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Statement by Ms. Indira Aryal, Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of Nepal to the United Nations, at the First Committee of the 77th Session of the UNGA, at the cluster debate on “Regional Disarmament and Security”

New York, 25 October 2022

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Nepal has remained a strong supporter of regional disarmament architectures which serve as catalysts for enduring peace and security in the world.

We believe that regional approaches to disarmament strengthen global disarmament efforts, therefore should be pursued simultaneously.

Nepal supports the establishment of ‘Nuclear-Weapon Free zones’ in the interest of sustainable peace, and security in the region.

We underscore the importance of diplomacy and dialogue in the region to foster confidence and trust, and reduce military spending.

Mr. Chair,

Disarmament initiatives become successful when trust and confidence are cultivated through effective partnerships between Governments, the expert community and civil society. Wider participation of women and youths remains essential as they are the force for change and progress.

We emphasize on disarmament and non-proliferation education to enhance awareness among people about the humanitarian consequences of weapons and garner general support for the cause of peace and disarmament.

With the support of the UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (UNRCPD), Nepal has developed a textbook on peace and disarmament education for grades 8 to 10. This has been an effective means to instilling in young minds, the importance of peace and disarmament.

Mr. Chair,

United Nations Regional Centres for peace and disarmament provide a permanent platform to Member States for constant dialogue, exchange of views and best practices.

We encourage them to facilitate sustained security dialogue customized to the region and contribute towards developing a common regional approach to disarmament.

We emphasize that all three UN Regional Centres for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, Asia and Latin America should be further strengthened with adequate resources to enable them to synergize overall disarmament efforts in the respective regions.

Mr. Chairman,

Since the late 1980s, Nepal has partnered with the UNRCPD in organizing regional meetings and dialogue under the “Kathmandu Process”. We are committed to resuming this process to foster confidence and common understanding for peace and disarmament in the region and beyond.

As the host country, Nepal will continue to extend its support to the UNRCPD for its capacity-building, awareness-raising programs and efforts for universalization and implementation of multilateral disarmament instruments. UNRCPD has worked hard to strengthen the implementation of POA on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), mainstream gender perspectives in disarmament, and support the establishment and maintenance of Gun-Free zones among others. We encourage the Member States of the region to identify their areas of interest and collaborate with the Centre.

Nepal calls on the Members States and non-governmental organizations in the region and beyond to make voluntary contributions to the Centre to ensure the effective implementation of activities mandated by the General Assembly.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, Nepal has tabled a draft resolution ‘United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific’ contained in document L.37 for the consideration of the Committee. We thank the Nineteen Member States that have already co-sponsored the draft resolution. We are confident that, as in previous years, we will have valuable support from all delegations for the adoption of this draft resolution by consensus.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.