

Revised on July 9, 2009

**Address by the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal to the
XV Summit Meeting of the Member Countries of the Non-Aligned Movement in Sharm El-Sheikh,
Egypt 15-16 July 2009**

Mr. Chairman
Their Excellencies the Heads of State and Government
Secretary General of the United Nations
Distinguished Delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me begin by expressing our deep appreciation to the Government and People of the Arab Republic of Egypt for assuming the Chair of NAM and for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements made for the 15th Summit meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement. I would also like to commend the active role played by Cuba in advancing the cause of the Movement during the last three years of its chairmanship.

Mr. Chairman,

I am very proud to participate here as the first Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal. As a founding member of the Non-aligned Movement, Nepal continues to place its unwavering faith in the principles of NAM. They also constitute one of the guiding elements of our foreign policy as we hold a firm belief in NAM's continued role and importance. *It is so because the fundamental principles of NAM transcend time, space and context.*

As I stand here, my memories rush through the achievements made and challenges faced by NAM in the five decades of its existence. Despite strong currents of power politics, it withstood all the adversities, time and again, and marched ahead with consolidation of its ideals and transformation. *This must be treasured and carried by us all.*

It is therefore a matter of satisfaction that NAM as a group has continued to grow in size and importance, and it has now emerged as the largest group of countries. They are bound together by innate desire to promote global peace and progress based on fundamental principles of inter state relations, norms and values of multilateralism and peaceful coexistence. Both within the United Nations and outside, our Movement has been able to carve a place for itself. But we need to do more and enhance our cohesiveness with a forward-looking approach to take on the emerging challenges before us.

International peace and security could be enhanced with a more cooperative world order. We must all abide ourselves by the established principles of international relations such as mutual respect and understanding, and non intervention and non interference, as well as by mutual support and cooperation. Whenever we have swerved away from these basic tenets, we have invited troubles and dangers at the international level.

Mr. Chairman,

We can not sustain peace without development and if there is no peace and stability, development just becomes a mirage. Therefore they must be promoted together.

It is in this context, NAM's long-standing call for a New International Economic Order has been abundantly justified by the current global economic and financial crisis. The developing world should have a rightful share in the decision-making process of the multilateral financial bodies. Unless greater coherence is ensured among the international trading, monetary and financial systems in a comprehensive manner based on common rules, chances of recurrence of such failures remain high.

The global financial crisis has now turned into a severe global economic crisis. It has had adverse impacts on all. Declining job opportunities, steep reduction in exports, retrenchment, reduced remittance flow, slackening tourism, drying up of investment funds and higher costs of development and debt servicing are some of its symptoms which will negatively affect our efforts to fulfill MDGs and poverty reduction programs. Therefore, we strongly urge the developed countries not to make the current economic and financial crisis an excuse for curtailing the volume of committed official development assistance and not to raise barriers to trade. On the contrary, we call upon them to do more to offer assistance to the LDCs which are more vulnerable than others. *There is a particular plight of the landlocked LDCs, which face multiple challenges. While making their transit passage to the nearest sea smoother, there should be international support for mitigating their difficulties due to adverse geographical location.* In times of crises, it is the poor who suffer the most because they have no alternative opportunities or safety measures to fall back upon.

Mr. Chairman,

Cumulative effects of declining trade, rising food and fuel prices and climate change have further compounded the challenges of the developing countries. The lack of progress on the WTO trade talks, especially the Doha Development Agenda, is of particular concern for us. The developed countries should provide duty-free market access for the products from the LDCs so as to ensure a development dividend from the multilateral trading regime. The food crisis continues to persist across the region. It is the poor and the most vulnerable sections of people in the least developed countries that have been widely affected by lack of accessibility and affordability of food. This has been further accentuated by the rising fuel prices again. International community must take concerted actions to address them comprehensively and effectively with a long-term approach. The threats of climate change have manifested themselves in various forms such as the melting of glaciers in the Himalayas, the rising sea levels, and the changing and extreme weather patterns. The least developed countries and small island States have experienced their adverse impacts more prominently around the world. Therefore there is a need for a robust international cooperation for adaptation and mitigation measures and substantial resource and technology transfer.

Multilateralism is one of the strongest pillars of Non-Aligned Movement. In the context of existing and emerging threats and challenges, it can be strengthened further by keeping the United Nations at the center of our collective efforts. A comprehensive reform of the United Nations is already overdue. The reform process should be based on sovereign equality, democratic exercise, transparency, accountability, and equitable representation from all corners of the world. Nepal is happy that it has been making a modest contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security through continued participation in the UN peacekeeping missions.

Mr. Chairman,

We have consistently stood for general and complete disarmament. We would, therefore, call for renewed global efforts to reach the ultimate goal of creating a world free of nuclear, chemical, biological and other weapons of mass destruction. We condemn in the strongest possible terms terrorism in all its manifestations. We would like to renew our pledge to work together regionally and globally to combat terrorism. The international community should also join hands in addressing the root causes of terrorism, including lack of economic opportunity, social justice and human dignity, and exclusion and alienation of peoples. Likewise, the Movement can also play a significant role in promoting better understanding between cultures and civilizations to promote tolerance and harmony around the world.

There is no doubt that globalization and astounding progress in science and technology have brought about an unprecedented level of transformation in the lives of the people today. But its impact has been uneven. Inequality and deprivation are also growing in our midst. This has led to alienation, chaos and conflicts around the world. As we witness a rising number and intensity of conflicts around the world, I believe that NAM could create a forum to discuss the issue of conflicts in a holistic manner and come out with a vision and road map for resolving and preventing them and their root causes. That could be a most important contribution of NAM to deal with the contemporary challenges we all face.

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to briefly update this august assembly about the ongoing peace process in my country Nepal. With the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Accord between the government and the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) in November 2006, the decade-long armed conflict has come to an end. Elections to Constituent Assembly were held under a mixed proportional representation system, which has made the Assembly a most representative elected body. Almost a third of the constituent Assembly members are women. We are now engaged in writing a new democratic constitution of Nepal as a Federal Democratic Republic with the widest possible participation of all segments of our people. Monarchy has now become history with smooth transition to a republican state. The process of the restructuring of the State is in progress that ensures mainstreaming of all the marginalized groups.

We are at the dawn of a new age in the country. We have embarked upon a most comprehensive transformation in Nepal. In the last three years, we have covered substantial grounds in institutionalizing peace. We still have a long way to go. People today are clamoring for a far reaching political, economic and social change in the country. We are therefore putting our best efforts to make sure that we would not only ensure sustainable peace but we would also guarantee equity, justice and prosperity to all within a democratic form of governance. Our vision is to end for ever alienation, marginalization and deprivation of all communities in the country. We are committed to deliver on these promises with a vision, determination and sincerity. This home-grown peace process of Nepal, when successfully completed, would be an example for many conflict ridden countries in different regions of the world.

In conclusion, let me stress here that Egypt has always been on the forefront of NAM as a founding member and consistent proponent of the Movement. In view of its leading role in promoting the cause of developing countries, we are confident that under the visionary and dynamic leadership of President Hosny Mubarak, NAM would be able to reach new heights in projecting its ideals and aspirations to the wider world. We will be with you in all your noble endeavors. Thank you.