve the non-proliferation of other weapons of mass destruction. We therefore fully support measures aimed at imposing a total ban on chemical, biological and other inhumane weapons, including the production, sale and export of anti-personnel landmines. In this regard, I am glad to say that Nepal is now at the final stage of completing the necessary constitutional process in order to ratify the chemical weapons Convention, which we have already signed.

As host to the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific, my delegation wishes to emphasize the need for institutional arrangements for the strengthening of the World Disarmament Campaign. The Kathmandu Centre has contributed to international, regional and subregional dialogue aimed at transparency and confidence building in the areas of disarmament and security.

In his annual report on the work of the United Nations, the Secretary General notes that the past year witnessed a determined effort by the international community to take action to end the scourge of terrorism. I would like to reaffirm the commitment of Nepal to the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism adopted by the General Assembly two years ago.

The reform of the Security Council is considered necessary to make that crucial organ of the United Nations more reflective of contemporary realities. We agree that any expansion of the Security Council must accommodate the interests and concerns of the bulk of the total membership, to redress the existing imbalance and anomalous representation. Any agreed formula for expansion, in our view, must take into account the issue of equitable global representatively. The selection of the members of an expanded Security Council should be guided by the contribution of Member States to the maintenance of international peace and security.

Having said that, I want to emphasize that since the Security Council is the principal instrument of the international community in the area of collective security, no expansion or reform should diminish in any way its capacity for prompt and effective action to maintain international peace and security.

The establishment of the World Trade Organization (WTO) following the conclusion of the Uruguay Round has made it clear that no country can ignore the globalization process, which is gaining tremendous momentum. At the same time, the acceleration of this process of global economic integration has failed to narrow the gap between the developed and the developing countries. The economic situation of many countries of Africa and the least developed countries is further deteriorating, and those countries are being marginalized because of unfavourable conditions prevailing in the global market in the trade of their exportable products. Furthermore, those countries lack national capacity in terms of technology and product development capability and also face various tariff and non-tariff barriers to their exports abroad.

The situation of the landlocked developing countries among the least developed countries is further exacerbated by the high costs associated with the production and transportation of their exportable commodities and their difficulty in maintaining the tight delivery schedules demanded by the global market. Without direct access to the sea and given the absence of a significant market base within their boundaries, those landlocked countries cannot offer any of the comparative advantages so essential to attracting foreign investment. Additional financial resources and the transfer of appropriate technology, accompanied by concrete measures to offset those built-in handicaps, are the bare minimum requirements. We expect that the

WTO ministerial meeting at Singapore will take this reality into account and ensure that the products of the least developed countries are given free and unrestricted access to world markets in order to facilitate the integration of those countries into the liberalizing and globalizing world economy.

It is with great distress that the developing countries, and in particular the least developed countries, witness the steep decline in the resources of United Nations operational activities for development. The least developed countries need the enhanced support of those agencies more than ever, since most of them have embarked on far-reaching reforms. In the absence of the flows of direct foreign investment now available to many developing countries, the least developed countries that lack basic physical infrastructure and material resources have nowhere else to turn. The efforts of the organs of the United Nations system engaged in providing technical and advisory assistance to the least developed countries, particularly the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), need to be supplemented adequately by the Bretton Woods institutions and regional financial institutions to arrest and reverse the declining economic and social situation of the least developed countries.

The solidarity of the support received from the representatives of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Group of 77 during the recently concluded ministerial meeting of least developed countries is an expression of understanding and an acknowledgment of the responsibility of the international community to the least developed countries. We are confident that the emphasis given by the leaders of the Group of Seven at the Lyon Summit on the need to assist the least developed countries and to integrate them in the global economy will be backed by concrete actions.

South-South cooperation is another important component of international economic cooperation that should be further explored and promoted. The Government of Costa Rica deserves our appreciation for its generous offer to host a South-South conference on finance, trade and investment in January next year.

In recent years we have witnessed a decline in the economic conditions of more and more people, especially those from the developing countries, who now comprise a population of 1.3 billion people living in poverty. The Declaration of the year 1996 as the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty and the Declaration of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, beginning in 1997, must be taken seriously if poverty is to be eradicated with renewed vigour and dedication. The eradication of poverty must be a priority agenda for all multilateral development institutions.

In this regard, we express our appreciation to the Secretary General for his initiative to establish, through the Administrative Committee on Coordination, inter-agency task forces to oversee coherent implementation by the United Nations system of various cross-sectoral issues covered in recent major international conferences. It is heartening to note that one of the task forces, which is on the creation of an enabling environment, is chaired by the World Bank. We look forward to the reports of the task forces, which are expected in April 1997.

We are confident that the special session of the General Assembly on the Rio Declaration to be held in June of next year will be successful in achieving the objective of acquiring new and additional resources to implement Agenda 21. We urge the developed countries to honour the commitments they have made at major international conferences, including those at Rio, Cairo, Copenhagen, Beijing and Istanbul. We are deeply concerned at the declining level of official development assistance to developing countries, in particular the least developed countries.

We are happy to see that the Framework Convention on Climate Change has entered into force and is being implemented effectively. We are at the same time concerned about the Convention on Biological Diversity, which has not been ratified by many countries. I am especially pleased to say that the Parliament of Nepal has already ratified the International Convention to Combat Desertification.

We are firmly committed to the Charter obligation to promote and protect fundamental human rights for all, without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion. My delegation is closely following the negotiations that are taking place in the Third Committee working group established to oversee the recommendations of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action.

The Fourth World Conference on Women was a landmark in reaffirming the equal rights of women, and focused our attention on the important aspect of the equal participation of men and women in development activities. We in Nepal are serious about implementing the outcome of that Conference, with the creation, initially, of a separate Ministry of Women and Social Welfare.

Political strife, ethnic conflicts and the denial of basic human rights in many parts of the world have resulted in an influx of a large number of refugees, mostly women and children. We express our appreciation to the High Commissioner for Refugees for her untiring and continued efforts to take care of refugees around the world, despite the limited resources at her disposal. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) deserves our special praise for providing necessary food and other services

to some 100,000 refugees in the camps in eastern Nepal. His Majesty's Government of Nepal upholds the right of every refugee to return to his or her homeland safely and with dignity. The Government will make every effort to solve the problem of refugees from Bhutan through mutual discussion and understanding.

As a critical part of our broad policy of peace, cooperation and friendship with all countries of the world on the basis of the Charter of the United Nations and the principle of non-alignment, Nepal is pursuing a policy of promoting regional cooperation and understanding under the umbrella of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). We celebrated the tenth anniversary of the Association last year. The seven countries of the Association are engaged in various areas of cooperation, including the suppression of terrorism and drug abuse, environmental preservation, poverty alleviation and the promotion of regional trade. It is a fact that SAARC is far behind other similar regional cooperation arrangements, but the countries of the Association, particularly Nepal, are persevering in their determination to develop both the habit and concrete measures of cooperation, understanding and peace among the South Asian partners.

Address By

**Hon. Kamal Thapa**

Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal and Head of the Nepalese Delegation,  
52<sup>nd</sup> Session of the UNGA, New York, 29<sup>th</sup> September 1997

First of all, on behalf of the Government and people of Nepal and on my own behalf, I should like to extend to you, Sir, our warmest congratulations on your election as President of the fifty- second session of the General Assembly. I am confident that with your rich experience in international affairs you will guide the work of the Assembly to a successful conclusion. I wish also to assure you of the full cooperation of my delegation in the discharge of your responsibilities.

I would like to take this opportunity to offer our deep appreciation and thanks to the President of the General Assembly at its fifty-first session, Ambassador Razali Ismail of the friendly country of Malaysia, for the enthusiasm, dedication and zeal he brought to bear on the work of the previous session.

To Secretary General Kofi Annan, I bring greetings and best wishes from Nepal. In every way, he is proving himself worthy of the great trust the membership has placed in him. Having shown his deep commitment to United Nations reform from the day of his appointment as Secretary General, he has presented us with a set of very serious and far-reaching proposals of impressive breadth and scope, with a view to reshaping the United Nations so that it can better serve humanity in the years ahead.

The Secretary General has asked us to make this session of the General Assembly one of reform. We agree with him that United Nations reform is the shared concern of all Member States and that the purpose of the reform is to strengthen the role of the United Nations and enhance its efficiency. In the aftermath of the end of the cold war, the world situation is continuously undergoing profound changes, evolving progressively towards a world of multipolarity which reinforces the core of the United Nations Charter: peace and development in larger freedom.

The universal cause, therefore, is to make the United Nations a more vibrant world Organization that is more properly equipped, institutionally and financially, to meet the evolving challenges of the next century.

The proposals of the Secretary General complement the ongoing intergovernmental process regarding the revitalization of the United Nations, particularly financial reform and reform of the Security Council.

The United Nations, if it is to perform the mission set out in its Charter, cannot limp from one year to another on the verge of bankruptcy. No country should bear an excessive burden, but the fundamental principle of any scale of assessments should be the capacity, to pay, calculated on the basis of the country's share of global gross national product. It also does not make sense that half the total membership is assessed the same amount in contributions. A change in the scale of assessments is overdue. Countries, rich and poor, must pay their assessed share in full, on time and without conditions.

With regard to the reform of the Security Council, the organ which bears the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, Nepal's position coincides basically with the position taken by the Non-Aligned Movement, as reflected, in particular, in the Cartagena summit Declaration and the subsequent Declarations of the meetings of Foreign Ministers of the Non-Aligned Movement. The Security Council should better reflect changes in contemporary political and economic realities. It should be more representative in composition and more transparent in its functioning. It must be more democratic in character. It must be more reflective of balance between the North and South. It must, above all, be capable of prompt action when peace is threatened. The contribution of Member States to international peace and security should be the guiding criterion for the selection of Members of the expanded Security Council in both permanent and non-permanent categories. Since the Security Council is the principal instrument of the international community in the area of collective security, I must emphasize here that any reform must be the fruit of ratifiable global consensus and must in no way diminish the Council's capacity for prompt and effective action to maintain international peace and security.

In the view of my delegation, the reform proposals of the Secretary General, which deserve our appreciation and support, are categorized in three broad areas: management of conflicts and peacekeeping; strengthening and integration at headquarters, and field levels of United Nations development activities; and protection and promotion of human rights.

Too often in the past, the United Nations has suffered from a sore need for a capacity to act in the face of conflicts. The Secretary General must be encouraged and supported financially to make use of his high office for the resolution of emerging conflicts. When peacekeeping operations are mandated by the Security Council, the capacity of the Secretary General to organize and mount them in time should be strengthened. Peacekeeping, to be effective, is dependent largely on the maintenance of elements within

the national armed forces of Member States that can be made available promptly to the United Nations. Sixty-six countries are now participating in United Nations standby arrangements, and I am happy to say that Nepal is one of the 10 countries to sign the Memorandum of Understanding which commits my country to contribute 2,000 troops, including doctors, engineers, observers and headquarters staff and 200 civilian monitors for peacekeeping purposes, at short notice. It is high time that the rapidly deployable mission headquarters became operational.

Nepal is confident that the Secretary General's proposals for a new United Nations Development Group and a United Nations Development Assistance Framework will provide clearer focus and direction to United Nations development activities aimed at sustainable development and the eradication of poverty. In Nepal, many of the development activities carried out by the United Nations are already practically integrated at the field level. Care has to be taken, however, that in the name of integration or merger, the demonstrated strength of individual programmes, funds or agencies is not lost. We also find the proposal for a Special Commission to look at the division of labour among the various specialized agencies across the United Nations system very interesting and deserving of careful consideration. With a view to achieving greater harmonization of international development efforts, Nepal feels the need for a closer relationship between the United Nations and international financial institutions and the World Trade Organization.

Since peace, progress and humanity are the core concern of the United Nations, Nepal, as a functioning democracy with a deep commitment to human rights, appreciates the intention of the Secretary General to strengthen and broaden the capacity of the United Nations in the field of human rights. We welcome the strengthening of the Human Rights secretariat and the choice of Mrs. Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland, as High Commissioner for Human Rights. There could hardly be a better choice. I wish to congratulate the new High Commissioner and express the confidence of my delegation that she will be an independent and credible defender of human rights. We welcome her determination to narrow the gap in the perception of human rights. She has rightly observed that collective and individual rights are not mutually exclusive and that the scope of human rights is interlinked with social, cultural and economic issues requiring a broad approach.

As a signatory of all basic international human rights instruments and a participant in the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna, Nepal looks forward to the fiftieth anniversary next year of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Together with freedom of speech and belief, the Declaration characterizes freedom from fear and freedom from want as the highest aspirations of human beings. Along with concerns for peace and sustainable

development, it is right that concerns for human rights should also be made an integral part of the work of the United Nations.

Peace in many parts of the world continues to remain fragile. Nepal is deeply concerned over the setbacks in the peace process in the Middle East. The settlements policy has retarded the process. Nor has the spate of violence in the region helped restore the mutual confidence without which no peace process can succeed.

Without a resolution to the Palestinian problem, no comprehensive, just and lasting peace will be possible in the Middle East. We urge the concerned parties not to deviate from their professed commitment to resolving the problem through peaceful means.

The extension of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the adoption of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty represent a fine moment in the history of nuclear-arms control and disarmament. The Convention on Chemical Weapons has come into force, to our great satisfaction. With the creation of nuclear-weapon-free zones in South-East Asia and Africa last year, we hope that efforts to create such zones in other regions, such as the Middle East and South Asia, will be relentlessly pursued.

Disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, means nothing if it does not provide security to nations and peoples. Only a complete elimination of nuclear weapons will provide such security. It is in this spirit that we have supported the programme of action advanced by 28 NAM and neutral countries, members of the Conference on Disarmament, for the elimination of nuclear weapons through phases over a period of time. We are disappointed by the complete lack of progress in this year's session of the Conference on Disarmament.

Nepal is in favour of strengthening the role of the Conference on Disarmament as the principal global disarmament negotiating forum.

Nepal welcomes the agreement in Oslo this month on the text of a convention for the total ban on anti-personnel landmines and will seriously consider signing the convention in Ottawa in December. Landmines should not be allowed to be used indiscriminately and to maim and take innocent lives, including those of women and children.

While the importance of the issues of weapons of mass destruction cannot be overemphasized, it is to be noted that it is conventional weapons that have killed the most people throughout history. Therein lies the importance of the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms. The work of the United Nations Panel of Experts on Small Arms, one of whose sessions was hosted in Kathmandu this year, has laid the foundation for future United Nations action in this area.

Confidence-building measures and regular dialogues in informal settings represent an indispensable element in the long and arduous efforts undertaken on behalf of disarmament and security. I am pleased to note that the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific, located in Kathmandu, has been found to be a useful forum for such informal dialogues on disarmament and security issues.

Nepal's consistent participation in United Nations peacekeeping operations reflects our abiding faith in the ideals of the United Nations. Over the past four decades, Nepal's peacekeepers have served with pride in all regions of the world under the United Nations for the cause of peace. Many of the Nepalese Blue Helmets have lost their lives and limbs in the pursuit of peace. Nepalese soldiers have served the United Nations with dedication and professionalism. Nepal will continue to serve the cause of peace by responding positively and promptly to every call for assistance from the United Nations. The adoption of An Agenda for Development this year, following protracted and tortuous negotiations over a period of three years, is a welcome sign for the renewal of development cooperation between the North and South. The Agenda identifies groups of countries in special need: least developed countries, Africa, landlocked developing countries, small island developing countries and countries with transitional economies. The usefulness of the Agenda will be measured only in terms of its faithful implementation. The provision of additional resources on an assured and predictable basis is a prerequisite to the sustainable development of the least developed and landlocked countries.

The decision of the General Assembly last year establishing the First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty represents the long-awaited recognition by the international community of the pervasive nature of poverty, which today is the greatest threat to peace, sustainable development and human rights. The eradication of poverty, therefore, should be a core activity of the United Nations. We recognize that this is the principal thrust of the reform measures and proposals of the Secretary General. I wish once again to pledge my country's full support and cooperation to the Secretary-General in this regard. Poverty alleviation is the priority area of sustainable development planning in Nepal. A massive programme is needed to reduce poverty in a meaningful way.

The rapid decline of living standards today in almost all the least developed countries and developing landlocked countries is an ironic testimony to the gross marginalization of those countries, despite the new trade regime that is supposed to usher in an era of prosperity throughout the world. This anomaly is further compounded by the accelerating reduction of official development assistance to the least developed countries. For the least developed countries, and the landlocked among them, which suffer from additional physical

handicaps, foreign direct investment cannot be a substitute for official development assistance for some time to come.

I would like to affirm Nepal's unreserved condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and our determination to prevent terrorists from deriving benefit from their acts. It is our firm position that terrorism is a threat to both internal and international security and to peaceful relations between States. It is, moreover, a threat to the growth and functioning of democratic institutions and to the enjoyment of human rights all over the world. Nepal will never allow its territory to be used by terrorists against other countries.

Nepal holds the view that States should create an environment in which people do not have to be displaced or flee their countries as refugees. The number of such people is in millions and, in the words of the Secretary-General, unquantifiable. Nepal is also bearing the burden of refugees. Nepal being a least developed and landlocked country struggling to cope with the rising aspirations of its people in a parliamentary set-up with deep human-rights commitments, the burden is painful for us. We have received international humanitarian assistance, for which we are grateful. The magnitude of the problem for us can be judged by the fact that one in every 200 people in Nepal today is a refugee. We uphold the right of the refugees to return to their home in peace and honour. His Majesty's Government of Nepal is determined to solve the problem peacefully by dialogue.

Nepal is a founding member of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). Nepal is actively pursuing a policy of promoting regional cooperation and understanding under the umbrella of SAARC, an Association which forms a critical part of our broad policy of peace, friendship and cooperation with all countries of the world in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and non-alignment.

The seven countries of the region are engaged in various areas of cooperation, including the suppression of terrorism and drug abuse, environmental preservation, poverty alleviation and the promotion of regional trade. We are endeavouring to harmonize the policies of the seven member countries on important global issues. We did so during the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly devoted to environment and sustainable development. Many ministerial meetings in the region are now annual events. Foreign Ministers of the region will be meeting in New York in an informal setting during the annual session of the General Assembly. SAARC has lagged behind other similar associations, but the countries of the region are persevering in their efforts to develop both the habit and concrete measures of cooperation.

Address By

## **Hon. Shailaja Acharya**

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Water Resources of Nepal and Head of the Nepalese Delegation, 53<sup>rd</sup> Session of the UNGA, New York, 29<sup>th</sup> September 1998

I wish to recall the late B.P. Koirala, the legendary leader who became the symbol of democracy in Nepal because of his long years of imprisonment, self-sacrifice and struggle. As the first elected Prime Minister of Nepal, he stood at this podium 38 years ago to this very day and declared that the foreign policy of Nepal would be inspired by the purposes and principles of the United Nations. He said that Nepal looked upon the United Nations as an instrument for promoting peace and justice among nations. Those sentiments have always guided Nepal's international relations.

It is my pleasure to extend to you, Sir, the warm congratulations of my delegation on your election as President of the General Assembly. It is a tribute to your great country's contribution to the work of the United Nations and a recognition of your own personal qualifications. Please be assured of the cooperation of my delegation in your work. I would also like to place on record our appreciation to your predecessor, Mr. Udovenko, for the wisdom and deftness of touch with which he guided the previous session.

I would also like to express, on behalf of the Government and the people of Nepal, our deep sympathy and condolences to the Governments and the peoples of Bangladesh and China on the massive loss of life and property due to the recent devastating floods in those two friendly neighbouring countries. We also sympathize with the victims of hurricane Georges.

It is heartening to note that this year we are celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. While we are guided by lofty human rights goals in the international field, we are no less committed to attaining them at the national level. Our commitment to democracy, human rights and uplifting the quality of life of the people is unflinching, despite a low level of economic development and the innumerable constraints, including the problem of refugees. It is our firm belief that democracy and development should reinforce each other. Society can enjoy uninterrupted

peace and progress only when the rule of law and the participation of an entire people in governance and development are ensured.

We are a small nation with a great heritage. Our tradition has been one of peace, compassion and brotherhood. We have always striven to promote understanding and goodwill among different nations, especially with our neighbours. While retaining our age-old cultural values, our people have struggled for years and have made great sacrifices to establish democratic institutions and to uphold the principles of human rights and dignity. In this endeavour we are conscious of the challenges that we have to face. But we are determined to make all possible efforts to fulfil the aspirations of our people and, in our limited way, to contribute to the achievement of the noble ideals of this great Organization, which provides us with a forum to express our views on the concerns of mankind.

I consider it a privilege and an opportunity to make an appeal to the developed nations to extend support and cooperation in our endeavour to preserve the dignity and honour of our people and the sovereignty of our nation. We are determined to face every eventuality to defend those ideals.

Centralized planning has failed to produce desired results even after many years. We believe that unless people are mobilized, from the grass roots to the policy level, the reality on the ground is unlikely to change. To realize this, institutional and legal changes are necessary. Administrative, financial and political systems have all to be decentralized. Real power has to be transferred to the people. We have taken certain steps in that direction. However, I admit that this is not enough.

We are committed to the empowerment of women. But changing gender hierarchies without changing social and economic hierarchies is not possible, as gender relations do not operate in a vacuum. It is a fact that gender relations are related to and influenced by social, economic and political systems. Nevertheless, as a prelude to the political empowerment of Nepali women, 20 per cent of the seats in local bodies have been reserved. As a result, 36,000 women are now in the political hierarchy at the grass-roots level. In my opinion, this is a significant breakthrough.

The list of problems facing us is endless. We live today in an unequal world, where global disparities in wealth and income are rising rapidly, widening the gap between the rich and the poor, increasingly dividing human societies into one of plenty, luxury and power, on the one hand, and one of poverty and hardship, on the other. The low level of economic development due to the lack of capital and technology, among other things, is hampering the progress and prosperity of developing countries. Similarly, the falling prices of primary

commodities, the lack of access to international markets and the low level of resource flows and the unfavourable international economic environment have compounded the difficulties of the developing countries. The worldwide wave of liberalism in trade and services in the aftermath of World Trade Organization (WTO) agreements has moved the international economy to greater competitiveness. However, the capacity of the developing countries to trade needs to be sufficiently enhanced to ensure a level playing field.

The current financial and economic crisis facing many countries is affecting even the advanced economies of the world, not to mention the vulnerable and weaker ones. This calls for much-needed reforms in the global financial system.

The developing world consists of 85 per cent of humanity, more than one third of them in the least developed countries. One third of the countries in this most vulnerable category are landlocked, and this structural deficiency is the greatest handicap to fair competition and development. All these countries have a vital stake in peace and development. In the shaping of a new global dispensation, each category of nations should have a voice and should receive fair and equal treatment.

Sustainable development is not only an economic or ecological phenomenon; it also involves participatory governance, empowerment of women and promotion of equity and justice. In a developing country such as Nepal, the role and participation of women in the development process are of great significance because of the multiple responsibilities of women. In this context, the role of the United Nations system in enhancing the participation of women in national development and in creating awareness of the issues relating to women is laudable.

On our march towards a democratic and just society, we face many challenges, such as pervasive poverty, mass illiteracy, environmental degradation, population explosion and, above all, gender inequality. We believe that many problems related to economic development can be more effectively tackled through regional and subregional cooperation among nations. Tremendous opportunities are available for subregional cooperation in our part of the world among the countries in the Ganga-Brahmaputra-Meghna basin. These opportunities include water resources development, flood control, energy supply, forestry management and environmental protection, among other things. Development efforts in water resources, for example, would help irrigate the fertile fields in the plains of India, improve the waterways so vital for the transportation sector of Bangladesh and generate hydropower in Nepal to meet the energy needs of the region as a whole. Such a development strategy may be the key to the future prosperity of the region.

Nearly a quarter of the world's population continues to live in extreme poverty. This is largely because our approach to development, in which the State plays an overwhelming role, has given rise to inefficiency and corruption, and our reliance on unregulated market forces has led to an increase in inequality across the world. We believe there is a need for a third alternative in which the human being is at the centre, not the State or market forces; the human being with faith, values, emotions; the human being with dreams and aspirations as a citizen, as a member of family and as an economic being. This approach takes into account all the dimensions of the human being and society. Changing economic relationships and structure alone is not enough. The individual also has to change. We believe that this is what we should be pursuing in the twenty-first century.

I bring the greetings and good wishes of the Government and the people of Nepal to the Secretary- General, Mr. Kofi Annan. In a comparatively short period of time, he has proved his dedication to the task of modernizing our Organization and his great diplomatic talent and statesmanship in defusing situations posing a real threat to international peace and security. In the process of reform which he has started with his far-reaching package of proposals, he can count on Nepal's support.

Reform by its very nature is a continuing process. The United Nations and its principal organs, such as the Security Council, must adapt to the dynamics of change. However, we, the Member States, have so far failed to arrive at a general agreement to improve the composition and functioning of the Security Council to better reflect the reality of a vastly expanded membership of the Organization. The recently concluded summit of the Non-Aligned Movement in South Africa reaffirmed the collective position of non-aligned countries in this regard.

No scheme of reform, however, should undermine the power and authority of the General Assembly, which is the nearest thing to a world parliament. All the leaders of Nepal who have addressed the Assembly have underscored the role and authority of this most democratic and representative organ where each of us has a voice and vote equal to that of a great Power, on any questions or any matters within the scope of the Charter of the Organization.

Sound and secure financing is the basis for good management of the Organization. We believe that all Member States must fulfil their obligations to make full and timely payment of their dues.

In its primary role in the maintenance of international peace and security, peacekeeping has been and will remain one of the indispensable tools of the United Nations. As a troop-contributing country, we are happy to

commemorate 50 years of United Nations peacekeeping. Over these years, Nepal has contributed more than 32,000 troops and military and civilian police monitors to various peacekeeping missions of the United Nations around the globe. Many of them have lost lives or limbs in the cause of peace. Nepal has signed a standby system agreement with the United Nations. We are committed to deploying up to 2,000 troops, including medical and engineering units, military observers and headquarters staff, and 200 police monitors available to be called at any time by the United Nations, even on short notice.

The recent nuclear tests in South Asia, which came as a disturbing development, have nevertheless reinforced our commitment to speeding up the time-bound nuclear disarmament process. We welcome the declarations made by the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan in this Hall last week to facilitate the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

My delegation is happy to note that the Secretary-General has recognized that the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific, known as the Kathmandu Centre, has provided a valuable forum for meetings on regional confidence and security-building measures. As host to the Centre, Nepal would urge Member States of the Asia-Pacific region to increasingly avail themselves of the services of the Centre.

Problems related to drug abuse and terrorism defy territorial barriers. As the Prime Minister of Nepal, Mr. Girija Prasad Koirala, stated at the Durban summit at the beginning of this month, they add to the intricacies of complex regional and global relations. The terrorist bombings in Kenya and Tanzania deserve universal condemnation. These bombings and the subsequent missile strikes came as a shock, reinforcing our belief that concerted international efforts are essential in this regard.

Let me conclude by briefly mentioning the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), consisting of seven countries of the region representing one fifth of humanity. We are united in a common effort to improve the quality of life of all our peoples. The recent Colombo summit agreed to draw up a SAARC social charter to give further dimension to regional cooperation. The seven SAARC countries also finalized a text of a regional convention on combating the crime of trafficking in women and children for prostitution. The convention will be signed in Kathmandu at the next SAARC summit. This will be another landmark in regional cooperation in South Asia.

Address By

**Rt. Hon. Krishna Prasad Bhattarai**

Prime Minister of Nepal and Head of the Nepalese Delegation,  
54<sup>th</sup> Session of the UNGA, New York, 30<sup>th</sup> September 1999

I bring to you, Mr. President, to Secretary General Kofi Annan and to all representatives the greetings and best wishes of His Majesty King Birendra and of the Government and people of Nepal. Your election is testimony to the wide recognition of your great country's contribution to the cause of freedom of the peoples and to the work of the United Nations. Please accept our congratulations and pledge of support. Our appreciation goes also to your predecessor, Mr. Didier Opertti, for the wise manner in which he conducted the business of the fifty-third session of the General Assembly.

The massive loss of life and property and the untold suffering caused by the recent earthquakes to the peoples of Turkey, Greece and Taiwan have touched the hearts of the Nepalese people. Indeed, our hearts go out to the hundreds of thousands of peoples across the globe who have suffered from both natural and man-made disasters.

Nepal wholeheartedly welcomes Kiribati, Nauru and Tonga as new Members of the United Nations. Their admission has enriched the world Organization and enhanced its universality.

Following the restoration of the multi-party political system in Nepal, I had the unique privilege of steering the country at a turning point of history as its Prime Minister, entrusted with the twin responsibilities of overseeing the formulation of a new democratic constitution of the Kingdom and the holding of free, fair and peaceful general elections at the beginning of the last decade of this century. With the people's trust and guidance, the cooperation of all political parties and the support of His Majesty the King, and above all with God's will, those responsibilities were fully discharged.

The Constitution of the Kingdom of Nepal not only guarantees the fundamental human rights of the people but also the independence of the judiciary. It defines and protects the basic tenets of parliamentary democracy in Nepal,

and it identifies the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations as the fundamental plank of the foreign policy of the country. Standing today before this Assembly of nations, I wish to reaffirm Nepal's commitment to the principles and objectives of the United Nations and to share, in brief, our hopes, aspirations and views.

Last year we observed the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a milestone in human history. The fiftieth anniversary of another historical milestone- the Geneva Conventions of 1949- this year provides the international community with another opportunity to reiterate its deepening commitment to democracy, human rights and improved living conditions for peoples. At the national level, we regard the protection and promotion of human rights as a sine qua non for the all-round development of the people. Democracy and development, I believe, are two sides of the same coin, hard to guarantee and secure except in a state of peace and stability under a system of participatory good governance.

Nepal is a nation with a young democratic setup and an ever-deepening commitment to human rights and the all- round development of the people, who are beset with the numerous unique and onerous challenges characteristic of a small land-locked and least developed country with difficult Himalayan and mountainous terrains and the greatest of contemporary problems - poverty. At no point in history have we witnessed poverty eating up so systematically the spiritual richness of peoples in many countries, including Nepal - the land of the Buddha.

Nepal's development efforts are driven by an overriding objective of poverty eradication through employment and income generation, social mobilization and the strengthening of social capital within a democratic values-based system. The country has almost unlimited potential for hydropower development and tourism, and we have created legislative conditions for the participation of foreign investors in these sectors as well as in other trade and services-generating sectors in Nepal. Our commitment to sustainable development has been translated into several measures aimed at the preservation of the environment and ecological balance, including the earmarking of a large part of our land area for the development of wildlife parks and nature reserves. I want at this stage to reiterate our commitment to the development of Lumbini- the birthplace of the Buddha- as an enduring peace monument, a holy shrine for pilgrimage and one of the world's greatest cultural heritages.

I am disheartened that despite several world summits, conferences and international commitments, absolute poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy and hopelessness should still remain the lot of the bulk of the world's population.

One billion adults, the majority of them women, cannot read or write. Almost a billion people are underfed and malnourished, and a similar number have no access to clean water, shelter or health care. Many millions die before they reach the age of 40.

Equally threatening is the ever-widening gap between the haves and the have-nots. The conclusion of this year's Human Development Report is the unbelievable polarization between peoples and countries, which the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) characterized as grotesque and dangerous. The one fifth of the world's population in the highest-income countries commands 86 per cent of world gross domestic product and 82 per cent of world export markets, while the bottom fifth, in the poorest countries has just 1 per cent of both categories. How long can the world go on like this, with a small part of its people living in freedom and prosperity while the larger segment is living in fetters under abject conditions, before calamity engulfs us all?

A few years ago, at the request of the heads of State or Government of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, I undertook the task of chairing the Independent South Asian Commission on Poverty Alleviation as part of a regional endeavour to work out regional strategies and programmes of action for the eradication of poverty from South Asia. My own experience as Chairman of that Commission leads me to the inescapable conclusion that the goal of poverty eradication requires, among other things, sustained political will and commitment of the highest order, an integrated and coordinated approach and decisive national actions, with the participation of all, including grass-roots organizations and civil society, backed by enhanced international development cooperation.

But the fast-dwindling official development assistance flows and ever-increasing resource constraints of United Nations development agencies, such as the United Nations Development Programme, make our task of poverty eradication and development harder and harder with each passing year. This is particularly true in the case of least developed and landlocked countries such as Nepal. While we deeply appreciate the help of our development partners, we urge developed countries, which are undoubtedly in a position to do so, to generously increase the volume of their official development assistance so as to attain the target set by this Assembly. Reallocation of official development assistance in favour of the less developed countries is another area which deserves attention.

As we are a democratic nation, women- who make up half of every country's population- are the backbone of Nepalese society. We can hardly remain oblivious to the urgent need for their empowerment and advancement. We

have made legislative arrangements to guarantee their participation in the national polity by reserving exclusively for them as many as 40,000 seats in the local elected bodies. In the three general elections since 1991, the number of women parliamentarians has steadily gone up. But we are aiming for more. Their literacy rate is also improving. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, to which Nepal recently presented its country report, has acknowledged the progress made in raising the status of women in general and in increasing understanding of gender issues and the human rights of women among the Nepalese population. We know we have to do a lot more, and I am personally committed to this.

We are equally committed to the protection and promotion of the rights of the child as well as the rights and interests of other vulnerable and disadvantaged sections of society. In short, we have before us a large agenda for nation-building, for the consolidation of gains in democracy and human rights and for living up to our international commitment to peace, cooperation and development in the world. We are dealing with the agenda with a sense of purpose and commitment, although there are several obvious difficulties, including the economic, social, environmental and political problems created by 100,000 refugees from Bhutan. We seek the continued support and understanding of the international community in the creation of an environment conducive to the resolution of this problem through bilateral negotiations. We also seek its support for their sustenance until they are repatriated.

I wish to place on record our appreciation of and gratitude to Secretary General Kofi Annan, the world's foremost public servant, for his efforts and successes in defusing tensions around the world and solving many seemingly intractable problems, such as those of Libya and the popular consultation in East Timor. I am impressed with his impassioned call for the transition from a culture of reaction to a culture of prevention in the United Nations. He has drawn our attention to the benefits and risks provided by globalization and to the need for strengthened international cooperation to offset the vulnerability of many countries, particularly the least developed and landlocked ones, and the marginalization of Africa.

We have noted his emphasis on the maintenance of international peace and security as the primary responsibility of the Security Council. We thank him also for his dedication to comprehensive United Nations reform and for his package of reform proposals. Reform is a continuing process. It will be neither meaningful nor complete unless we arrive at a ratifiable global consensus on the functioning and composition of a reformed Security Council. The statement of the Foreign Ministers of the five permanent members that any attempt

to restrict or curtail their veto rights would not be conducive to the reform process is a matter of deep disappointment. Nepal supports the common position evolved at the Durban Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement on the question of Security Council reform. We are also firm in our view that no reform measure should curtail the authority of the General Assembly, which is the nearest thing to a world parliament.

The United Nations cannot continue to function effectively without a fair and sound financial base. Assessed dues must be paid in full and on time. Peacekeeping is a unique and most useful instrument for the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security. Nepal has participated in United Nations peacekeeping for over 40 years in all parts of the world. Some 35,000 of our troops and 800 of our police have served with many peacekeeping operations, 39 having been martyred and several more wounded in the line of duty. It is the firm policy of Nepal not only to maintain but also to increase our contribution to United Nations peacekeeping.

It is disappointing that for three years in a row the principal United Nations forum for disarmament negotiations, the Conference on Disarmament, has not been able to agree on an agenda of work. Some important arms control and disarmament measures have been adopted without reference to the Conference on Disarmament. As host to the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific, Nepal's commitment to general and complete disarmament, including total nuclear disarmament, remains undiluted.

In the summer months of this year, South Asia witnessed a flare-up between two of our close neighbours. Disquieting because it broke a peace that had lasted for nearly three decades, it also exposed the myth fostered in a bygone era that countries possessing nuclear weapons would not go to conventional war against each other. The risk of an accidental nuclear war engulfing other countries was magnified by the close proximity of the two countries. Leaving aside the causes of that flare-up, I would like to commend the Prime Ministers and the Governments of the two countries for their restraint, good sense and wisdom in containing the conflict and displaying a high degree of responsibility to their peoples, to the rest of South Asia and to the peoples of the entire world. May I take this opportunity once again to appeal to the Prime Ministers of those two countries to resume their dialogue, begun in Lahore last February.

Nepal welcomes the Sharm el-Sheikh accord between Prime Minister Barak and President Arafat as an irreversible step forward in the Middle East peace process. It opens the way to a just, lasting and comprehensive peace. We hope,

for the sake of peace, that negotiations between Syria and Israel and Lebanon will soon resume in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions.

Let me conclude with a brief mention of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), which consists of the seven countries of the region, representing one fifth of humanity. We are united in a common effort to enhance the quality of life of all our peoples. I am looking forward to hosting the next summit meeting of Heads of State or Government of the South Asian region in two months' time at Kathmandu. Our important agenda will deal with such issues as free trade and a SAARC social charter. We will also be signing a regional convention on combatting the crime of trafficking in women and children. This will be another landmark in the work of SAARC, a regional association dedicated to peace and cooperation in South Asia.

Address By

**Rt. Hon. Girija Prasad Koirala**

Prime Minister of Nepal and Head of the Nepalese Delegation,  
55<sup>th</sup> Session of the UNGA, New York, September 2000

I bring the Assembly warm greetings from the Government and people of Nepal and the best wishes of His Majesty King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev.

Since its inception, the United Nations has been working to uphold peace, to promote the rule of law and to foster development. Yet freedom from want and freedom from fear are as distant as ever for many countries. The challenge before the world's leaders today is to bring peace, prosperity and justice to everyone in an interdependent and globalized world.

We in Nepal believe that the United Nations can help achieve our goal. It is this belief that keeps our faith alive in the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, whose ideals of freedom, equality, non-violence and tolerance continue to sustain the hopes of humanity. That Nepal is active in peacekeeping as well as in other work of the Organization is a clear testimony to that abiding faith.

Never before had the imperative of peace been more compelling and prospects of peace so bright as they are today because of the unprecedented human capacity to destroy and to create. All too often we have failed to remove the root causes of conflict, poverty and exclusion. Poverty and conflict often reinforce each other. The current wave of globalization, though holding promise, has widened the disparity between rich and poor and has facilitated the movements of terrorists, criminals, drugs, diseases and pollution. Refugee flows have become alarming due mainly to intra-State conflicts.

It is within our collective capacity to change this. States must exercise the requisite political will and act together to eliminate the threats of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction, to control small and light weapons, to prevent conflicts and resolve disputes peacefully, to restore confidence in collective security through robust peacekeeping, to tackle terrorism and crime and, above all, to bring inclusive progress.

Reducing poverty requires sustained growth at home and a favourable external climate. Growth entails investment, which the world community should help poor countries to finance by meeting agreed aid targets, broadening debt relief measures and encouraging foreign investment. Measures must also be put in place to evenly distribute the benefits of globalization, to bridge the digital divide and to open markets in rich countries for the products and labour of poor countries.

Development should be environment- and market-friendly to make it sustainable. The global financial architecture and the global trading regime must be more responsive to the needs of poor countries.

The least developed countries have for far too long remained in the shadow of world attention. The landlocked among them, like Nepal, are the worst off, as they continue to slide down. Their development partners must help them, both with adequate resources to remove their development constraints and with duty- free and quota-free access for their exports. Transit countries should provide better transit facilities to landlocked countries so that they can join the global economic mainstream.

The United Nations needs comprehensive reform in order to rise up to the challenges of the twenty-first century. We must restore an optimal balance between the General Assembly and the Security Council, and strengthen the Economic and Social Council. The Organization must bring about greater coordination among its funds, programmes and activities, as well as with the Bretton Wood institutions and the World Trade Organization. If the Organization is to be effective, Member States must provide it with adequate resources. The Secretary General's millennium report offers many useful insights to address global problems and reform the Organization.

We share a common humanity and face a shared destiny. States committed to democracy, human rights and good governance that are willing to take bold steps and work with each other, as well as with civil society, can make a difference. People shall judge us by our leadership in promoting peace, prosperity and justice for every man, woman and child around the world. Nepal will do its part.

Address By

**Hon. Dr. Ram Sharan Mahat**

Minister for Finance of Nepal and Head of the Nepalese Delegation,  
56<sup>th</sup> Session of the UNGA, New York, 14<sup>th</sup> November 2001

At the outset, I wish to express, on behalf of His Majesty's Government and the people of Nepal, and on my own behalf, our profound condolences to the Government and the people of the United States, as well as to the families who lost their loved ones in the unfortunate crash of American Airlines flight 587 on 12 November.

Let me congratulate you, Mr. President, on your well-deserved election to steer the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly. My felicitations also go to the other members of the Bureau.

I also congratulate the Secretary General on his election to a second term and on being awarded this year's Nobel Peace Prize, together with the United Nations.

We are meeting against the backdrop of the 11 September terrorist attacks that took innumerable lives and caused colossal damage in our host country and host city. The Nepalese people express their full solidarity with the American people in this hour of grief and support the American-led war on terror.

The horror's powerful ripples have been felt beyond the borders of the United States, around the world. They have pushed the already slumping global economy into a recession that is sure to unleash misery and starvation on millions of people and kill thousands of children in the developing world.

In the wake of the terrorist onslaught, the United Nations was quick to act. It approved fresh measures, including Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), calling on Member States to stem the terrorists' channels of communication, freeze their finances, deny them refuge and support, strengthen domestic and international law against them and collectively take all necessary measures to prevent and defeat them.

A broad coalition of States united around a common goal has launched a global campaign against terrorism. Itself being a victim of terrorist activities,

which have taken nearly 1,800 lives over the past five years and have grossly undermined development efforts, Nepal fully understands the challenges and cost of defeating this elusive enemy that has no borders, no territory and no standing army. Yet with collective resolve and determination and with preventive and curative actions we can sniff out the forces of terrorism, if we only refrain from political expediency and moral relativism.

Enforcing all the existing relevant conventions and resolutions is as crucial as the early conclusion of a comprehensive convention on terrorism in order to achieve the objective.

The twenty-first century begins with a new and uncertain security environment. No sooner had we put the wars, and the cold war, of the last century behind us and had begun to grapple with internal conflicts than terrorism emerged as a grave threat to international peace and security. It should be tackled decisively and without delay.

As we engage in the war on terrorism, we must not forget that the edifice of durable peace can be erected only on the fundamental pillars of the prevention of conflicts, the peaceful resolution of disputes, persistent efforts for disarmament, poverty reduction and development, and respect for diversity, fairness and justice. The culture of peace and dialogue should advance the process.

We now live in a global village where all are interdependent. A fire in one house may consume the entire village if left unchecked. That is why concerted efforts to secure peace and stability are critical in the troubled nations of Africa, Asia, Europe and elsewhere that have suffered wanton instability and violence that are pernicious for their national integrity, social harmony and economic progress.

In particular, we will have to end the cycle of violence and death in the Middle East by finding a durable solution to its festering problem. The war on terror and the restoration of stability will succeed in Afghanistan if its people are saved from starvation and unwarranted hardship now and assured of their country's reconstruction when the struggle is over.

Criminal acts such as those involving the present anthrax scare in the United States and the use of sarin gas in the Tokyo subway a few years back are strong testimony to the necessity of abolishing biological and chemical weapons before an appalling catastrophe befalls us. More importantly, the proliferation of nuclear weapons and the increasing likelihood of their use by terrorists, viewed in the context of the successful 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,

constitute compelling reasons to follow the path of complete and general nuclear disarmament.

The inability of the Conference on Disarmament to agree on its programme of work for the past several years raises serious doubts about our commitment to disarmament. That forum should be activated without delay and should be tasked with negotiating new disarmament treaties, including one on nuclear disarmament, and to strengthen the existing ones.

In order for United Nations peace efforts to become instrumental in promoting global peace, Nepal has lent them moral backing, has contributed nearly 40,000 troops and has sustained 42 casualties in the line of duty. Nepal is willing to work for the improvement of peacekeeping operations, taking into account both the Brahimi Panel report and our collective experience.

While we are preoccupied with the immediate steps against terrorists, we must not overlook or abandon other equally pressing issues central to durable peace, such as the need to remove poverty, create jobs and provide education, drinking water, health and other basic services in poor countries. The reason is simple: terrorists and anarchists often exploit the vulnerabilities of the impoverished, the unemployed, the excluded and the disaffected to carry out their sinister designs.

Of course, poor countries have no choice but to undertake painful reforms to improve their governance and performance. Decreasing assistance to the poor in the face of increasing prosperity in the rich countries defies our understanding. Therefore, it is equally urgent and essential that they receive increased support from their development partners.

For example, rich countries need to reverse the decline in development assistance and meet the aid targets, fully fund and expand the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative to cover all least developed and worst affected countries and facilitate investment in the South. Their trade barriers ought to be dismantled and markets opened to spur exports and help to broaden the production capacities of developing countries.

As the advanced nations seek to hammer out a stimulus package to extricate their economies from the dark shadow of the present economic downturn, they must also be mindful of the much greater needs of poorer nations at this time of economic hardship.

Undoubtedly, all developing countries face serious obstacles to their development journey. But landlocked developing countries suffer from the additional impediments of remoteness, transit-transport difficulties and lack of access to sea-based resources.

However, nowhere are the trauma of deprivation and dispossession and problems of development more staggering than in the least developed countries, virtually all of which are in Africa and Asia. Globalization has further marginalized them, and the information revolution has hardly touched them. The United Nations special programmes of the past two decades have apparently been inadequate and unable to make a difference, as many of these countries have become increasingly worse off over the last decade.

Nepal is committed to vigorously implementing the outcome of the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries. We sincerely hope that our development partners will leave no stone unturned in carrying out their commitments, including the European Union's "everything but arms" scheme.

Conflicts and chaos, and deprivation and disasters continue to spawn humanitarian problems and to create situations in which human rights are compromised. Today there are 22 million refugees, including 100,000 in Nepal, and many more internally displaced persons around the globe. Responding to such exigencies is naturally a priority, as is the war on terror, but we must bear in mind that humanitarian assistance cannot prevent the recurrence of crises until people are empowered and their vulnerabilities addressed.

I should like to take this occasion to thank the international community for its support in the maintenance of refugees in Nepal. We urge it to continue its assistance until the problem is resolved, leading to their repatriation. To this end, we are engaged in dialogue with the Government of the Kingdom of Bhutan.

The need has never been so urgent to protect refugees, maintain ecological balance, preserve the environment, promote sustainable development and ensure that this planet remains at least as liveable for our children as it has been for us. The strengthening of existing global treaties on the environment, and particularly the adoption of the Kyoto Protocol, is urgently required.

Nepal, a least developed and landlocked nation, has accorded its topmost priority to poverty reduction, spending more than 70 per cent of its budget in rural areas where the poorest people live, and has adopted a market-led development policy with a two-pronged strategy.

Policies and measures have been instituted to attract foreign investment and to harness people's creative potential by means of economic liberalization, investment incentives, decentralization and the rationalization of public spending priorities. Of late, we have taken steps towards land reform, the empowerment of women through education, inheritance rights and political

participation, together with special developmental programmes to assist weak and vulnerable people and regions.

Yet progress has been slow in coming, with the attendant serious consequences. Nepal's per capita gross national product of \$220 is one of the lowest in the world; 38 per cent of the population lives below the poverty line; and the ratio of the Government's foreign debt stock to government revenue is 410 per cent, and to annual exports, 350 per cent. These statistics are incredibly disheartening, even among the least developed countries.

Despite this, Nepal is left out of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative. I therefore urge the donor community to include Nepal in the Initiative to help release our resources from debt-servicing obligations, which will enable us to implement poverty-reduction programmes more effectively. But this will in no way substitute for the need for increased development assistance.

The United Nations has an elemental role to play in meeting all these challenges. To prepare it to address them, Nepal believes that we should revitalize the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and augment cooperation and coordination among the various United Nations organs. Likewise, we deem it imperative to enlarge the Security Council and to improve its methods of work, including through the deepening of its cooperation with troop-contributing countries.

Veto power militates against the basic tenets of equality and democracy; it reflects the realities of a bygone era. Nepal is convinced of the necessity to do away with the veto and understands the profound difficulty of achieving this goal. Until it has been eliminated, this power ought to be rationalized by defining the parameters for its application. The Millennium Declaration has given us a vision of and benchmarks for a peaceful, decent, just and viable global society, and it has indicated how the United Nations could be instrumental in achieving them. It is our collective obligation to implement them, sharing the burdens and benefits equally. Nepal welcomes the road map for the implementation of the Declaration.

The implementation review of various global compacts has unmistakably established a shortage of financial resources as the principal reason for lack of progress. Nepal hopes that the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held next year, will do their best to chalk out a blueprint for financing developmental activities, which is the foremost concern of the developing world.

As regional cooperation is an effective vehicle for broadening markets and production as well as for building collective competitiveness, Nepal and other

South Asian countries have been working together under the umbrella of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). I am happy to inform the Assembly that Nepal will have the privilege of hosting its next summit in January 2002, following its postponement two years ago.

Again, in the spirit of regional solidarity and of its abiding commitment to peace and disarmament, Nepal looks forward to the early relocation of the Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific to Kathmandu, where it belongs. We have, on our part, completed all necessary preparations for the effective functioning of the Centre from Nepal.

Democracy, development and human rights are integral to society's advancement. Therefore, Nepal is engaged in promoting democracy and freedom, and human rights and justice for all, particularly women, children and vulnerable groups. We cherish these values, which are crucial to preserving human dignity and to bestowing on human beings the opportunity to reach their full potential.

In the aftermath of the agonizing royal massacre in Nepal early this year, our people's faith in democracy has been further reinforced, as it ensured a smooth succession and stability in the face of a terrible crisis. I thank all our friends for their solidarity and support at a time of national tragedy in Nepal.

We have witnessed unprecedented unity among nations in fighting major wars in the past, and terrorism at present. If we show the same kind of resolve and dedication, we can successfully fight poverty, deprivation and discrimination. The United Nations should brace itself to face them effectively, and Member States should assume a greater sense of responsibility. Nepal, committed as it is to the principles and purposes of the United Nations, will continue to do its best to help it achieve its goals and to make a difference in our people's lives.

Address By

**Hon. Arjun Jung Bahadur Singh**

Minister of State For Foreign Affairs of Nepal and Head of the Nepalese Delegation, 57<sup>th</sup> Session of the UNGA, New York, 19<sup>th</sup> September 2002

Mr. President  
Excellencies  
Distinguished Delegates

Let me begin by taking this opportunity to congratulate you, Mr. President, for your unanimous election to preside over the 57th session of the General Assembly. My delegation pledges its full support to you and has full confidence in your ability to steer the session to its successful conclusion.

I would also like to express my delegation's profound appreciation to your predecessor, H. E. Dr. Han Seung-soo, for the excellent manner in which he guided the 56th session.

Our tributes are also due to the Secretary General, H. E. Mr. Kofi Annan, for his tireless efforts to carry out the mandate of the United Nations.

Nepal congratulates and welcomes Switzerland as a new member of the United Nations. We also look forward to having the privilege of welcoming East Timor as a new member in next few days.

Mr. President

We are meeting here under a long and dark shadow of the terrorist attacks against the Host City on September 11, 2001. The trauma and tragedy the attacks wrought are still fresh in our memory. Our heart goes out to those children who lost their parents and those families who lost their near and dear ones.

Itself a victim of terrorism, Nepal understands the pain and peril terrorists brutally perpetrate on individuals and societies. As globalisation and

technological advances have made it possible for terrorists to move people and funds across the world with ease, concerted efforts of nations will be essential to stamp out terrorism.

Therefore, we support the on-going global war on terrorism and see the need for the better enforcement of the existing international law and the conclusion of a comprehensive global convention for this purpose. In Nepal, we have enacted a new law as well as rules and regulations that include provisions of relevant international treaties to which we are a party.

Opposed to democracy and freedoms, the so-called Maoist terrorists in Nepal have been taking innocent lives, abducting children to work as child soldiers, and destroying private homes, schools, and vital infrastructure. In view of this, His Majesty's Government has recognised them as terrorists and launched a campaign to protect the people and property.

We appreciate the moral and financial supports from our friends in this effort. We also deplore any suggestion that tends to equate the government's obligation to protect its citizens with the terrorists' dastardly acts of violence.

#### Mr. President

Even though terrorism is the menace of the moment, other peace and security problems continue to trouble the world. The Middle East is burning and Africa is boiling in conflicts. Tension also abounds elsewhere: in Asia, Europe and Latin America.

To find a comprehensive peace in the Middle East, Nepal supports a time-bound implementation of Security Council resolution 1397 and of the Quartet agreement of April 2002. Iraq must comply with relevant Security Council resolutions and the global community must respect the sanctity and integrity of the UN Charter not to set the wider region on fire.

We are happy that Afghanistan is limping back to normalcy. Providing security coverage over the entire country should be the United Nations' priority so that reconstruction could pick up momentum.

East Timor has emerged from the South Pacific as a free nation. We congratulate its people for their freedom and independence and the United Nations for helping them through the transition.

It is encouraging that Sierra Leone has achieved a measure of stability. Attempts must be redoubled to resolve the conflicts in the Democratic Republic of the

Congo, in Liberia, and in Burundi for a wider peace. The Balkans, Cyprus and the Korean peninsula should receive necessary support in their quest for peace and harmony.

Mr. President

No durable peace will be possible without the prevention of conflicts and resolution of disputes through peaceful means. Peacekeeping, disarmament, and confidence building are the pillars of an edifice of culture of peace.

UN peacekeeping operations have proved very useful in helping to stabilise fragile situations during and after conflicts. Nepal is a major player in UN peacekeeping and has contributed over 40,000 military and police personnel so far. Our peacekeepers have served the United Nations with outstanding competence and dedication, sustaining 42 casualties on the tour of duty.

Our commitment to UN peacekeeping operations remains robust. Supply of fully self-sustained troops is our goal, but that often becomes difficult for a poor country. Until we achieve our goal, the United Nations must continue to bridge the resource gaps through innovative means.

In our view, total elimination of nuclear weapons in a time-bound manner constitutes the cornerstone of disarmament endeavour. We as well stress the imperative for observance of the existing international treaties, ratification of CTBT and conclusion of a fissile materials cut-off treaty.

Nuclear weapon free zones, the guarantee not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon states and other confidence building measures will help the process of nuclear disarmament. Equally important is the necessity to eradicate chemical, biological and other weapons of mass destruction.

Small arms have taken more lives than any other weapons. We welcome the agreement that emerged from the conference on small arms and light weapons last year. Nonetheless, we underline the need for stricter controls on possession of such arms by non-state actors.

UN regional centres for peace and disarmament are an important tool for building confidence and helping the process of disarmament in their respective regions. We are grateful to member states that they have designated Nepal as host for the regional centre in Asia and the Pacific. It is however deeply troubling that the Centre is yet to move to Kathmandu, despite our full commitment to meet all those obligations that other hosts have done. We urge the United Nations to relocate the Centre immediately and not to set

terms and conditions over and above what the other hosts of similar centres have accepted.

Mr. President

One may argue that not all conflicts are products of poverty. Yet people living in poverty, deprivation and despair become easily susceptible to the evil designs of extremist elements. Hence, poverty reduction and sustainable development are an inseparable part of efforts to prevent conflicts and terrorism and to promote peace.

Indeed, developing countries must bear the primary responsibility of their development. Nepal has taken far-reaching reforms to liberalise the economy, optimise internal resources, attract foreign investment and protect the environment. Most of the public expenditure is invested in people and in poor areas. Measures have been taken to provide clean government and improve overall governance.

However, our problems are so big and our resources so limited that without additional resources and market access we cannot accelerate our growth and sustain our development. So, wealthy nations will have to fulfill their commitments made at the Millennium Summit as well as at the Doha, Monterrey and Johannesburg conferences. We appreciate the pledges of the European Union and the United States to raise the level of their development assistance and urge them to keep their word.

Developing countries also need a conducive global economic climate to grow. For it to happen, rich nations must strive to lift the world economy from the current recession and agree on major reforms in the international financial architecture.

More than others, least developed countries in Africa and elsewhere need increased assistance and support to break loose from their poverty trap. Developed nations should do everything in their power to meet the official development assistance targets, provide duty-free and quota-free access for LDC products to their markets, and help implement other provisions of the Brussels Program of Action.

Landlocked developing countries suffer the constraints of remoteness, high cost economies, and high transit costs. They need targeted assistance to overcome their specific hurdles, so do the small and poor island developing states.

Nepal appreciates the United Nations for its important role in propelling development in developing countries. We also welcome the timely appointment of the High Representative for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS.

Regional co-operation is a linchpin of attempts collectively to foster competitiveness, capacity and synergy. In South Asia, we are striving to build such co-operation under the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). Poverty alleviation, trade liberalisation and technical co-operation have received principal focus as precursors to the ultimate establishment of a South Asian Economic Union. The 11th SAARC summit that Nepal hosted in January this year is a testament to member states' eagerness to not let their political differences affect the process of regional economic integration.

Mr. President

Nepal is fully committed to democracy, justice, and human rights, including those of women and children. We are strengthening the values and institutions of democracy and incorporating international human rights standards into our domestic laws. The National Human Rights Commission is fully functional and the judiciary is being revitalised.

Sadly enough, there are nearly 20 million refugees around the world and many more internally displaced persons. In Nepal alone, there are over 100,000 refugees from Bhutan, deprived of their human rights at home. With a view to finding a durable solution to the problem, Nepal has engaged in bilateral negotiations with Bhutan nearly for a decade by now. We call on Bhutan to take the negotiations as a matter of urgency and pave the way for the earliest repatriation of the refugees.

Friendly countries, the United Nations system, particularly UNHCR and WFP, and non-governmental organisations have been generously assisting us in the maintenance of the refugees. We express our appreciation to them for the help and urge them to continue it until the refugees return home.

Mr. President

Committed to the principles and purposes of the United Nations, Nepal underlines the necessity for United Nations reforms so that it can stand up to the challenges before it. Therefore, revitalising the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council constitutes our priority. We are in favour of reinforcing collaboration and complementarities between the ECOSOC and the Security Council in their respective and related areas.

In our view, there is an imperative for limited expansion in Security Council membership, in both categories, in such a manner that preserves the Council's agility as well as ensures equitable geographical representation. Reform in its working methods, too, must continue with a view to enhancing transparency and improving the quality of consultations, particularly with troop contributing countries.

Reform is equally essential at the UN Secretariat to increase its efficiency and effectiveness. Interagency co-ordination ought to be upgraded as well.

Central to strengthening the United Nations is a vigorous Non-aligned Movement and robust Group of 77. As a member of both, Nepal pledges to work with other countries to reinvigorate these frameworks and to deepen co-operation between them and the United Nations.

Thank you Mr. President.

Address By

**H.E. Dr. Bhekh Bahadur Thapa**

Ambassador-at-Large of Nepal and Head of the Nepalese Delegation,  
58<sup>th</sup> Session of the UNGA, New York, on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2003

Mr. President

I greet you warmly at your election as President of this session and assure you of Nepal's full cooperation in your work. His Excellency Mr. Jan Kavan, the outgoing President, deserves our appreciation for the job well done. I also pay tribute to the Secretary-General for providing dynamic leadership to the United Nations.

Mr. President

Last twelve months have been a momentous period of convulsive events. It has been a mixed bag. Terrorism has been dented but remains a serious threat to peace. Some countries have limped back to normalcy while others have descended into chaos. All sides have accepted the Middle East road map but a new cycle of violence is undermining it. Iraq continues to be source of concern to all. The global economic slump has turned the corner but the growth remains anemic; and the Cancun trade talks have foundered.

In these developments, the United Nations has come into sharp focus that is not always flattering. However, Nepal has an abiding faith in the United Nations and believes in its centrality for humanity's quest for shared peace, progress and justice. To small nations like ours, the United Nations is and should be the bulwark of sovereignty and defender of freedom. It has stood up to such challenges in the past; and it must prepare itself to face the future equally boldly, through a process of strengthened multilateralism.

Mr. President

Today, the world faces a number of threats to its peace, progress and harmony. Terrorism is now by far the most immediate threat that afflicts rich and poor, and big and small countries. After September 11, 2001, the concerted battle

we have launched has pushed terror into retreat but a decisive war we must win against it is yet to be won. This scourge has not left the United Nations untouched either.

For instance, two bombs exploded in as many months at the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad killing Mr. Sergio de Mello and others and reminding grimly of the indiscriminate dark threat of terrorism. We condemn the assault on the United Nations and our profound condolences go to the countries that lost their citizens and families that lost their dear ones in those tragic attacks.

My own nation is in the throes of terrorism, perpetrated by the self-proclaimed Maoists for last seven years. Opposed to constitutional monarchy and democratic order, the Maoists have broken the 7-month-old cease-fire, withdrawn from the talks and unleashed unspeakable violence on the people. They did so even as the Government showed flexibility to accommodate several of their demands and put on the table a comprehensive package of reforms.

His Majesty's Government has the duty to protect the life and liberty of people and to defend freedom and democracy in the country. We will do so resolutely but responsibly. While doing so, we have kept the door of dialogue open. On behalf of the Government, I thank our friends for their understanding and assistance in our war against terror and the UN Secretary-General for his interest and concern.

Clearly, Iraq continues to remain a serious issue. Now that the war is over the global community must agree to revert sovereignty to the Iraqi people as quickly as possible, to let them govern themselves and to help them rebuild their country. The United Nations should be given an enhanced role in this process.

A renewed violence in the Middle East has imperiled the Quartet-endorsed road map, which promises a viable state to the Palestinians and security to the Israelis. Nepal appeals to both sides to exercise maximum restraints and engage in constructive dialogue to attain a comprehensive settlement of the long festering crisis. It also appeals to Israel to reconsider its decision to remove Palestinian President Arafat.

The Security Council must take an early decision to extend security throughout Afghanistan so that rebuilding could go forward in the country. It should also augment efforts to resolve conflicts and bring stability to volatile countries in Africa and elsewhere.

Nepal has a deep interest in, and unwavering commitment to, United Nations peacekeeping. Nepalese blue helmets have served in various missions in an

outstanding manner and many of them have made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of peace and humanity. The United Nations should continue helping poor troop contributing countries to bridge their resources gaps, and give them more say in mission planning and deployment of forces.

Mr. President

While fire fighting in crisis situations is urgent, the international community must look beyond the immediacy of conflicts and attempt to build an edifice of a durable peace in the world. Disarmament, development and rule of law are the pillars of such architecture. There is a moral case and enlightened self-interest for all of us to work together towards such peace.

Disarmament and confidence building measure are critical to build a culture of peace. Nuclear weapons are the greatest threat to humanity and must be eliminated with their delivery vehicles, in a time-bound manner. Nuclear weapon states should steadily reduce their nuclear arsenals and the Conference on Disarmament must draw strategy to eradicate these arms.

As a nation committed to peace, Nepal welcomes the proposals to establish nuclear weapons free zones and to keep outer space free of weapons. We also stress the necessity to reinforce the chemical and biological weapons ban regimes and to strengthen measures to prevent the access of non-state actors to small arms and light weapons.

Nepal supports the regional centers for peace and disarmament as significant tools for building confidence among nations. We are eagerly looking forward to hosting the Regional Center for Peace and Disarmament for Asia and the Pacific in Kathmandu. We have asked the Secretariat to revise the draft host country agreements so they are consistent with diplomatic practices and with provisions of other two centers.

Mr. President

Poverty is by far the most entrenched threat to peace and human dignity and development is the most daunting challenge for the world. The global community must act together to lift people in developing countries from the perils of hunger, ignorance, disease and despair. We must create jobs and opportunities to enable people to lead a decent life and to raise their stakes in peace and order.

Nepal has accorded the highest priority to poverty alleviation in its current 10th five-year plan, modeled after the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper. Broad-based growth, social sector development, targeted programs and

good governance constitute the strategy of the plan. We have liberalized the economy to foster broader partnership with the private sector, NGOs and community groups and wider space for foreign investment.

Improvements in the agriculture and social sectors as well as rural infrastructure constitute the core of our quest for poverty reduction and sustainable development. However, Nepal lacks sufficient resources to achieve its development objectives. Our resource constraints have become more acute due to Maoists insurgency and consequent economic disruption. Many other developing countries are in a similar situation.

The global community must join forces, in a spirit of partnership, to eradicate the absolute poverty and stimulate development in developing nations. Indeed, the Millennium Summit and global conferences on financing, sustainable development, HIV/AIDS and trade have clearly laid down the way forward. We must ensure that these compacts do not fail in the crucible of implementation.

As developing countries lead efforts for their progress, development partners must keep their commitments by meeting development assistance targets and providing debt relief to the highly indebted poor countries, including all least developed nations.

Increasing development assistance alone, however, will do little to help developing countries unless rich nations dismantle their farm subsidies and pull down their tariff and non-tariff barriers for the products from the South. Improved access to world markets is critical for poor nations to attract investment, remove their supply-side constraints and transform their economies. In this context, the Cancun trade talks must be resumed soon and in a manner that globalisation brings benefits to the poor as well.

His Majesty's Government is grateful to the World Trade Organization for deciding to admit Nepal and Cambodia as its new members. That is just the first step. Nepal needs, as other least developed countries do, duty-free and quota-free access to, and increased assistance from, rich nations to escape the poverty trap and to integrate with the global economy.

Landlocked developing countries face geographic handicaps and remoteness from the major corridors of global commerce. We welcome the Almaty Program of Action to address their problem and thank the transit and development partners for making the ministerial meeting a success. We urge all sides to make concerted efforts to implement the Almaty Program.

Mr. President

Democracy, fairness and rule of law are the building blocks of secure peace at home and across the world. With this in view, Nepal has embraced pluralistic

democracy, constitutional monarchy, and inviolability of human rights and freedoms as the defining features in the present Constitution.

Our pledge to these values and ideals remains as strong as ever. Parliamentary elections postponed due to Maoist threat will be held as soon as possible and immediate steps will be taken to restore and reactivate local authorities. The Government is seriously committed to doing this.

The Government has accorded high priority to lifting the status of women, children and disadvantaged people as well as to preventing trafficking in women. It has established juvenile courts and strengthened the court system as well as tried to give the tools and resources necessary to the human rights protection and anti-corruption agencies to do their job.

Nepal firmly believes that the world community should try its level best to promote democracy, justice and fairness in world trade, global governance and international relations. In this spirit, we underscore the imperative for change in the global trade regime, for reform in international financial architecture and for help to developing countries to ride through their problems.

Speaking of justice, nearly 100,000 Bhutanese refugees living in camps in Nepal are waiting for over a decade to return home in safety and dignity. We hope Bhutan will show more flexibility in the bilateral negotiations to find an early and just settlement. We call on the world community, including UNHCR, to help create a conducive climate for resolving this distressing humanitarian problem by sustaining its interest and assistance for the maintenance of the refugees at this crucial juncture.

Mr. President

No organization can stand the test of time unless it is prepared to carry out bold reforms. Events in the run up to the Iraq war have shown the frailty of the United Nations and underlined the imperative for immediate and balanced reforms for the Organization to secure more legitimacy, not only in the eyes of the rich but also in the perception of the poor.

While we welcome the reforms the General Assembly adopted last year, we support the Secretary-General's proposal to set up a high-level panel to seek ways to make the United Nations a vibrant, effective and efficient organization, which can come to grips with the emerging challenges.

As we see it, there is an urgent imperative for the General Assembly to reclaim its primacy at the United Nations and for the ECOSOC to make its work more visible and relevant to the ordinary people. To achieve these objectives, we must not only rationalize the agendas of these organs but also ensure that

they adopt fewer resolutions that matter and that could be implemented to benefit humanity.

Reforms are long overdue to make the Security Council more democratic in its work and more representative in its structure. Nepal expresses its deep concern at the lack of tangible progress for over a decade on the issue of Council enlargement and urges all member states to scale up their efforts to achieve the goal.

In our view, the Non-aligned Movement should play an active role in United Nations reform. It should also work closely with the G-77 to advance their shared agenda in this and other respects.

Mr. President

In South Asia, as elsewhere, we view regional cooperation as an instrument of South-South cooperation for collective progress in the region and the world at large. The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation has been inspired by that aspiration. Let us hope our region can put its political differences behind and steam ahead to find the place South Asia deserves in the community of nations.

If our immediate and overriding preoccupation at home is restoration of peace, our commitment to regional cooperation and just and secure world constitutes an objective of equal order. The world has witnessed the resilience of the Nepalese people during difficult periods in history. We remain equally committed today to overcome the current challenge. I call on friends and well-wishers of Nepal for greater understanding and cooperation to help us help ourselves in our onward journey to peace and progress.

Thank you for your attention, Mr. President.

Address By

**Hon. Dr. Prakash Sharan Mahat**

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Nepal and Head of the Nepalese Delegation, 59<sup>th</sup> Session of the UNGA, New York, 28<sup>th</sup> September 2004

Mr. President

Allow me to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your well-deserved election to preside over the 59th session of the United Nations General Assembly. I assure you of my delegation's full cooperation in the discharge of your important duties.

Let me also pay tribute to your predecessor His Excellency Julian R. Hunte, Minister of External Affairs of St. Lucia, for his outstanding leadership in the last session of this august Assembly.

Our full appreciation goes to Secretary General Mr. Kofi Annan for his invaluable and wise stewardship of the United Nations.

I also wish to express, on behalf of His Majesty's Government and people of Nepal and on my own, our sincere condolences to the governments, countries and peoples that have suffered the consequences of hurricane and terrorist attacks in recent weeks and months.

Mr. President

We are passing through one of the most convulsive periods after the Second World War. The end of the cold war unleashed forces of democracy and economic openness and revolution in science and technology has converted the world into a global village by shrinking distances and increasing connectivity.

In tandem came the many negative consequences as well. Internal conflicts have proliferated and populations have been displaced; international terrorism has increased; globalisation has widened the gaps between the rich and poor; and poverty, ignorance, disease, and injustice have persisted and even worsened for the majority of humanity; and transnational crimes have spread their wings.

No country is immune from the impacts of these huge problems humanity faces today. Addressing these problems is a challenge that requires collective action by the international community in a spirit of multilateralism. And the United Nations has the legitimacy and mandate to promote multilateral solutions to shared problems of our time.

Indeed, the United Nations embodies the shared dream and hope of the entire humanity for peace, security and development. Nepal has abiding faith in the principles and objectives enshrined in the United Nations Charter. And we recognize the central role of the United Nations in pursuit of those shared dreams.

Mr. President

The emerging international situation is fraught with multitude of challenges. Internal conflicts have afflicted countries from Iraq to Burundi and from Haiti and Sudan. Terrorism has become a global menace casting a dark shadow over the lives of millions of peoples around the globe. Deadly weapons pose a constant threat to the safety of human beings and the existence of human civilization.

By all accounts, the situation in Iraq is highly volatile and extremely dangerous. The Nepalese people have yet to overcome the revulsion of brutal killing of their 12 innocent Nepalese hostages on August 31 in that country. We strongly condemn the dastardly crime committed by the terrorists. It is our fervent hope that Iraqi people will be able to improve their security environment, hold the scheduled elections in time and live in a free, secure and democratic and prosperous Iraq.

The Middle East is caught in a cycle of violence. To break this cycle, both Israel and Palestine will have to exercise maximum restraint and engage in fruitful dialogue to build mutual confidence critical for implementing the Quartet-endorsed Road Map that offers a viable and durable two state solution. Nepal supports the Road Map and views the Israeli plan to pull out of Gaza as a positive step.

Though the security situation has improved over time, Afghanistan is far from secure and its reconstruction far from satisfactory. The world community must do more to provide security to the entire country, to hold free and fair elections, and to accelerate the speed of its reconstruction and development.

Nepal supports United Nations efforts to bring peace and normalcy in Haiti, Burundi, Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Sudan. We are proud to be part of United Nations efforts in our own humble ways, in those countries by deploying our troops. The world community ought to sustain those efforts and help those countries in their rebuilding and reconstruction endeavors.

Mr. President

Nepal's track records are a testimony to its unflinching commitment to UN peacekeeping operations. So far, over 45 thousand Nepalese peacekeepers have served in various missions in an outstanding manner and 47 of them have already sacrificed their precious lives in the service of peace and humanity. At the moment, nearly 2500 Nepalese blue helmets are deployed in 12 peacekeeping missions around the world.

Nepal appreciates the United Nations for its help in bridging the equipment-gaps for our deployment. We urge the United Nations to enrich and widen the scope of consultations with troop contributing countries, including in the areas of mission planning and pre-deployment preparations. We urge the United Nations to give greater opportunity to Nepalese nationals in management positions at the Secretariat and field missions.

Pledged to peacekeeping and willing to bring our experience to the table, Nepal has sought the non-permanent membership of the Security Council for the period 2007-08, after a gap of 19 years. I take this opportunity to appeal to member states to give us the privilege of member states' support in the election to be held in 2006.

Mr. President

It is our firm belief that the international community should look beyond the immediate conflicts and seek to build a strong foundation for durable peace by pursuing disarmament, development and the rule of law.

Nepal is deeply concerned by the set back in the disarmament realm. Of course, the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction is very important to keep such weapons from rouge elements; no durable peace will be possible without concerted efforts to disarmament, particularly of nuclear weapons, as they are the greatest threat to human civilization.

It is sad that the Conference on Disarmament has no program of work for the last several years. The body must be allowed to work on a coherent strategy leading to the complete elimination of nuclear weapons in a time bound manner.

We reiterate our support to nuclear weapons free zones and keeping the outer space free of such weapons. The international community should also work together to strengthen controls over the small arms and light weapons to prevent their abuse by non-state actors.

Regional centers for peace and disarmament are instrumental in building confidence among nations. Nepal is eager to relocate to Kathmandu the Regional Center for Peace and Disarmament for Asia and the Pacific at the

earliest. We are prepared to sign the necessary agreements consistent with the prevailing diplomatic practices and provisions of the other two regional Centers. We also want the Kathmandu Process revived without delay.

Mr. President

International peace and security will continue to elude us until we address the root causes of conflicts: namely, poverty, ignorance, disease, exclusion and injustice. Most of the conflicts around the world now, which have regional and global consequences, are rooted in those sad human conditions. It is imperative that we address these conditions collectively for the shared benefits of human beings as a whole.

Today, over a billion people live in absolute poverty. Millions of people remain illiterate. Preventable diseases are taking a huge toll of children, and HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis are decimating the entire societies, particularly in Africa. Growing populations have caused environmental degradation.

Racial, cultural and wealth divides have often been the sources of exclusion, intolerance and injustice. Poverty has forced many to migrate. And crimes have flourished in these sad conditions.

No doubt, developing countries have the primary responsibility for their own economic development and social progress. They need to take measures to reform their policies and institutions and create a climate in which enterprise, innovation and development could flourish. Most of these countries have been trying to do that on their own initiative and to keep their part of the pledge undertaken in various global compacts.

But their development partners have their obligations to meet under various global compacts. Because, developing countries, given the mammoth challenges they face, would not be able to grapple with them and meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) without enhanced assistance from their development partners.

The development partners should rise to meet the agreed official development assistance (ODA) targets and to provide greater debt relief to indebted countries. Indeed, ODA flows have increased since 2002 but remain well below the additional 50 billion US dollars per year that is required to achieve MDGs. Debt repayment is eating a large chunk of developing country resources and the Highly Indebted Developing Countries initiative is yet to cover all least developed countries.

In the long run, fair globalisation built on a level-playing field and open markets will help reduce poverty, increase employment, and lift the standards of living in developing nations. The development partners, therefore, should dismantle their agricultural subsidies and open their markets for goods and

labor from the South. They should also offer assistance to build capacities to attract and absorb foreign direct investment and to remove supply-side constraints specially in least developed nations.

Least developed countries, the most marginalized as they are, need more generous assistance and market access, as agreed to in the Brussels Program of Action, to break the vicious cycle of poverty and join the global economy. Our studies have shown that Nepal would not be able to meet most MDGs without such targeted measures from its development partners.

Their geographical bottleneck and distance from the main corridors of commerce handicap landlocked developing countries. We urge the transit and development partners to implement the Almaty Program of Action and to overcome their difficulties.

Though Nepal has joined WTO last year, most LDCs remain outside the multilateral trade framework. We call on members of WTO to facilitate quick and concessionary memberships for these countries. Nepal also urges the international community to change the international financial architecture to give voice to the small and weak.

#### Mr. President

Nepal believes democracy, human rights, and rule of law will have to go hand in hand with peace and development for overall progress of a country. It is heartening that more people in the world enjoy democracy and freedom today than ever before.

Sadly, however, conflicts and poverty have driven millions of people from their homes and countries. Conflicts, together with criminal gangs, have also violated the rule of law and people's human rights.

New democracies should learn from each other's experiences in consolidating democratic institutions and values and the world community should join hands to fight transnational crimes. Rule of law should not only apply in domestic situations but also throughout the international community.

There are 17 million refugees around the world. Besides this staggering number, there are many more millions internally displaced persons. In many places, those people have to live in fear and under appalling conditions. Children are deprived of decent education and adults lack jobs and economic opportunities. In some cases, a whole generation has grown up in refugee camps struggling to find their identity.

The world community has an obligation to provide humanitarian assistance to such needy people and to help them resettle once they have returned home.

Nearly 100,000 Bhutanese refugees are living in camps in eastern Nepal for over a decade. Our bilateral efforts to find a negotiated settlement with

Bhutan have been slow and halting. Even the refugees who have been verified by a joint team are yet to go back home. Other refugees are waiting for joint verification.

For generations, Nepal and Bhutan have remained close friends and have respected each other. The existence of Bhutanese refugees on our soil is an avoidable irritant. Therefore, we earnestly hope the process of verification could be expedited, the verified refugees could be repatriated in a time bound manner and the returnees would be able to enjoy their human rights to live in safety, dignity and honor in their own country.

Obviously, Nepal does not have the capacity to take care of these refugees, though we have let them stay on humanitarian grounds. Hence, we call on the international community, including UNHCR, to continue its support until the refugees are able to go back home and fully resettle there.

Mr. President

Our situation has become even more difficult due to the armed violence launched in 1996 by the so-called Maoists. The violent movement began just when democracy was taking root and the economic growth was accelerating owing to policy reforms.

The Maoists have brutalized people and destroyed private homes and public infrastructure worth billions of rupees. They have been abducting children and recruiting them as child soldiers. They have continued to defy our call to respects schools as zones of peace. They are engaged in extortion, intimidation and killing of innocent civilians.

Notwithstanding this, His Majesty's Government has been sincerely seeking a result-oriented dialogue to find a political settlement. At the same time, the Government has the obligation to protect the lives of people and to safeguard private property and public infrastructure, by strengthening security. The Government highly appreciates the moral and material support our friends have been providing us in the fight against the Maoist violence.

In this context, we sincerely appreciate the interest expressed by the Secretary General in the situation in Nepal and his readiness to help the Government's efforts towards peace. The four- party coalition government, with its broad mandate, is working seriously to initiate the peace process in Nepal. We are confident that we would be able to resolve the problem of ourselves.

Even in the midst of this difficulty, His Majesty's Government is committed to protecting the freedoms and human rights of citizens. The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) watches over the human rights situation in the country and a three-year National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP) has been launched to implement our human rights commitments.

We have been seeking technical assistance from the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights for the capacity building of NHRC. The Human Rights Promotion Center has been established to ensure inter-departmental coordination and supervision of human rights issues.

Mr. President

The United Nations is the pivot of multilateralism that is imperative to address the complex challenges of our time. Nepal supports the ongoing efforts for United Nations reform including to revitalize the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. Priority should be accorded to enhancing the UN's role in the area of economic and social development.

Security Council reform has become an important issue for the international community. Nepal has consistently supported the expansion of the Council and to reform its methods of work to make it more representative, transparent and democratic.

In this context, the aspirations of some member states, mainly India, Japan, Germany and Brazil, merit serious consideration for the permanent membership of the Security Council. At the same time, there is an urgent imperative to expand the non-permanent membership to ensure greater participation of small member states.

Nepal hopes the high-level panel appointed by the Secretary General to examine the threats and challenges will come up with recommendations that could culminate into tangible reforms consistent with present day realities of the world. The high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly at the 60th anniversary will be a landmark event to make a big leap forward on a number of outstanding issues and to expedite the implementation of MDGs.

Mr. President

This fall, Nepal is organizing the Second World Summit of Buddhists in Lumbini, the birthplace of Lord Buddha and a world heritage site in Nepal. We need support from member states our friends to make the Conference a success and to revive the International Committee for the Development of Lumbini in New York, which we are planning to revive soon.

To conclude, Mr. President, the dawn of the new millennium offers us with both opportunities and challenges to revitalize the United Nations and strengthen multilateralism. As an active UN member, Nepal will contribute its level best to the efforts of the United Nations in attaining the shared goals of peace and prosperity for all.

I thank you all for your attention.

Address By

**Hon. Ramesh Nath Pandey**

Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal and Head of the Nepalese Delegation,  
60<sup>th</sup> Session of the UNGA, New York, 21<sup>st</sup> September 2005

Mr. President

The recently concluded High-Level Plenary Meeting has regenerated hope and aspiration of humanity for enduring peace, security and development. The outcome document is a testimony of shared vision, collective wisdom and renewed commitment for global partnership to address the most pressing challenges of the 21st century. The commitments to eradicate poverty, to resolutely fight against terrorism, and to bring about timely reforms of the United Nations as the pivot of multilateralism can only be achieved and translated into action by working together.

The outcome document has established the world's topmost priority on terrorism as the most pressing global issue. Terrorism is not just a problem of a few countries; it is a threat to world peace and stability. In today's interconnected and interlinked world, terrorism has not remained confined to geographical borders. Its reverberations have been felt far and wide. As every act of terrorism defies basic human values, we must deal it with resolutely, firmly and comprehensively without any double standards, and selective interpretations.

As a country suffering from senseless and brutal terrorism for a decade, Nepal unequivocally condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and supports the early conclusion of a comprehensive convention against international terrorism.

Mr. President

His Majesty the King's commitment to multiparty democracy is unflinching and total. His Majesty is determined to reenergize multiparty democratic institutions by restoring sustainable peace, and making democracy meaningful, matured, cultured and refined. To this end, we will be holding municipal

elections by April 2006, to be followed by national elections to parliament within two years. This will be an important step forward in re-energizing the democratic institutions through free and fair elections. I urge the countries and organizations, which support democracy, to come forward and help us to conduct free and fair elections. His Majesty's Government is ready to welcome international observers for these elections.

Democracy has sustained not only as a system of governance but also as a way of life in every nook and corner of the world. The beauty of our planet lies in its diversity. We reaffirm the expression in the outcome document, which acknowledges that while democracies share common features, there is no single model of democracy. Sovereign countries and peoples must be allowed to have every right to choose the system of democratic governance that is suitable to their needs and aspirations.

#### Mr. President

His Majesty King Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev has recently stated that the use of force alone is not a solution and the solution rather lies in the talks. We are convinced that the lasting peace can only be achieved through dialogue based on trust and confidence. But any overture must be credible and sincere enough to dispel all doubts and suspicions surrounding it. This is our principled position to work with all constitutional forces in efforts towards establishing durable peace and stability in the country.

His Majesty's Government has initiated programmes to alleviate the plights of people suffered from conflict. The government has accorded top priority to implement programmes for broad-based economic growth, social inclusion, anti-corruption and speedy delivery of essential services to the needy people. Special relief package programmes are being carried in an integrated manner out to the areas hit by conflict, including food, shelter, health and education and the rehabilitation of the internally displaced persons from terrorist violence.

#### Mr. President

International peace and security can only be maintained in an atmosphere of mutual understanding, trust and confidence. Nepal has always stressed that the international community must make genuine efforts for general and complete disarmament of all weapons of mass destruction including biological, chemical, nuclear, and radiological weapons, in a time-bound manner. However, the proliferation of the weapons of mass destruction and slow progress in the global disarmament negotiations has weakened the hope for a safer and secure world.

We firmly believe that regional mechanisms, including the establishment of UN regional centers for peace and disarmament in different parts of the world can make significant contributions to global disarmament efforts by enhancing confidence building. This commitment is reflected in Nepal's ardent desire to relocate the UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament for Asia and Pacific in Kathmandu at the earliest and continuously pursue the Kathmandu Process as a part of the world disarmament campaign.

Mr. President

The UN's role in peacekeeping, peace-making and post-conflict peace building has assumed great significance over the years. Nepal has been continuously participating in the UN peacekeeping operations since 1958 and has already contributed more than fifty thousand peacekeepers in 29 UN peacekeeping missions. With the current deployment of around 3500 peacekeepers in 13 peacekeeping missions, Nepal comes among the top 5 troops contributing countries in the UN peacekeeping missions. The sacrifice of lives of 54 Nepali peacekeepers in the service of humanity in difficult conflict zones around the world stands as a testimony of their dedication to the cause of peace.

The Nepalese UN blue helmets have earned international repute for their dedication, discipline, impartiality and professionalism in the discharge of their duties. This is reflected in the inclusion of a Nepali peacekeeper in the UN team that went to Stockholm to receive the Noble Peace Prize, and several excellent honours and awards accorded to them, most recently being in the Central African state of Burundi. In recent years, they also have been involved in peacebuilding, reconstruction and rehabilitation exercises in various UN missions.

Nepal welcomes the establishment of a Peacebuilding Commission as an inter-governmental advisory body. This, we believe, will be instrumental to the UN efforts for affecting sustained recovery and reconstruction and provide guidance and assistance in laying the foundation of lasting peace in the countries emerging from conflict. Its missions, objectives and goals should be clearly defined, equitably represented from among the troops contributing countries, and adequately funded.

Nepal has an unwavering commitment to the principles and purposes of the UN Charter and its contributions to the maintenance of international peace and security. After almost two decades, Nepal is seeking a non-permanent membership of the Security Council for the period 2007-2008, with an earnest desire to contribute to the Council in its important role for the maintenance of international peace and security. I take this opportunity to renew our appeal to the member states for their invaluable support to Nepal in the elections slated for the next year.

Mr. President

Nepal is fully committed to protection and promotion of human rights. We view all human rights are universal, indivisible, and interdependent. I wish to reiterate His Majesty's Government's reaffirmation to the implementation of human rights instruments and international humanitarian law by strengthening the national human rights institutions and fully cooperating with UN human rights mechanisms.

The establishment of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Nepal in accordance with an agreement signed between His Majesty's Government and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights underscores my government's commitment to engage the UN human rights mechanisms for better human rights protection in Nepal.

His Majesty's Government has taken adequate steps to the capacity building of the national human rights institutions. The National Human Rights Commission, an independent statutory body, has made significant contribution to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedom of our people, including through its mandated function of monitoring and investigation. With a view to institutionalizing efforts for human rights protection, human rights cells have been established in key ministries and security agencies, training on scrupulous observance of human rights is being imparted through inclusion of curricula in the training of the security forces, and directives for security personnel on complying with human rights standard have been widely circulated.

Human rights situation in Nepal needs to be properly understood in the context of unabated violence perpetrated by the terrorists. The tendency to equate constitutional duty of the government to protect lives and property of ordinary citizens with that of the dreadful acts of the terrorists needs to be corrected. The terrorists have exceeded all norms and values by resorting to the most heinous acts of violence, indiscriminate killings, maiming and abduction of innocent civilians, kidnapping and forceful recruitment of children as soldiers and extortion and intimidation to the civilian population.

Mr. President

We have been providing asylum to more than one hundred thousand Bhutanese refugees on humanitarian grounds for a decade and half. His Majesty's Government has shown its honesty and sincerity and has walked extra miles for the solution of the refugee problem through bilateral process. We strongly believe that sincere implementation of bilateral agreements will lead to the lasting solution of the problem. We believe that a lasting solution

of the refugee problem will have a salutary impact on Nepal-Bhutan relations, which emanate from monarchical cultures.

Mr. President

Nepal's peace and stability has a great bearing not only for her people but also for her neighbours, South Asia and beyond. A stable, peaceful and prosperous Nepal, though small in terms of size, with her strategic location, can greatly contribute to maintaining a sustainable peace, stability and prosperity in the region and beyond.

The world has witnessed that the peace and stability of world community cannot be guaranteed without the peace, stability and prosperity of smaller and vulnerable states. Therefore, the international community must come forward to help the countries with special needs, such as least developed and landlocked developing countries to help achieve them peace, stability and prosperity. The new international financial and development architecture should, therefore, address the legitimate interest and aspirations of these countries.

We call upon the developed countries to augment the level of Official Development Assistance, better market access, increased foreign direct investment and substantial debt relief measures to alleviate the hardships of developing countries, especially least developed and land locked countries. We urge the international community to come forward with technical assistance to meet the special needs of the small, landlocked, and fragile states with special challenges emanating from terrorism and natural disasters.

Nepal's location between the two fastest growing economies of India and China provides us tremendous opportunities for economic growth and development. We have proposed Nepal as a transit point between both the neighbours acting as a bridge between them to realize the full economic potentials.

Mr. President

Nepal firmly believes that only a strengthened and revitalized UN can address the multitude of challenges of the contemporary world. Timely reforms of the United Nations and necessary restructuring, through preserving and promoting the centrality and sanctity of the principles and purposes enshrined in the UN Charter are needed to make the world body more robust and vibrant.

Nepal has always looked at the UN as a torchbearer for peace, security and dignity of the nations. It is also our firm view that the UN reform should give more emphasis on strengthening its role in promoting international

cooperation for the economic and social development of the member states, particularly the developing countries.

Nepal has consistently supported the reforms of the UN Security Council including its method of work to make it more representative, transparent and accountable to reflect the present day realities. We have also maintained that the UN General Assembly, as the UN's principal deliberative organ needs to be further strengthened.

Mr. President

The six decade long journey of the United Nations has been arduous and at times even tumultuous. It has seen high expectation and deep frustration and harsh realities of the real politik but has never floundered and wavered from its noble objectives.

This year marks the 50th year of Nepal's membership to the world organization. Since we joined the United Nations on 14 December 1955, Nepal has been cherishing its association with the world body and has been playing active role in its activities. Nepali people feel proud of their association with the world body and are celebrating the occasion in a special way, befitting its significance.

Nepal acknowledges its sincere appreciation to the UN and its various specialised agencies for their most invaluable contribution in our socio-economic development endeavours.

We reaffirm our solemn pledge on the charter of the United Nations and renew our unwavering commitment to make the organisation more equitable, credible and relevant to face the challenges of the twenty first century effectively.

Thank you.

Address By

**Hon. K. P. Sharma Oli**

Senior Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal and Head of the Nepalese Delegation, 61<sup>st</sup> Session of the UNGA, New York, 25<sup>th</sup> September 2006

Madam President  
Distinguished Delegates  
Ladies and Gentlemen

I warmly congratulate you, Madame President, on your election as the chair of this session and assure you of my delegation's full cooperation in discharging responsibilities entrusted to you. I am fully confident that, we will be able to bring the business of this session to a successful conclusion under your leadership.

His Excellency Mr. Jan Eliasson, the outgoing President, deserves our sincere appreciation for the job well done.

I join the previous speakers to heartily welcome the Republic of Montenegro as a fellow member in this world body. The continued expansion in the membership underlines the importance of the UN as an organization truly of global character and its centrality and indispensability in global affairs.

Madam President

It is, indeed, a great opportunity for me to represent the voice of the democratic Government and the sovereign people of Nepal in this august Assembly. I have brought with me greetings and best wishes from the Government and the people of Nepal for the success of this session.

I wish to inform this august Assembly that Nepal is undergoing fundamental transformation following the restoration of democracy through peaceful People's Movement in April this year. The people of Nepal have become, for the first time in history, the real sources of sovereignty and state authority. The historic Parliamentary Proclamation of May 18, 2006 and its subsequent decisions have made real contributions in safeguarding and consolidating the

gains of the People's Movement. We are currently engaged in institutionalizing an edifice of a democratic and inclusive Nepali state through the reinstated parliament.

The people and Government of Nepal are thankful to the international community for their strong support during our struggle for democracy. We are hopeful of even greater support and solidarity in our transition towards full-fledged democracy and lasting peace.

This momentous change in Nepal has also led to conversion of a protracted conflict into a peace process, which we are confident to bring to a successful conclusion. I take this opportunity to sincerely appreciate the UN Secretary General for his assistance to the peace process, including in monitoring of human rights, assistance in ceasefire monitoring, arms management and observation of elections to the Constituent Assembly at our request. Successful resolution of our internal conflict will set a worthwhile example to the rest of the world that democracy is indispensable and brightens the prospect for resolution of all kinds of conflicts.

Now, we have pressing post-conflict reintegration, rehabilitation and reconstruction needs. Meeting these challenges necessitates an enhanced level of international support and assistance.

Peace, security, stability, democracy and development constitute global public goods. It is critically important that newly emerged democracies are safeguarded and protected, allowing them to develop further and flourish. With this vision in mind, we strongly support the newly established Democracy Fund in the United Nations.

Madam President

The United Nations today confronts with numerous challenges such as international terrorism and transnational crimes, threat to use the weapons of mass destruction, narcotic drugs and human trafficking, money-laundering and other financial crimes, regional conflicts and low-intensity wars, extreme poverty and hunger, human rights abuses, recurring natural disasters, threats of pandemics such as HIV/AIDS and avian flu.

These challenges call for new wisdom founded on the principles of collective security, well-being and prosperity. The United Nations is uniquely placed to muster much-needed philosophical underpinning because of its standing as a global body wielded with legitimacy. New wisdom alone will not be enough to deal with these problems if new strategy, new tools and new resources do not match it.

Nepal firmly believes that multilateral solutions are required to address problems and challenges of global nature. Multilateralism is the key to promote global participation in problem solving and to ensure collective ownership of outcome.

Madam President

Today, old and new threats to peace and security exist side by side. While the military threats to security are diminishing gradually, new sources of threat have emerged and are likely to disturb international peace and security in more than one way.

Growing menace of international terrorism characterizes the post-cold war world security scenario. It has been the consistent policy of Nepal to unequivocally condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. It is disheartening to note that no international consensus has yet emerged paving the way for an early conclusion of a comprehensive international convention against terrorism. In this context, we welcome the adoption of the global strategy to combat terrorism.

We are concerned by dismal progress in disarmament. After failure to agree on non-proliferation last year, we could not produce an agreement during the review of the regime of the control over small arms and light weapons. We are also constantly reminded of deadlocks in efforts of the peaceful means to resolve nuclear issues.

Nepal stands for general and complete disarmament of all weapons of mass destruction, including biological, chemical, nuclear and radiological weapons, in a time-bound manner. The demand of the time is that we compete for peace but not war, for development but not armaments.

We have offered to host the UN Regional Center for Peace and Disarmament for Asia and the Pacific in Kathmandu. Despite our long-standing commitment and sincere efforts, the Center is yet to be relocated. I wish to reiterate that the Government of Nepal is ready to sign the host country agreement as per this Assembly's resolution as soon as the UN Secretariat provides it with a draft. We urge the Secretariat to conclude necessary procedure for the relocation of the Center to Nepal without any further delay.

Madam President

Recent upsurge in violence in Lebanon has left unbearable human tragedy and huge destruction of material property. We welcome the ongoing ceasefire and express our support to UN resolution 1701 on strengthening the UNIFIL in Lebanon. We have committed to contributing a battalion of our troops for the cause of peace there.

Nepal's profound interest and continued participation in the UN Peacekeeping missions underscores her contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security. Even when it had its own internal conflict, Nepal never gave up sending its troops to UN peacekeeping missions. The Nepalese blue helmets have been serving in various missions, including many troubled spots, in an exemplary manner, earning international repute for them and for the country. Currently, Nepal has over 3,500 troops in various UN Missions. Many of them have sacrificed their precious lives in the service of peace and humanity. Nepal will continue to uphold this noble cause and participate in future missions when asked.

It is unfortunate that the UN peacekeepers have increasingly become the target of senseless attacks. This world body must explore innovative ways and means to ensure the safety and security of the peacekeepers while on duty. Equally important is to promote ethics and the culture of discipline among peacekeepers to avoid possible sexual harassment and other abuses by peacekeepers.

The United Nations is being increasingly asked to play an active role in the areas of peace-making, peace-building, post-conflict rehabilitation and reconstruction as well as nation-building in some cases. We should encourage the United Nations system to work in coherence to lift such countries from conflicts. We welcome the establishment of the Peacebuilding Commission as an innovative mechanism to deal with the complex issues of peace and security.

Madam President

Nepal's commitment to human rights is total and unflinching. Nepal firmly believes that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interrelated, interdependent and mutually reinforcing. We have welcomed the establishment of the Human Rights Council with the belief that this body would prove effective in protecting and promoting human rights across the globe based on the salient principles of universality, objectivity and non-selectivity.

The present Government of Nepal has given top priority to the protection and promotion of human rights with a view to translating Nepal's international human rights commitments and obligations into a reality. We have been working closely with the United Nations Human Rights bodies, including the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Nepal, to create an environment in which full enjoyment of human rights by all is guaranteed.

Return of democracy and the start of peace process have led to big improvement in the protection of human rights in Nepal. We highly appreciate role played by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Nepal in improving the human rights situation in the country.

We are determined to bring to an end the culture of impunity, which was so pervasive during the autocratic regime. Our belief is that no one is above the law and that those who violate and abuse human rights must be brought to justice. We are fully committed to protecting human rights in all situations and creating a framework for bringing to justice those who have abused human rights in the past.

Madam President

Opportunities arising out of globalization, such as that from global migration, have been stifled by unfriendly policy regimes around the world. The rights of migrant workers must be protected in all situations in accordance with international norms. Nepal's experience shows that the benefit of remittances generated by the migrant workers count a lot to developing countries. But this cannot in any way substitute development assistance, debt relief and concessions in trade

Benefits of trade liberalization are not distributed equitably. Multilateral trading regime must be made responsive to the needs and requirements of developing and least-developed countries. Enhanced trading opportunities coupled with productive capacities are critically important to achieve sustained economic growth and poverty reduction in the least developed countries. The agreed commitments for duty free and quota free access of the products of the least developed countries need to be complemented with favourable rules of origin. We are concerned at the suspension of WTO talks on the development round and urge for an immediate revival of the talks to complete the Doha Development Agenda.

Madam President

Our development agenda has been advancing rather slowly. We are realizing that many countries, given the present pace, will not be able to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. It reminds us the urgency to sincerely implement all the agreed commitments in various global compacts in recent years, including the Monterrey Consensus, Millennium Declaration, Johannesburg Plan of Action and the Brussels Programme of Action for the LDCs.

A mid-term review this year of the program of action for the least developed countries showed that most of the least developed countries cannot achieve

the agreed targets within the time frame defined previously unless we accelerated the pace of implementation.

The least developed countries need a better policy on aid, trade, investment, debt relief and capacity building and timely reforms in the international financial institutions. We call on the international community to take a holistic approach combining these policies to support the LDC development agenda. The least developed countries need substantial flow of external aid and investment to it meet these goals. Investment in poorer countries is not just a moral responsibility; it is investment in the collective security of the world.

Many least developed countries are handicapped by landlockedness, which significantly reduces their competitive edge in the regional and multilateral trading regimes. This state of affairs continues to frustrate their development efforts. We urge the international community to pay greater attention to the plight of these countries and make serious efforts to implement internationally agreed commitments.

Madam President

It is a scar on our conscience that hundreds of millions of our peoples are living as refugees in various parts of the globe. The international community must take it as its bounden duty to address their concerns in a non-selective manner.

I regret to inform this assembly that more than 100,000 refugees from southern Bhutan have been painfully remaining in camps in Nepal for over a decade and half, despite some bilateral agreements reached between Nepal and Bhutan. In absence of no sight of an early and lasting solution, the refugees are showing increasing signs of frustration and desperation. In essence, this is a problem between the Government of Bhutan and its citizens. Nepal has come to the picture simply because it has provided shelter to fleeing refugees on humanitarian grounds. The issue cannot be resolved in the absence of a genuine willingness to resolve this problem on the part of the Government of Bhutan. The international community must assert positive influence to break the impasse. We stress that the Bhutanese refugees must be given the right to return to their home country with dignity and respect and that any solution must be acceptable to the refugees. Nepal also supports the democratic aspiration of the people of Bhutan and urges Bhutan to accommodate the plight of the refugees in their political dispensation.

Madam President

Our Organization has made great strides, especially in the adoption of reform measures endorsed by the world leaders here last year. The Government of

Nepal welcomes remains committed to support all reform initiatives that aim at addressing the concerns and aspirations of all the member states.

The strengths of the United Nations lie in its democratic decision-making, impartiality, neutrality and efficiency. The General Assembly, which is the only global body to represent the voice of the peoples in the world, must be placed at the forefront of all decision-making within the United Nations. The organs dealing with socio-economic issues must be strengthened and enabled to take a lead role in the fulfillment of international development objectives.

The contemporary realities dictate that the United Nations undergo fundamental transformation without undermining the founding principles and objectives upon which it is built. The reform of the United Nations will be incomplete without the commensurate reform in its principal organ responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security. The Security Council must be democratized to provide it with greater legitimacy and credibility. There is a genuine need to increase membership of the Security Council in both permanent and non-permanent categories to make the Council more representative, including two permanent seats from each Asia and Africa region and one from each Latin American and Western Europe. We also need to improve its working methods.

This year, the member States will elect the next Secretary General of our Organization. In accordance with the principle of equitable geographical representation and that of rotation, Nepal reiterates that the next Secretary General should come from Asia. We also subscribe to a greater role of this Assembly in the appointment of the Secretary General. I commend the role played by outgoing Secretary General, Mr. Kofi Annan, during his tenure in office. He steered important reforms at the United Nations and made genuine efforts to establish the central role of our Organization in solving the global problems and debating the international issues.

Madam President

Nepal has submitted its candidature for a non-permanent membership of the Security Council for the period 2007-2008. We think that we rightly deserve it after a gap of nearly two decades since we last served the Council in 1988-89. This world body is fully aware that Nepal has been making substantial contributions in the maintenance of international peace and security by regularly providing its troops in various peacekeeping missions for a long time. Moreover, we feel that Nepal's election to the Council this time will be a great recognition to its democratic credentials in the changed context. The people of Nepal deserve due recognition from the international community for their unprecedented courage and determination with which they have defeated

autocracy and restored democracy. I make a sincere appeal to the fellow members to extend their valuable support to Nepal's candidature, allowing it to serve the Council with renewed confidence in fulfillment of its fundamental responsibilities.

Madam President

The purposes and principles of the United Nations contained in its Charter, including that of sovereign equality of nations, peaceful resolution of all disputes, non-interference in the internal affairs of states, and no threat or use of force are sacrosanct to Nepal. I solemnly reiterate Nepal's profound commitment to the founding objectives and principles of the United Nations as enshrined in its Charter.

The United Nations today is fraught with lack of credibility, inability to arrive at important decisions, weak implementation of its own declarations and decisions, and slowness in responding challenges that require its most pressing attentions. We need to change this situation. Together, we can make our organization better equipped to respond to these challenges.

I thank you.

Address By

**Hon. Sahana Pradhan**

Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal and Head of the Nepalese Delegation,  
62<sup>nd</sup> Session of the UNGA, New York, 1<sup>st</sup> October 2007

Mr. President

Distinguished Heads of State and Government  
Distinguished delegates

I congratulate His Excellency Mr. Srgjan Kerim for being elected the President of the sixty second session of the General Assembly and pledge Nepal's support in the execution of his duties successfully. I would also like to place on record our appreciation of the leadership of Her Excellency Sheikh Haya Rashed Al Khalifa during the 61st session. My delegation expresses its appreciation to the Secretary General Mr. Ban Ki-Moon for his stewardship of the United Nations and wishes him a very successful tenure.

Mr. President

United Nations today remains only truly global organization to seek solutions to the world's most pressing issues. The increasing importance of multilateralism has made the United Nations indispensable. The principles and purposes enshrined in the UN Charter should continue to guide us to address all the issues that confront us. Nepal has adopted these principles and purposes as the basic tenets of its foreign policy.

The General Assembly has, before it, important agenda that seek to deal with world's most pressing issues and problems. I fully agree with the priorities that the President of the General Assembly has outlined for this session.

Mr. President

The pledge of roadmap for development in the form of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) remains to be fully achieved. As we approach half way, this Assembly should review the progress to devise ways and means

for achieving the full and effective implementation of the commitments made in the Millennium Declaration. The follow-up conference on Financing for Development to be held in Doha in 2008 should be used as an opportunity to effectively meeting the financing gap and exploring innovative ways of financing for development.

We commend the Secretary General for convening a high-level meeting on climate change. I hope that the momentum generated will pave the way for an agreement on climate change with long-term and comprehensive global commitments beyond 2012 starting the process in Bali later this year.

Climate change is linked to human security, social and economic development and environmental protection. Scientific studies point out that solution to climate change is within human reach and that we can achieve it without compromising economic development and human progress, if we start to act now.

Climate change demands a coordinated and comprehensive global response. As enshrined in the UN Convention on Climate Change, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities should be the basis for addressing the challenges of climate change. Mandatory emission reductions targets are necessary in order to stabilize the greenhouse gas concentration in the atmosphere at safe levels. Industrialized countries should assume the leadership and demonstrate the necessary political will in adopting long-term commitments to reduce emissions.

While sea levels are rising, the Himalayan glaciers are retreating and surrounding areas are witnessing increasing intensity of climate change-induced disasters such as glacial lake outbursts, extreme rainfalls, recurring floods and massive landslides.

It is an irony that the world's most vulnerable countries such as least developed and small island countries get the worst effects of climate change though they are least responsible for the same. In the new compact in climate change, there should be special provisions for addressing the mitigation and adaptation needs of the least developed countries and small island nations to address their special vulnerabilities.

Mr. President

Nepal stands firm against any form of terrorism. We have been implementing the provisions of various UN Security Council resolutions to combat international terrorism. An effective implementation of the provisions of the UN global counter-terrorism strategy adopted last year can foster international cooperation against terrorism. We call for an early conclusion of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism. There should be a

coordinated global response, including through the mechanism at the United Nations, to address the underlying social, economic and political causes of existence and spread of global terrorism.

Mr. President

Reform of the United Nations has constantly engaged us. We need to reflect contemporary realities for making it more effective, representative, responsive and capable of handling the increasingly complex global problems. The General Assembly needs to be further strengthened as a true decision-making body. We should develop effective mechanism to implement its decisions.

The reform of the United Nations should include reform of its Security Council. We support extension of membership in both permanent and non-permanent categories to reflect the current realities of the day. We feel that India, Brazil, Germany and Japan deserve permanent place in the expanded Security Council, while Africa should also be fairly represented. We also favour a tangible improvement in the working methods of the Council. We welcome the agreement that this Assembly should start the inter-governmental negotiations on this important issue as soon as possible.

Nepal welcomes the restructuring of the peacekeeping-related departments of the UN Secretariat, including the creation of a new Department of Field Support. In view of the increasing complexity and size of the peacekeeping operations, we hope these changes will further enhance effectiveness of peacekeeping operations and ensure safety and security of the peacekeeping personnel.

Nepal has been continuously participating in the UN peacekeeping operations for last five decades. To this date, Nepal has sent over 60,000 troops to over 30 UN missions. At present, Nepal is the fourth largest contributor of troops and police personnel to UN peacekeeping missions. Nepalese blue helmets have been commended for performing extremely well in all circumstances. Many have sacrificed their invaluable lives to the cause of peace worldwide.

Peacekeeping is the soul of the United Nations, its largest function, and the most successful invention in the international relations. This enterprise can only succeed with meaningful participation of troops-contributing countries in decision-making processes and their increasing role in senior positions.

Mr. President

Nepal stands for a general and complete disarmament of all weapons of mass destruction, including biological, chemical, and nuclear weapons under effective international control in a time-bound manner.

We are concerned by the lack of progress on major multilateral negotiations in disarmament, including in nuclear disarmament and in control of illegal proliferation of small arms and light weapons. We call upon the member states, especially the nuclear weapon states, for stepping up measures for disarmament to release much-needed dividends for development. We hope that the newly established office of High Commissioner for disarmament affairs will infuse dynamism in the process.

We look forward to the inauguration of the UN Regional Center for Peace and Disarmament for Asia and the Pacific soon in Kathmandu in accordance with the resolution adopted by this Assembly last year for relocation of this centre. The Government of Nepal and the United Nations Secretariat have already signed host country agreement and memorandum of understanding to this effect. Through this Center, Nepal is committed to revitalizing the process of regional disarmament, including the 'Kathmandu Process'.

#### Mr. President

The ideals of the Non-Aligned Movement remain as valid today as they were when founded. The principled position of the NAM countries should guide deliberations of this Assembly. I wish to reiterate Nepal's commitment to the principles of the Non-Aligned Movement, including the principles of non-interference in internal affairs and peaceful co-existence of States.

The Group of 77 and China has become highly relevant in advancing the interests of the developing countries in the United Nations. This assembly should continue to protect the interests of the developing countries. We also need to advance meaningful South-South cooperation to complement global partnership and North-South cooperation.

We call for concerted efforts to addressing special needs and difficulties of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), including the negative impacts and marginalization from globalization.

We urge the developed countries to meet the targeted Official Development Assistance (ODA) to the LDCs, give products of the LDCs duty-free, quota free, and unhindered market access and extend debt relief measures to cover all LDCs. We should ensure an effective implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for LDCs for the rest of decade based on the mid-term review held last year.

I would like to draw the attention of the development partners towards addressing the special needs of the LDCs emerging from conflict and the need to support them financially and technically, to help them achieve

sustained peace and development and prevent a relapse back into the conflict situation.

The landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) face special difficulties in transit and transport of goods and services to and from sea. The Almaty Programme should be sincerely implemented for meaningful cooperation in transit, transport and trade facilitation in the landlocked developed countries. The mid-term review process of the Programme to be held in 2008 should focus on fulfilling gaps in implementation of the agreed commitments.

We must not delay any further WTO trade negotiations for advancing Doha Development Agenda. These negotiations should find ways to further protect the interests of the least developed and landlocked countries to make them able to competing in global markets. In particular, the international community must meet resources gap, operationalize aid for trade initiatives, strengthen trading capacities and support trade adjustment costs in the LDCs and the LLDCs.

Mr. President

Nepal welcomes the proposal for UN system-wide coherence on development, environment and humanitarian issues. This process should strengthen the national and regional focus and country ownership of development programs.

We support effective gender architecture in the United Nations and even stronger regional and country presence of UN on gender issues. Nepal accords high priority to promotion of women's right, gender equality and empowerment of women. A parliamentary declaration adopted on May 30, 2006 has provided for equal property and citizenship rights to women and their representation on at least one third of the elected bodies, including in the parliament.

Nepal is committed to the protection and promotion of the rights of children, including those affected by conflict. The peace agreement provides for immediate release of children if found recruited as combatants and their rehabilitation and integration back into their families. The government is committed to implementing recommendations of the Security Council working group on children and armed conflict in Nepal.

Mr. President

The United Nations has been rather slow to respond to world's major conflicts and humanitarian crises- from Middle East to Darfur to Somalia. Though the agreement on African Union-UN hybrid operation in Darfur is a step

forward, there were missed opportunities in addressing this long-standing humanitarian crisis.

Situation in Afghanistan and Iraq demand a more proactive UN engagement. UN should continue to play a constructive role to help these countries to stabilization, national unity and reconciliation.

We support democratic aspirations of people all over the world. We hope that solution to Myanmar's internal situation will be found by the people of that country through dialogue and democratic process.

Mr. President

Nepal has been sheltering over 100,000 refugees from Bhutan on humanitarian grounds since 1990. There is a stalemate in this long-standing crisis, mainly because of reluctance of Bhutan to implement the agreements already reached or to engage in negotiations with a view to finding any other acceptable solution. This procrastination has made refugees run out of patience. True solution to this problem lies in the opportunity for the refugees to be able to return to Bhutan and to participate in political process of the country in a fully democratic way taking into account the cultural diversity and human rights of people. However, we are positively considering the offers made by some countries the option of third country resettlement as a part of provisional solution, should the refugees so choose voluntarily. This should not absolve Bhutan from their responsibility towards their exiled citizens, as this is a problem between the refugees and the Bhutanese regime. Nepal appreciates the continued humanitarian assistance extended by the international community, the UNHCR and other agencies for the care of refugees.

Mr. President

Nepal is in the process of putting behind the decade-long internal conflict though unique and an internally-driven peace process. We are committed to bring the peace process to a successful conclusion. The government is engaged in dialogue with the Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist, to ensure the election to the Constituent Assembly is held on November 22, honoring and implementing the commitments in the peace agreements sincerely.

It is through dialogue that the government of Nepal recently concluded agreements with the Madhesi and Janajati leaders, allowing them a stronger voice in the political dispensation and a more inclusive representation in the Constituent Assembly.

Despite the challenges associated with the peace process, the government is determined to holding the elections to Constituent Assembly on time. With

necessary technical, legal and logistical competence, the Election Commission has made preparations to hold the elections as scheduled in a free and fair manner. I would like to invite friendly countries and organizations to send observers during the elections to Constituent Assembly in Nepal.

People of Nepal have expressed their desire for a peaceful political and socio-economic transformation. They have voiced for an inclusive, democratic and participatory restructuring of the State. I have every confidence that the peace process will reap numerous dividends to the Nepalese people to create a “new Nepal”. We expect generous assistance from our development partners in this process, including in Nepal’s reconstruction and development needs.

On behalf of the people and Government of Nepal, I express sincere gratitude to the international community for their strong support and solidarity during our struggle for democracy, and in the ongoing peace process.

Last year, we invited the United Nations to facilitate the peace process through the monitoring of arms and technical support to the elections to the Constituent Assembly. We appreciate the Secretary General for his personal attention and interest to assist the peace process. We commend the role played by the United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN) in this process.

#### Mr. President

The Government is steadfast in protecting and promoting human rights as per its international commitments. We welcome the adoption of universal periodic review of all member States in the Human Rights Council. This exercise should be free from politicization, selectivity and double standards.

There has been a remarkable improvement in the protection of human rights in Nepal since the start of the peace process. The Government has extended full cooperation to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Nepal. The recent appointment of National Human Rights Commission is expected to further enhance our national capability to protect and promote human rights.

The Government is determined to bring an end to an environment of impunity that was present during the armed conflict. We hope the setting up of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission, as stipulated in the peace agreement, will also help us put our past behind and prevent recurrence of the grave violations of human rights.

As a nation of diverse ethnic composition and home to various indigenous peoples, Nepal welcomes the adoption of UN Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples by the General Assembly this year. We hope that

the declaration will serve as useful reference for the indigenous issues worldwide.

Mr. President

In conclusion, the General Assembly has before it an important opportunity to address the most pressing issues of lasting significance to our times. We should strive to advance agreements to address climate change, follow up on the MDGs, seek new resources to finance development, break the impasse on negotiations in trade and disarmament, and reform the UN Security Council. We should also seek solutions to outstanding conflicts and humanitarian crises.

Today, the world's major problems are demanding the leadership of the United Nations. We should rise up to the occasion and demonstrate our ability to work together to solve urgent problems confronting us. Solutions to most global problems are within our reach, if we act in unison guided by our collective wisdom and reason. Together we can make progress in all these areas. I pledge Nepal's constructive participation in arriving at important decisions in all these issues here at the United Nations.

I thank you.

Address By

**Rt. Hon. Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda'**

Prime Minister of Nepal and Head of the Nepalese Delegation,  
63<sup>rd</sup> Session of the UNGA, New York, 26<sup>th</sup> September 2008

Mr. President  
Mr. Secretary General  
Excellencies  
Distinguished Delegates

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you on your election as the President of this Assembly and to assure you of my delegation's full cooperation in discharging your responsibilities. I also thank the UN Secretary General for his comprehensive report on the work of the UN and his positive reference to the situation obtaining in Nepal.

Mr. President

It is indeed a historic opportunity for me to address this august Assembly as the first Prime Minister of Nepal of the newest republic of the world. As I stand here in front of the global leadership, I think of the long struggle that I and my party waged with single mindedness for the liberation of the common man from the clutches of the age-old suppression, deprivation, marginalization and outright negligence of the then existing polity. My fellow countrymen and women, toiling in the mountains and valleys, working day and night in the low lands and the urban areas and yet unable to ensure even the simple necessities of life for his or her family had a hope and expectation that one day they would lead a decent life with equal rights and opportunities and be recognized as respectful citizens of the country. We are at this significant turning point in the political history of Nepal. And I and my party are proud to be the leading force of that positive historical change. Today I see a great hope in the glinting eyes of the dalit boy from the far west, downtrodden women from the indigenous nationality in the east, homeless Tharu girl and landless Madhesi and other peasants from the hills living under the thatched roofs.

I intend to lead them with conviction and sincerity towards a new journey of sustainable peace and equitable progress in a modern Nepal. I have therefore the honor and great privilege of bringing with me the greetings and best wishes of the people and Government of that new Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal to this august Assembly.

Following the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in November 2006 after a decade-long armed struggle, we began our peace process and eventually held elections to the Constituent Assembly in April this year. People have overwhelmingly voted for my party and made us the single largest political party in the Assembly with great hope and expectations. At its first meeting, the Constituent Assembly declared Nepal a Federal Democratic Republic formally ending the 240-year old monarchy and creating a new opportunity to transform the old feudalistic state into an inclusive and federated 'new Nepal'. This was in keeping with the long-standing aspirations of the Nepalese people. They voted in favour of change and transformation that my own party had fought for so many years. After the historic political transformations, our agenda now is to bring about equally historic socio-economic transformation of the country. Today I must inform you with all humility that our Constituent Assembly is the most inclusive representative body in which all marginalized, oppressed ethnic communities, indigenous nationalities, dalits, disadvantaged and the people from the backward regions and communities are its members which will herald a new beginning in the country. This may very well be an example of representativeness to the world in the first decade of the twenty first century.

The Government is committed to restore law and order, provide immediate relief to the people affected by the conflict, fight against the cancerous growth of corruption and start an economic recovery package focusing on pro-poor growth, infrastructure development and public-private partnership. The government will build an effective partnership with the international community in creating an atmosphere for unleashing a new socio-economic transformation that the Nepalese people are waiting for so long.

Nepal's peace process is unique in its characteristics and is based on multiparty democracy, inclusiveness, accommodation, dialogue, and the recognition of the people as the ultimate arbiter. It is the outcome of our own creative disposition towards peace and we feel that it can also serve as a reference model for peace elsewhere.

We appreciate the United Nation's continued support to the peace process, especially in monitoring the management of arms and personnel through the United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN). The UN Mission has undertaken

its mandated tasks well. I also take this opportunity to thank our neighbors, friends, and donors for their continued support in favor of the peace process and the institutionalization of democracy in Nepal. I am confident they would do so for unleashing its development potentials also as per the wish of the Nepalese people.

Mr. President

As we proceed ahead along the peace process within the country, new problems in the form of global food crisis, rising oil prices and imminent dangers from climate change stare us in the face. These challenges also undermine our achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). There will be no success in achieving MDGs without ensuring them in the LDCs. Solemn pledges were made in the 2000 Millennium Declaration and in the 2002 World Conference on Financing for Development held in Monterrey. Many of these commitments are yet to be fulfilled and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals remains elusive to most of the world's poor people.

The United Nations agenda today has to tackle these development challenges and many other issues such as religious extremism and terrorism, proliferation of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction, transnational crimes such as drugs, human trafficking and money-laundering, continuing conflicts within and among states, and gross violations of human rights, genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. It is more than obvious that many of these global problems require global solutions. Together we can rise to the occasion and adopt a vision and strategy that the founders of the United Nations Organization charted in the purposes and principles of the Charter of the Organization. Multilateralism, not unilateralism is the answer to these problems.

The least developed countries like Nepal are faced with special predicament in their development efforts. We are trapped in a vicious circle of poverty. For many historical reasons, we have low economic growth, low productivity, underdeveloped industries and traditional agriculture. Because of the low level of social indicators and less opportunities, conflict and crisis continue to be prevalent in these countries. Today, the growing gap between the rich and the poor within the country as well as between the nations is a sure sign of a looming disaster. It is also inhuman and unjust that such a high level of inequality is still so common in this age of human achievements, abundance and progress. Equally important is the fact that islands of prosperity in the sea of poverty is not sustainable and certainly not in the enlightened self-

interest of even the developed countries themselves, as it breeds resentment, fuels conflict and undermines their own progress in the long run. It also goes against the fundamental spirit of the United Nations. Because of the peculiar nature of the LDCs and their high level of vulnerabilities, I strongly urge that the issues of LDCs should be looked at by the United Nations separately and with special and focused programs. They should be ensured dedicated support and cooperation if we want to make our world just and inclusive that the United Nations so proudly espouses.

We are not only least developed but also land-locked. That is a double disadvantage in our efforts to fulfill developmental aspirations. In fact, we feel further marginalized due to the overwhelming impact of the downside of globalization and the high cost of doing trade. We want full implementation of the respective global compacts, the Brussels Program of Action for the Least Developed Countries and the Almaty Program of Action for the Landlocked Developing Countries. In particular, I would like to highlight the need in the part of our developed country partners to fulfill the commitment and pledges in allocating certain percentage of their GNP to these countries and in making available trade concessions, debt relief and other capacity building measures in accordance with these compacts. On our part, I would like to commit that Nepal will fulfill its pledge to own its development programs in accordance with its national priorities including on poverty reduction and pro-poor governance policies.

We need to protect our people from the rising vulnerabilities of climate change. For example, in my own country Nepal, the melting of glaciers and shifting weather patterns, are threatening the life support systems, undermining the sustainability of agriculture and inducing extreme climate-induced disasters such as frequent floods and landslides. The Himalayan range provides life supporting water downstream for more than a billion people. The Mt. Everest, as the roof of the world, and the Himalayan range need to be protected and utilized properly to contribute to the humanity as a whole. So I strongly appeal to the international community to extend all necessary support and cooperation to protect and promote its pristine environment. We need to create a regime of common but differentiated responsibilities, in which the developed countries will lift the burden of adaptation in the vulnerable countries, such as the least developed countries and small islands. The world will stand to benefit in addressing the climate change if we are able to harness the tremendous potentials of Nepal's hydro-power as it is a renewable and clean source of energy. For this, Nepal is ready to invite and encourage investment in its hydro-power projects.

Mr. President

I am pleased that the UN Regional Centre for Peace Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific has been now operational from Kathmandu twenty years after it was established by this august Assembly. I thank all the members, countries from the region and the Secretary General and the officials of the Secretariat for the smooth relocation of the Centre from New York to Kathmandu. I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate Nepal's commitment to make this Centre successful through the cooperation of all the countries concerned.

Over the years, peacekeeping has evolved as the soul of the United Nations. With this in mind, Nepal has been regularly sending its peacekeepers at the call of the United Nations since 1958. We are celebrating the 50th anniversary of Nepal's continuous participation in the UN peacekeeping operations. I take this opportunity to reiterate Nepal's commitment that we will continue to provide our troops for the cause of peace worldwide. Today, Nepal is the fifth largest contributor of troops and police personnel to UN's peacekeeping operations. We are glad that they have earned accolades for their professional competence and performance both at home and abroad. We consider this as our modest contribution to international peace and security.

Enjoyment of universal human rights is absolutely essential in creating the environment of peace, justice, democracy and development. As a democracy, Nepal is fully committed to protect and promote the human rights of its people under all circumstances with constitutional and legal guarantees and implementation of the international human rights instruments to which Nepal is a party. The government is committed to end the environment of impunity. The proposed Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which will seek to arrive at a necessary balance between peace and justice, so that there is justice, and that the centrality of the peace process is preserved. We will continue to strengthen the National Human Rights Commission so that it can take up its statutory responsibility for protection and promotion of human rights in the country even more effectively. It goes without saying that the environment for the protection and promotion of human rights in Nepal has significantly improved, especially after the signing of the comprehensive peace agreement in November 2006.

Mr. President

As a least developed country that entered the World Trade Organization not too long ago, Nepal is concerned at the lack of tangible progress in negotiations on the Doha Development Agenda. We think that the opportunities in world trade through multilateral trading framework of the WTO should not be delayed any further. The least developed countries deserve a duty free and

quota free market access for all their tradable products from all the major countries with sincerity, together with more favorable rules of origin and the support for enhancing their supply side capacity. Only then the Doha Round would be a development round in the real sense of the word. Without meaningful integration of the LDCs into the global regime, I do not know how we can make the global trading regime sustainable, equitable and inclusive. Similarly, the least developed countries need more aid for trade and trade facilitation measures to enhance their trading capacity.

Today, the United Nations needs to reform and democratize itself to take on the numerous challenges in international peace and security effectively. And it should also reflect the current realities of the world. We should also give the necessary credibility, legitimacy, competence and effectiveness to the world body in solving the global problems. I take this opportunity to reiterate Nepal's solemn faith and commitment to the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter. On behalf of the people and Government of Nepal, I pledge to work with all of you to take on the global challenges through the United Nations in a spirit of goodwill, cooperation and mutual solidarity. It is with this belief that we have adopted them as one of the tenets of Nepal's foreign policy. Nepal is an example of how swords have been turned into the ploughshares. That is what the United Nations believes in. Therefore, as I address this gathering here, I have a special feeling about the whole objectives and ideals that the United Nations stand for and the co-relationship between those ideals and the political, economic and social transformation that we would like to achieve in our country. May we all succeed in attaining our common objectives through our collective and sincere efforts as the united and inseparable members of a single global family.

I thank you.

Address by

**Rt. Hon. Madhav Kumar Nepal**

Prime Minister of Nepal and Head of the Nepalese Delegation,  
64<sup>th</sup> Session of the UNGA, New York, 26<sup>th</sup> September 2009

Mr. President  
Mr. Secretary General  
Excellencies  
Distinguished Delegates

I would like to begin by extending my warm congratulations to you, Mr. President, on your election as President of the current Session of the Assembly. As one of the incumbent Vice Presidents, I assure you of my delegation's full cooperation in the discharge of your responsibilities. I also take this opportunity to place on record our appreciation for His Excellency Mr. Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann, the outgoing President, for his exemplary leadership during the 63rd Session.

I thank the Secretary General for his comprehensive report on the work of the Organization. We appreciate him for the efficient stewardship of the Organization on various issues of critical global significance and on reform of the United Nations. He also deserves our appreciation for supporting the nationally-driven peace process of Nepal.

Mr. President

I bring with me greetings and good wishes from the people and Government of Nepal, a country which expresses unswerving commitment to the ideals of the United Nations. We look to the United Nations as a true advocate and upholder of the universal values of peace, justice, equality, freedom and human dignity. As has been so aptly recognized in the Millennium Declaration, the United Nations is indeed 'the indispensable common house of the entire human family'. A more efficient and stronger United Nations is obviously in the common interest of all of us.

Sovereign equality, territorial integrity, political independence, non-interference, and peaceful settlement of international disputes have become the bedrock of inter-state relations. These principles enshrined in the UN Charter more than six decades ago, represent the highest ideals of contemporary international relations. They have stood the test of time, and have proved to be timeless and universal. They provide the basis for a smooth and harmonious conduct of international relations among States which are sovereign, independent and interconnected. As we march ahead towards increasing interdependence through globalization, these well-established principles and norms of interstate relations assume even greater relevance for us.

History stands testimony to the fact that human civilization has no linear progression. We live in changing times. Today, the nature, speed and scope of such changes are astounding. New opportunities and unforeseen challenges always await us along our way to peace, progress and prosperity. We often find ourselves at the crossroads of stability and peace on the one hand and conflict and domination on the other. It is only with our principled stand and determination that we have moved towards peace and development throughout history. Whenever we have digressed from these principles, perils and catastrophes have visited us. International solidarity and a true spirit of global partnership are therefore indispensable. And multilateralism offers the best means and opportunity to address global problems of our times.

#### Mr. President

Nepal is currently in the midst of a great political transition. With the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Accord in November 2006, the decade-long armed conflict has ended and a nationally-driven peace process is now in progress. The Constituent Assembly consisting of 601 members elected through a mixed-proportional system of election has been engaged in writing a new, democratic, republican constitution. It has been one of the most inclusive and representative elected bodies in the history of Nepal. Almost one-third of the CA members are women, and it has a fair number of members representing the various ethnic minorities in the country. Thematic committees on various aspects of the new constitution have been preparing their respective reports following the process of broad consultations with the Nepali people. We are determined to take the peace process to a positive conclusion as envisaged in the Comprehensive Peace Accord by building consensus among the political parties through dialogue and consultations.

We are a multi-ethnic, multi-lingual and multi-religious country. As our people have opted for a federal democratic republic, we are now engaged

in restructuring the State by organising it into federal units as desired by the people. Democracy we believe is more meaningful when it is closer to the people. We hope that reconfiguring the State into federal units is one such significant step towards deepening the roots of democracy in our country.

Mr. President

My Government has four major tasks at hand: taking the peace-process to its positive conclusion, writing a new democratic constitution through the Constituent Assembly within the stipulated time-frame, gearing up the country's economic development for the upliftment from poverty and meeting and managing the rising expectations of our people in the new democratic environment. We have been doing our best to accomplish these tasks through dialogue, consultations and consensus among the major political parties in the country.

Looking at the overall progress we have made over the last three years, there is reason to be forward looking and optimistic about Nepal's peace process. We have come a long way in terms of our transition from conflict. Like in every post- conflict situation, there are ups and downs and obstacles in the way. Managing the legacy of the violent past with justice and reconciliation and mainstreaming all the forces into a democratic order are major challenges before us. Avoiding relapse into conflict and fulfilling the hopes and aspirations of the people have constantly prodded us to make progress with dialogue, consensus and unity of purpose. Therefore, we know that we have to go even a longer way. And we are determined to reach our destination that is a peaceful, prosperous and stable Nepal. In achieving that, we know that we must be alert to the aspirations of our people for both freedom and development. Freedom rings hollow when there is no development. Development loses its soul if it is not accompanied by freedom. These are the twin goals for us and my Government is committed to pursuing these goals with clear vision and commitment. I am confident that we shall receive continuous support and cooperation from the international community. Needless to say, the failure to address the rising expectations of the people and provide peace dividends to the conflict affected grassroots people may lead to unintended consequences challenging both the peace and democratization process of Nepal and elsewhere. Therefore, for the positive conclusion of the peace process and institutionalization of our hard-won democracy, I request for special support from the development partners in addressing our post conflict development challenges.

We are fully committed to the protection and promotion of human rights. Since the end of the decade-long armed conflict and beginning of the peace process

in 2006, the human rights situation in the country has improved significantly. The Government is determined to establish a truth and reconciliation commission and a disappearance commission as a part of ensuring transitional justice and restoring social harmony and peace. We already have the National Human Rights Commission as a constitutional body with full autonomy in its area of work.

Mr. President

We appreciate the continued support of the United Nations to the ongoing peace process of Nepal through UNMIN. We are determined to take the peace process to a positive conclusion as early as possible.

As we are ourselves now passing through a post-conflict situation, we understand the importance of peace-building in post-conflict societies. Nepal is pleased to contribute to the work of the Peace-building Commission (PBC) as a new member of its Organizational Committee starting this year. We understand that a review of the activities of the Peace-building Commission is slated for 2010. This would provide an opportunity to assess the activities of the Commission and explore ways to make peace-building a more effective and innovative mechanism as well.

Whether it is the issue of peace, conflict, terrorism, climate change, financial crisis, food security, development challenges and other vulnerabilities, we are so much interconnected with each other that no country can escape from their impacts. Global village has become a palpable reality before us. As such, global problems require global solutions. It is in this context that I appreciate the selection of the theme “effective responses to global crises: strengthening multilateralism and dialogue among civilizations for international peace, security and development” for this year’s general debate.

The economic and financial crisis that swept the world within a relatively short span of time is a most recent reminder of the vulnerability inherent in the process of globalization and its global implications. If we look around we will see that climate change is another issue staring at us. Regional conflicts are yet other global issues of concern to all of us.

The least developed countries and landlocked developing countries are the most vulnerable ones among others in all these aspects. Their special needs call for more specific and enhanced level of international support in terms of their concerns and challenges. At the same time, the outcome of the UN Conference on the Financial and Economic Crisis held here in New York in June this year should be implemented in all seriousness. We also stress on the early implementation of the outcome of the international conference on Financing for Development held in Doha last year.

While the world financial and economic crisis wreaked havoc on the already fragile economic health of the least developed countries, this unanticipated shock has also brought into sharper relief the urgent need for enhanced level of understanding, resources and policy space for the developing countries to mitigate their impact and avoid their recurrence.

Mr. President

The global crises have posed a serious challenge to the fight against poverty in the LDCs. The MDGs can still be achieved if all of us in the international community act together and act constructively. The proposed review of the implementation of the progress of the MDGs should provide us a renewed opportunity to reinvigorate our development agenda. We urge the developed countries not to let the economic and financial crisis become an excuse for curtailing their aid commitments regarding MDGs and other internationally agreed development goals.

Indeed, as recognized at the G-20 Summit in London earlier, this year and as so consistently emphasized by our Secretary General, the people of developing countries and especially the LDCs, need their own international financial rescue package to ensure we do not backtrack on programme towards the MDGs.

Mr. President

Nepal is a country with young mountains and fragile ecosystem. Global warming, one of the most ruthless signs of climate change, has led to unprecedented melting of the Himalayan snow. Nepal experienced an annual increase of 0.06 degree Celsius temperature between 1977 and 2000. With this the threat of glacial lake outbursts has increased. Flash floods have become more frequent and more destructive. Delayed and insufficient rainfall has affected crop production. It is the poorest of the poor farmers who have been the worst sufferers of all this. Agriculture, health, livelihood and infrastructure are all being affected by it.

Nepal hosted a high level regional conference on climate change with focus on the Himalayan region recently in order to highlight the seriousness of the problem of global warming and its impacts on the Himalayan range. The conference has come out with a 10-point understanding which lays emphasis, among others, on the need for translating the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities and historical responsibility of the developed countries as envisaged in the UNFCCC into operational practice, as well as financing mechanism on adaptation and technologies to sufficiently meet the urgent and immediate financial needs of the region in a predictable, easy and direct manner.

Concrete actions that match the level of threat are needed. The other day we have had a fruitful discussion at the Summit on Climate Change convened by the Secretary General. While I appreciate the Secretary General for this important initiative, I urge all to keep up with that spirit of positive thinking and work together to converge all our efforts to find a just and effective solution to this ever enlarging problem of climate change.

The Copenhagen Conference should be able to “seal the deal” and work out a new global compact to address the problem of climate change beyond 2012 in keeping with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities with special considerations given to the characteristic vulnerabilities and weaknesses of the least developed and other developing countries.

Mr. President

LDCs have particular vulnerabilities associated with their structural constraints, systemic deficiencies and historic socio-economic factors. The bottom half of a billion people face a daunting task of uplifting their lives despite persistent efforts and commitment. Their plight is further exacerbated by the global problems which affect them more disproportionately than others. It is because they do not have cushions or alternatives. Therefore, their plight deserves special consideration by the international community.

As we prepare for the fourth conference of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), we need to give a serious look to the implementation status of the Brussels Program of Action for the decade 2001-2010, and endeavor to tackle all existing obstacles in our way through a committed and collaborative partnership. We would also emphasize on the need for full implementation of the Almaty Program of Action for the Landlocked Developing Countries.

Mr. President

Continued lack of progress in the global disarmament agenda, including on nuclear disarmament, is a worrying situation. We hope that the proposed review of the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in 2010 will provide the necessary momentum for a substantial way forward in nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament in a coordinated manner. We also view with equal seriousness the growing menace of the proliferation of small arms which threaten peace, order and human security.

Disarmament being a comprehensive issue, we are of the view that promotion of regional discourse on disarmament would be helpful in building confidence and preparing the necessary groundwork so as to arrive at the eventual goal of general and complete disarmament. In this context, we see an important

role for the United Nations Regional Center for Peace and Disarmament (RCPD) which has become functional from Kathmandu since last year. We urge Member States to be generous in extending financial support to the Center in conducting its programs and activities.

In spite of sustained and concerted efforts on the part of the international community, terrorism continues to pose a serious threat to international peace and security. Nepal strongly condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and calls for early conclusion of a comprehensive convention against terrorism. We reiterate our commitment to combat international terrorism, including through the implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy adopted on 8 September 2006 and the various Security Council resolutions such as Resolutions 1373 and 1540.

At more than sixty, there is no denying that the United Nations needs institutional reform and reinvigoration to maintain its continuing relevance and effectiveness. In this context, we hope that the intergovernmental negotiation started by the General Assembly would lead to a significant reform of the UN system including the Security Council by adding new members in a fair and equitable manner so as to reflect the current realities of the contemporary world.

In an increasingly globalized and interconnected world, the issue of migrant workers has become prominent. Remittance has been one of the major sources of earning foreign currency for almost all the least developed and other developing countries. We therefore urge the international community to take a comprehensive approach and policy towards migration, including on the protection of the rights of migrant workers in the face of current economic crisis.

We are concerned over the continued deadlock in the Doha Development Agenda of the WTO negotiations and the new waves of protectionism that is built in inward-looking stimulus packages that are being adopted to face the global financial and economic crisis. Given the exceptional vulnerabilities of the LDCs and LLDCs, developed countries should immediately make available to them duty free entry to their products, debt relief packages and other capacity building measures in accordance with agreed international compacts and commitments including in the Monterrey Consensus in 2002. These resources are very important to fight against poverty, hunger, illiteracy and disease in all the LDCs, particularly the conflict affected ones that are encountering huge development challenges during their post-conflict recovery phase.

Mr. President

While peacekeeping remains one of the core activities of the United Nations, its multidimensional nature has posed new managerial and logistical challenges in recent years. Peacekeeping evolved out of necessity and it has to be adapted to match the new and emerging challenges and complexities inherent in today's increasingly complex peacekeeping missions. In this context, we appreciate the non-paper entitled "New Horizons" produced by the Secretariat to engage and ensure broader support of member states and the troop contributing countries.

Let me recall here that Nepal has been one of the longest continuing partners in the UN peacekeeping missions. Today, we are the fifth largest troop contributing country. Our commitment to international peace remains as strong as ever, and our support to the United Nations in its peacekeeping activities will continue unabated.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate Nepal's abiding faith in the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter. We stress on the need for introducing timely reforms in the UN and its operational mechanisms in order to enhance its role and relevance in the emerging new global order for the 21st century. Nepal is always willing to contribute in whatever ways it can in the attainment of the noble objectives of international peace, security, development and prosperity for all.

Thank you.

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