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**Statement by H. E. Amrit Bahadur Rai, Ambassador/ Permanent Representative of
Nepal to the United Nations at the 10th Review Conference of the Parties to the
Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)
New York, 2 August 2022**

(Check against delivery)

Mr. President,

At the outset, I congratulate you on your election to preside over this 10th NPT Review Conference. Rest assured of my delegation's full support in discharging the vital responsibility entrusted to you.

My delegation associates itself with the statement delivered by Azerbaijan on behalf of States of the Non-aligned Movement that are parties to the NPT.

Mr. President,

Five decades have passed after the entry into force of the Treaty on Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), but we are still doomed to live under the looming specter of catastrophic consequences of nuclear weapons due to horizontal and vertical proliferation and modernization of nuclear weapons in violation of the NPT. It is incumbent on us to make significant progress to ensure effective implementation of the Treaty to achieve nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and its peaceful uses for human wellbeing and prosperity.

All three pillars of the NPT- disarmament, nonproliferation and peaceful uses- are interlinked and mutually reinforcing. The fulfillment of the objectives of the NPT rests on their balanced, comprehensive and non-discriminatory implementation with a holistic approach. We emphasize on effective implementation of 13 practical steps of the 2000 and 64-point action plan of the 2010 Review Conference.

Nepal underlines that Nuclear-Weapon-States should respect the principles of transparency, irreversibility, and verifiability of nuclear weapons for their total elimination while they should also accept full-scope safeguards under the IAEA.

Nepal rejects all illusive narratives invented to prolong disarmament in the name of nuclear deterrence. The modernization and up-gradation of nuclear weapons and their delivery system should be abandoned. We urge all to live up to their commitment and obligations under the NPT regime.

Mr. President,

Nepal strongly supports the general and complete disarmament of all weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons, in a time-bound manner. We continue to emphasize that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

Pending the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, there must be the provision of unequivocal negative security assurances by all Nuclear-Weapons-States to the Non-nuclear Weapon States through a legally binding instrument.

Nepal welcomes the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) and the successful convening of its First Meeting of States Parties on June 21-23, 2022. We stand for the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and an early conclusion of the Fissile Materials Cut-Off Treaty (FMCT).

We encourage the states to join the NPT which have not yet done so. The universality of the NPT enhances the disarmament and non-proliferation regime.

Nepal believes that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones contributes to disarmament and nonproliferation at the regional and global level. We support the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

Mr. President,

Nuclear technologies should be a boon not a bane for humanity. There should be robust international cooperation to enable the developing and the least developed countries to utilize the inalienable right of all the Parties to the Treaty to develop, produce and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination and in conformity with the Treaty.

In conclusion, Mr. President, this Review Conference is an opportunity to demonstrate strong political will and commitment to fulfilling the obligations under the NPT regime, especially being cognizant of the fact of present geopolitical tensions. Let us resolve to muster political commitment to achieve disarmament and non-proliferation in our own lifetime and give the succeeding generations the world free of nuclear weapons.

Thank you.