



**Press Release**

**United Nations top political official begins visit to Nepal**

**10 March 2010**

The United Nations Under Secretary-General for Political Affairs, B. Lynn Pascoe, arrived in Nepal today at the start of a three-day visit to review the state of the peace process and encourage forward movement on outstanding commitments in the period ahead.

Today, he held discussions with Nepali Congress president Girija Prasad Koirala and senior Nepali Congress leaders, UCPN-Maoist chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal and Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal. With all his interlocutors, Pascoe emphasized the importance of rebuilding trust and moving forward in the peace process, and also discussed UNMIN's continuing contribution to the process.

During his stay in Nepal, Under Secretary-General Pascoe will meet leaders of other political parties, the Minister of Defence and Chief of Army Staff.

He will also travel to Maoist Cantonment Site 3 at Shaktikhor, Chitwan to see UNMIN arms monitoring efforts. He also plans to meet with Madhesi leaders.