

Statement by Mrs. Ambika Devi Luintel, Charge' d' Affaires a.i, Mission of  
Nepal and Leader of the Nepalese Delegation to the 11<sup>th</sup> Session of the  
Conference of States Parties 05-08 December 2006 in The Hague, the  
Netherlands.

Mr. Chairman,  
Director General,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,

At the outset, please allow me, on behalf of the Nepalese Delegation, to join the previous speakers in congratulating you on your unanimous election as the Chairperson of the 11<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). I am confident that your outstanding professional skill and leadership would help steer the session to a fruitful conclusion and I assure you full cooperation from my delegation.

I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to H.E. Jose Antonio Arrospide, the Chairperson of the 10<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of States Parties for his guidance and wise leadership which enabled the States Parties to conclude a productive conference last year and would like to congratulate to the new Bureau members of this Session of the Conference.

Let me also take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to Ambassdor Rogelio Pfirter, Director General of OPCW, for his comprehensive statement which, I am confident, will guide the deliberations of this Conference.

My Delegation supports the views expressed by H.E Ambassador of Cuba on behalf of the NAM CWC States Parties and China yesterday.

Mr. Chairman,

Nepal extends warm welcome to all six new countries (Central African Republic, Comoros, Djibouti, Liberia, Haiti and Montenegro) that have become States Parties since 10<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of States Parties to the CWC. It believes that growing number of States Parties to the CWC, is a testimony of the desire of the international community to get rid of chemical weapons for a safer and more peaceful world. My delegation is very pleased to note that within a short span of nine years since its entry into force in 1997, the CWC has already attracted 181 Members and we are very close to attaining the goal of Universality. We urge remaining countries to join the Convention as early as possible. It is our strong believe that the commitment to the CWC would help secure peace in the world. Let's work

together to eliminate the horrendous means of destruction. The excellent work done by the Technical Secretariat to promote the universality of the Convention is highly commendable and we sincerely hope that it will continue to intensify its efforts in the same direction in the future as well.

The proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) has caused serious threat to humankind. The danger of acquisition and possible use of WMD by terrorists pose serious challenge to the international community. To avoid catastrophe of WMD, global community should come forward to realize the international disarmament regime. Nepal supports for the universality of the Convention and calls for greater international technical and economic cooperation to support the National Authority for their capacity building to implement the provisions of the Convention.

Nepal, as a Party to CWC, is committed to the provisions stipulated in the Convention. We have always extended our full cooperation with the international community to achieve full ban on the production, use, stockpiling and proliferation of the chemical weapons. The full implementation of the CWC will significantly contribute to achieve the disarmament goals. Nepal has always taken the position on total disarmament, including Chemical Weapons in time-bound framework and has expressed its faith unfathomable to the UN Charter and signed several international treaties related to disarmament. While advocating for peace and disarmament, Nepal has been party to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and has also signed the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT).

Nepal believes that the Regional Meetings of National Authorities, organized in various geographical regions, have significantly contributed to the fostering of greater understanding and cooperation through exchange of expertise, sharing of experiences and exchange of new ideas among the countries in the regions. The Regional Meetings held in Singapore in 2003, Beijing in 2004, Tehran in September 2005 and Jakarta in 2006 have been found useful and productive to the National Authorities of Asian Countries. Nepal has been participating in such Regional meetings and will continue to take part in the activities of the OPCW both at regional and international level.

As a State Party to the CWC, Nepal is engaged in the implementation of the CWC provisions at the national level. A National Authority under the Convenorship of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was established in August 1998. The authority is responsible to carryout the activities set out in the Convention. A sub-committee of legal experts established under the National Authority has recently submitted a copy of draft legislation on the implementation of the provision of the Convention to the National Authority for their consideration. Nepal submitted the Initial Declaration on 16 February 1998.

Nepal has also been cooperating with OPCW by providing necessary information such as contact numbers where to send notifications and other issues, designated point of entry for inspection, standing diplomatic clearance number for non-scheduled aircraft and radio frequencies to facilitate the inspection.

Nepal has responded to the various questionnaires regarding various aspects of the implementation of the Convention. In February 2005, Nepal hosted a training programme in Kathmandu for the members of the National Authority to familiarize various practical, technical and legal aspects of the Convention with the cooperation of the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW. Similarly, a sub-regional workshop for Custom authorities in South Asia on technical aspects of the Transfers regime was held in Kathmandu from 9 to 10 August 2006. Custom authorities from various countries such as India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Iran, Maldives, China and European Commission attended the Seminar.

Nepal, being a party to CWC, has the obligation to facilitate the Inspectors for their movement with equipments for verification and inspection activities (Part II, General Rules of Verification and approved equipment 27). In this context, Foreign Ministry (Convener of the Committee of National authority) coordinated with the Department of Mines and Geology and Department of Standard and Metrology to fill and send back the form of Authorization for shipment of new radioactive sources as specified by Operation and Planning Branch of OPCW Head Quarters in October 2006. Nepal has responded to the queries by the Technical Secretariat on the confidentiality matter.

In the Programme and Budget of the organization, Nepal has taken note of zero nominal growth budget proposal and reduction of assessed contributions by States Parties. However, essential programmes and activities of the Organization particularly designed for the enhancement of the capacity of the Developing countries particularly of the LDCs should remain intact.

Let me conclude my statement by emphasizing that full, effective and non- discriminatory implementation of the provisions of the CWC not only help achieve the goal of Universality of the Convention but also help create a safer and peaceful world for the entire humankind . I am confident that this 11<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of the States Parties will prove to be instrumental in further consolidating our efforts towards achieving the ultimate goals of a chemical weapons-free world.

Thank you.  
06 December 2006