



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE KINGDOM OF NEPAL TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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STATEMENT
BY
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AND
THE LEADER OF THE DELEGATION OF
THE KINGDOM OF NEPAL

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AT
THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE SIXTIETH SESSION OF
THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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21 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 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.