



संयुक्त राष्ट्रसंघका लागि नेपालको स्थायी नियोग PERMANENT MISSION OF NEPAL TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Press Release

Hon. Dr. Narayan Khadka, Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Head of Nepali delegation, addressed the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York today.

In his address, the Foreign Minister highlighted the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and said that the crisis has brought the world to a grinding halt, devastated the global economy, pushed an additional 150 million people into extreme poverty, and threatened to reverse hard-earned development gains. Nowhere is this distinctly visible than in the most weak and vulnerable countries where people remain deprived of access to basic civic amenities, he added.

The Minister underscored the importance of fair and equitable access to vaccines for everyone, everywhere. Vaccines must be declared as public goods for the benefit of people's lives, he stressed.

He also highlighted Nepal's efforts to build a sustainable and resilient recovery from the pandemic and thanked India, China, United States, Britain, Japan and others for providing vaccines, critical medical equipment, and medicines in fight against the pandemic.

The Foreign Minister expressed concerns about the situation in Afghanistan, Myanmar, Libya, Syria, and Yemen and urged all parties involved to ensure peace, security, and stability and fundamental rights and freedom of the people.

He shared Nepal's principled position on peace, security, disarmament, terrorism, human rights, sustainable development, and climate change. The Foreign Minister condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and called for general and complete disarmament of all weapons of mass destruction in a time-bound and verifiable manner. He highlighted the importance of promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, resilient recovery and building back better and stronger for achieving SDGs.

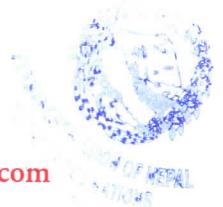
On climate issues, he reiterated Nepal's commitment to delivering climate-resilient development pathways by 2030 and net-zero emissions by 2050 and said that the climate ambition of developing countries must be met with easier access to adequate financial and technological support for adaptation and mitigation.

Referring to Nepal's contribution to the UN peace operations to promote peace, security, and stability in the conflict-ridden parts of the world, he underlined the importance of safety, security and dignity of peacekeepers. He also stressed that Nepal deserves senior level positions both at the headquarters and in the field being one of the largest troop and police contributing countries.

Nepal denounces all activities aimed to fuel social discord, communal conflicts, and intolerance, he said. He emphasized on diverting precious resources from military spending to addressing the COVID-19 pandemic and lifting the most vulnerable people out of poverty.

The Minister also highlighted the structural impediments facing the vulnerable countries like LDCs and LLDCs and said that they need reliable and sustainable financing, partnerships, and technology transfer to overcome these challenges.

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Nepal's plan to graduate from the LDC category by 2026 is an opportunity to bring structural transformation and make the long-held national aspiration of graduation smooth, sustainable, and irreversible, he stated. He emphasized that the ongoing COVID crisis must not be a pretext for retracting from ODA commitments.

While he welcomed the steps taken by the IMF and G20 on debt relief and debt service suspension, he called for fair and equitable representation of all countries in global economic governance. He also underscored the need for international debt restructuring to address the debt crisis of low-income countries.

The Foreign Minister also outlined Nepal's foreign policy priorities and said that our relations with neighbours and all other countries are based on the principles and purposes of the UN Charter, non-alignment, international law and norms of world peace.

He underlined indispensability of multilateralism with the United Nations as its center as it is the only way to build global understanding and cooperation, promote shared interests, and secure our common future.

He reiterated Nepal's desire to see a more representative, inclusive, and transparent Security Council and a more revitalized General Assembly for effective delivery.

While highlighting the growing polarization and uncertainty in the world stage, he stressed that democracy and multilateralism have no alternative to overcome the stresses and strains.

The Minister said that the time is now to turn the crisis into opportunity, despair into hope, and risk into resilience. He emphasized on building a stronger, interconnected, and inclusive multilateral system grounded in cooperation, solidarity, and mutual trust. We must rise to our responsibility to rebuild for the sake of the people we serve and the planet we live in, he further emphasized.

The General Debate of the 76th Session of UNGA is being held at UN Headquarters in New York from 21 to 27 September under the theme *Building resilience through hope-to recover from COVID 19, rebuild sustainably, respond to the needs of the planet, respect the rights of people, revitalize the United Nations*.

On the sidelines today, the Foreign Minister met with Under Secretary General for Operational Support Mr. Atul Khare. The discussion was focused on strengthening cooperation between Nepal and the UN in the field of UN peacekeeping.

The Minister also had a bilateral meeting with his counterpart of Bahrain H.E. Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani. The two sides discussed various matters of mutual interest including cooperation in the field of human resources, trade, investment and tourism.

Permanent Mission of Nepal to the United Nations

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