



Remarks by Representative of the Secretary-General in Nepal Karin Landgren

Flag-lowering ceremony to mark the closure of the mission

14 January 2011

We have come together on 14 January 2011 to mark the closing of the United Nations Mission in Nepal, after four years of dedicated support to Nepal's nationally-led peace process.

Nepal's long association with the United Nations is a source of pride for the country and for the United Nations. Our relationship has taken many forms over the years: Nepal as a Member State of long standing, as a strong contributor to United Nations peacekeeping operations, and as the host and partner of a significant United Nations country team. For the past four years, the UN has responded to Nepal's request for support to its peace process through the deployment of this mission.

From supporting the successful elections, to assisting in the operations for the removal of wartime landmines and explosives, to the registration and verification of Maoist army personnel and the discharge of those disqualified, UNMIN has worked with dedication and impartiality. The mission's most abiding task has been in the monitoring of the management of arms and armies, as the parties had agreed in November 2006.

UNMIN has deployed arms monitors in the seven Maoist army cantonment sites, at the Nepal Army's Chhauni Barracks in Kathmandu, and on wide-ranging and regular patrols of other army sites. The Chief Arms Monitor has chaired the Joint Monitoring Coordination Committee through 135 sessions at which over 100 alleged violations have been reviewed and many other issues discussed, in a collegial, professional and confidential setting.

I reiterate my appreciation to the Government of Nepal and the Unified Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist, and all political parties, for our cooperation through these years, and have also conveyed these sentiments to General Chattaman Singh Gurung and Mr. Nanda Kishore Pun.

I thank our United Nations colleagues and the diplomatic and development community in Nepal for their engagement with us, and for their friendship.

Today, we symbolically lower the flag for the closure of the mission, which officially comes to an end tomorrow at midnight. A small mission liquidation team will remain, to complete administrative withdrawal matters.

The United Nations is proud to have supported Nepal in this peace process, as it will continue to do. I am personally both proud and humbled to have served this process with my dedicated colleagues.

Here, next door to the Constituent Assembly, we have been reminded every day of how much this country has achieved in a few short years, and also of the challenge that lies ahead.

The mission's contribution to the peace process has been a job well done. But the peace process itself is unfinished. There are, most immediately, outstanding issues in relation to the future of the arms and armies. While this peace process has seen several stops and starts during the past five years, it has never been derailed. This is a tribute to all the men and women who remain steadfast in their

commitment to a Nepal which exemplifies democracy, human rights, the rule of law, and the restructuring of the state to resolve problems based on class, cast, region and sex.

All that remains for me is to extend our sincere wishes to the people of Nepal, that their hopes and dreams will be met, and to say good-bye.

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**THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
MESSAGE TO CLOSING CEREMONY
FOR THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN NEPAL (UNMIN)**

Kathmandu, 14 January 2011

As the United Nations Mission in Nepal prepares to close at midnight tomorrow, I thank my representative Karin Landgren, her predecessor, Ian Martin, and all UNMIN staff of the past four years for their contribution to the Nepali-led peace process. I also want to acknowledge the memory of those colleagues who lost their lives in the service of this mission in March 2008.

The Security Council's decision to end UNMIN's mandate was in line with a September 2010 agreement between the Government of Nepal and the Maoists in which they pledged to basically complete the remaining tasks of the peace process by 15 January. Regrettably, insufficient progress was made. I encourage the parties to redouble their efforts to build the confidence that can bring progress on all fronts of Nepal's peace process.

The United Nations Mission in Nepal was deployed in record time and helped the parties to negotiate the agreement that has served as the basis for the monitoring of arms and armies. The mission provided support to the historic elections for a Constituent Assembly in 2008, which was one of its key tasks, along with monitoring the implementation of the arms monitoring agreement and the ceasefire code of conduct. The mission also chaired regular meetings of the Joint Monitoring Coordination Committee, the confidence-building mechanism which helped to resolve disputes related to the monitoring. The parties have shown a high degree of respect for the monitoring regime.

Throughout its existence, UNMIN sought to instill confidence in the peace process and encourage attention to its most critical tasks. I would like to assure the people of Nepal that the United Nations will remain engaged in Nepal's peace process through the United Nations Country Team, and through the continued engagement of the Department of Political Affairs. I hope and trust that the parties are committed to finding the way forward to complete the process and realize the aspirations of the Nepali people.