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**SECRETARY-GENERAL'S STATEMENT UPON ARRIVAL IN
KATHMANDU, NEPAL
Friday, 31 October, 2008**

I am delighted to be in Nepal, an important Member State of the UN and a country undergoing a remarkable political-social transformation through a home-grown peace process and national reconciliation.

Well before I became Secretary-General I have watched with great interest the peace process that began to unfold in 2005 and its achievements. And since taking office I have given my full personal support to the work of the UN in support of the peace process.

I am proud that the UN has been a close partner in Nepal's development effort, in its struggle to end the 10-year conflict, in the fight to promote and defend human rights, and in the implementation of the 2006 Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

I come to congratulate the people of Nepal for the remarkable historic progress they have made in establishing peace, and in particular, for the successful election of the Constituent Assembly in a largely peaceful process last April that has earned the admiration and respect of the entire international community.

I come also to reaffirm the UN's firm commitment to continue to support the consolidation of peace and reform. Much has been accomplished, yet much also remains to be done. There are still numerous challenges to overcome. Although this is a short visit I am sure it will give a very good first-hand feel for the historic times the country is going through.

I thank Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal and the Government and people of Nepal for the kind invitation, and I look forward to having fruitful discussions with my hosts, including on how UNMIN and the rest of the UN family can contribute to the completion of the peace process and to long-term peace building and development.

Thank you very much.