

18-11-07 pm

**Address by Durga Nidhi Sharma**  
**Joint Secretary, Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction,**  
**Nepal**  
**On the occasion of the Eight Meeting of the States Parties to**  
**the**  
**Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling,**  
**Production and Transfer of**  
**Anti-personnel Mines and their Destruction**  
**Dead Sea, Jordan**  
**18-22 November 2007**

Distinguished President,

On behalf of the observer delegation of Nepal, I would like to congratulate you on your election as President of this meeting. The delegation of Nepal would like to briefly take the floor under this agenda item to provide a brief account of Nepal's position in regard to the Convention as well as the on-going mine action activities in Nepal.

Since the entering of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in November 2006, Nepal has taken active steps to address the threat of landmines and explosive remnants of war that were used during the 10 year long conflict. Firstly, both the Nepal Communist Party (Maoists) and the Nepal Army have committed under the Agreement on the Monitoring and Management of Arms and Armies, 2006 to dispose of their landmines and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) as soon as possible. The United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN) has been instrumental to the process in monitoring and destroying the IEDs. One mine field has recently been cleared and clearance efforts will continue over the coming time with the support of the international community including UNMIN.

In June 2007, a Cabinet decision established a national mine action committee with policy responsibilities chaired by

honorable Minister for Peace and Reconstruction. The committee is to deal with the problem of landmines and improvised explosive devices and other explosive remnants of war. The Government has submitted two projects to the 2008 Portfolio of Mine Action Projects to seek further funding for clearance and will work with United Nations Mine Action Services (UNMAS) and UNMIN in their implementation.

With previous and current efforts in mine risk education with UNICEF and local civil society partners and the establishment of a national committee for mine action, Nepal has committed itself to the process of improving the lives and livelihoods of people affected by mines and explosive remnants of war. The coming time will be focused on ensuring that a comprehensive mine action programme is fully functional, including clearance, mine risk education, victim assistance and stockpile destruction.

Distinguished President,

Definitely, our ultimate goal is "mine free world". Towards this end, Nepal remains fully committed to the humanitarian objectives of the convention.

Thank you.