Nepal

Statement by Mr. Amrit Bahadur Rai, Minister Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of Nepal to the United Nations at the First Committee on Agenda item 97 (d) United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and Pacific

21 October 2009

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation has the honor to introduce a draft resolution under agenda item 97 (d) entitled “United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific” contained in document A/C.1/64/INF/1.

The sponsors of draft resolution are Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Maldives, Micronesia (Federate State of), Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, New Zealand, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam and along with the host country of the Centre, Nepal. My delegation expresses sincere gratitude to all the sponsors and those delegations that will co-sponsor the text.

Besides the factual and technical updates, we have proposed some changes in preambular and operative paragraphs with a view to making the draft resolution more contextual in line with coming into operation of the Regional Centre from Kathmandu.

After coming into operation from Kathmandu from 18th of August 2008, the UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific is aiming to contribute effectively for the achievement of its mandated tasks with the active involvement of Member States.

As the host country of the Regional Centre, Nepal reiterates its commitment to providing its fullest support to the Centre for its role consolidating the “Kathmandu Process” as a continuum of constructive process of dialogue and confidence-building measures in regional disarmament.

I would like to take this opportunity to express Nepal’s gratitude to the Member States for their continued support to the Regional Centre, including the voluntary contributions for the program and activities of the Centre. We are confident that the Centre will attract more member countries for their active involvement and financial support in days ahead.

Mr. Chairman,

Regional dialogue, engagement and confidence building measures are some of the essential elements for creating conducive environment for disarmament and non-
proliferation. United Nations Regional Centre would play a significant role towards this end by providing the permanent platform to Member States for constant dialogue and exchange of views.

Regional initiatives and instruments on disarmament and non-proliferation are the linchpins for the broader framework of the global disarmament and non-proliferation. Within the sensitivity of regional political nuances, these instruments can create higher level of understanding and sense of confidence within the region. The Regional Centre is better poised for the job of catering the needs of region on disarmament and non-proliferation. The Regional Centre is an appropriate channel to cultivate regional initiatives on peace and disarmament.

It is with this conviction that we are introducing this draft resolution. As in the previous years, the draft resolution aims at sustained and effective role for the Regional Centre as UN entity to work for peace, disarmament and non-proliferations in the region.

Thus, my delegation urges the Committee for adoption of the draft resolution by consensus.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.