



NEPAL

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Lok Bahadur Thapa,
Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations
at the 80th UNGA, First Committee,
General Debate on all disarmament and international
security agenda items**

UNHQ, New York, 8 October 2025

(Time: 8 minutes)

Mr. Chair,

At the outset, let me congratulate you, Mr. Chair, and members of the Bureau on your election.

I assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation in discharging your responsibilities.

Nepal aligns itself with the statement delivered by Uganda on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

Mr. Chair,

The world is witnessing the highest number of conflicts since World War II.

The architecture of global peace and disarmament has come under severe pressure.

To our utmost dismay, the defense budget is skyrocketing, reaching \$2.7 trillion in 2024, while development cooperation is declining.

And, above all, the specter of nuclear war still haunts us.

This year marks 80 years since the first use of nuclear weapons and 55 years since the entry into force of the landmark Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

These anniversaries underscore the urgency of our renewed commitment to disarmament and multilateral cooperation

Yet, it is distressing that we are backtracking on many fronts of nuclear disarmament.

Trust among nations has eroded.

States are increasingly inclined towards policies such as nuclear deterrence and nuclear sharing.

The prominence of nuclear weapons in military doctrines remains undiminished,

The modernization of nuclear capabilities—including the potential integration of Artificial Intelligence—has posed new challenges.

These developments threaten to undermine decades of progress towards a world free of nuclear weapons.

Mr. Chair,

It is our strong belief that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only guarantee against the use or threat of such horrendous weapons.

Nepal unequivocally calls for the general and complete disarmament of nuclear weapons in a time-bound manner.

We also call for a robust verification mechanism to ensure that all parties adhere to the agreed terms, considering the interrelated and mutually reinforcing nature of the three pillars of the NPT.

In this regard, we look forward to a successful convening of the 11th Review Conference of the NPT slated for next year under the Presidency of Vietnam.

As the cornerstone of the global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime, we urge the universalization of the NPT.

Nepal underscores the urgent resumption of negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT) to further strengthen nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regimes.

We express our full support for the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in all regions.

We support the inalienable right of all States, as enshrined in Article IV of the NPT, to develop and utilize nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

The IAEA should continue to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy while further strengthening its safeguards mechanisms to prevent proliferation.

We call for legally binding security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons under any circumstances.

As a party to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), Nepal calls on all to comply fully with the Convention and its verification regime.

This year, as we mark the 50th anniversary of the enforcement of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), we must ensure that the Treaty is enforced effectively to prevent the misuse of biology and respond effectively to emerging biological risks.

The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons must be effectively controlled to prevent conflict, reduce violence, and promote sustainable peace.

As emerging and dual-use technologies are posing new challenges to disarmament, it is essential to strengthen

inclusive global governance that guarantees human oversight, ensures responsible, well-regulated, and ethical use of AI technologies, fosters stronger international cooperation, and supports capacity-building in developing nations.

It is critical to regulate Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS) by considering their ethical, legal, humanitarian, and technological aspects.

Mr. Chair,

The advent of space-based weapons and anti-satellite systems represents a new frontier in arms control, underscoring the need for innovative approaches to disarmament.

Outer space must be spared from the perils of arms race and weaponization of any kind while utilizing it exclusively for peaceful purposes.

We call for enhanced transparency and confidence-building measures in all activities related to outer space.

Nepal underscores the importance of establishing a global regulatory framework to ensure an open, secure, and accessible information and communication technology (ICT) environment and cyberspace.

Mr. Chair,

The disarmament machinery, such as UN Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament, needs to be further strengthened to deliver on their mandates.

Nepal supports incorporating gender perspectives into disarmament frameworks, recognizing the catalytic roles that women, youth, and civil society actors can play within the disarmament architecture.

The regional disarmament architecture complements the global disarmament framework by fostering understanding, dialogue, and confidence-building measures.

As in the past years, Nepal will table a draft resolution entitled '**United Nations Regional Center for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific**' in our capacity as the host state.

We look forward to receiving the continued support of all Member States for the adoption of this resolution by consensus.

In conclusion, Mr. Chair,

Disarmament is not merely about abolishing weapons. It is about saving lives.

A fraction of global military spending could fund the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, including eradicating extreme poverty and hunger.

I appeal to the international community to pursue disarmament in action together.

Only then can we build a safe, peaceful, and prosperous world for all.

I thank you!