

Remarks by H.E. Ambassador/PR Deepak Dhital at the flag raising ceremony at the Peace Bell Foundation 'Bell of the Fallen' at Miravelle Hill, Rovereto, Trento Province of Italy

June 24, 2018

Regent of the Foundation, Senator Alberto Robol  
Mr. Commissioner of the Government for the Province of Trento  
Mr. President of the Province of Trento  
Mr. Mayor of the city of Rovereto  
Commander of the Security Force  
Consul of Nepal in Rome  
Distinguished ladies and gentlemen

It is indeed an honour and privilege for me to represent the Government of the Democratic Republic of Nepal in this flag raising ceremony. I believe that the flag of Nepal would stand tall in this place along with the flags of so many other friendly countries. On behalf of the Government of Nepal, I express our sincere gratitude to the Foundation of the Bell of the Fallen for inviting us to participate in this very symbolic event dedicated to world peace and universal fraternity. I have brought with me warm greetings to all of you, distinguished hosts, from the Government and people of Nepal.

I have with me a number of my fellow citizens from Nepal, president and members of Nepali diaspora association, friends and colleagues.

For a citizen of a country where Buddha - the apostle of peace was born, what else could be more glorious than joining hands of solidarity for the cause of world peace. Personally, I have felt a sense of fulfillment to be here with you this morning.

Nowhere in the world have I seen the theme of solidarity for peace and fraternity so much captured by the imagination of humankind than in Maria Dollens - the Bell of the Fallen. The ringing of the bell every day provides the message that we must say farewell to all harmful arms to build the edifice of world peace. The first and second world wars remain as disturbing memories of inhuman atrocities perpetrated by people with arms and bravado against their own brothers and sisters. The devastating impacts of these wars led to the birth of the United Nations, which is a symbol of hope for the entire humankind to live a life of shared peace, progress and prosperity.

Symbolic monuments such as the Bell of the Fallen evoke powerful message by reminding countries and communities that the world cannot and must not indulge in devastating wars and deadly weapons any more. They should rather focus on cooperation, collaboration and partnership for sustainable development that brings shared happiness and prosperity. I understand that the Bell was purportedly built

with the bronze of the cannons from the countries of soldiers who died in the battles of Trentino during the First World War.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me now speak in brief about Nepal and how the two countries have been strengthening the ties ever since the diplomatic relations were established in 1959. There were embassies established in each other's capital in the past. Now it has been replaced by concurrent accreditations. It, however, has not lessened the growth of our relationships since we live in a world that is increasingly getting globalized and interdependent. I learnt that when earthquakes hit Nepal in 2015, it evoked the emotions of the people of Trento also, who came out with a response and an offer for support.

Nepal and Italy have cooperated beneficially in preservation of cultural heritage, promotion of education, science and technology, among others. Mountain partnership is one area in which Italy and Nepal are working together in various international forums. We see immense scope in expanding relations in trade, investment, technology transfer and tourism promotion between the two countries. We appreciate the role played by the private sector companies from Italy in advancing the infrastructure development sector of Nepal.

Like Italy, Nepal has a big potential to be a major tourist destination. It is a destination with unique differences. Nepal contains the highest mountain landscape with outstanding beauty and variety of nature, providing opportunity for an ultimate experience in adventures and inner joy. The ancient cultural heritages and live cultural traditions of people constitute other magnetic attractions. When I see the landscape of Trento, it reminds me a number of similarities with Nepal. I hope that the flag of Nepal, which would flutter here from now on would constantly call you to visit our beautiful country.

I also call upon the private sector companies of Trento to look to Nepal for their next investment decisions or participation in infrastructure development and industrial ventures. A resilient society as we are, Nepal has achieved political stability following the promulgation of a new federal constitution in 2015 and holding of the elections to the three tiers of Government successfully last year. With these landmark achievements, we have reached a state of durable peace and stability. Establishing a strong foundation of economic development with social justice, abiding peace and harmony is the prime objective of the Government.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The strength of Nepal lies in its young and energetic people who harbor friendship with all and enmity with none. As inheritors of the tradition of the Buddha, we want to spread the message of peace, non-violence and cooperation across the world. Today, we have joined our hands with your glorious tradition and pledged to adhere to the memorandum of the Peace Foundation by hoisting our national flag in this

revered place. Let us collectively work to make the world a peaceful and lovely place to live for generations to come.

Finally, I once again express my pleasure, on behalf of the Government of Nepal, to have joined our hands of solidarity for world peace, unity and fraternity, and extend my gratitude to all those who contributed in the organization of this wonderful ceremony.

Thank you very much!