



Statement by Representative of the Secretary-General Karin Landgren at

Discharge Ceremony in Rolpa

8 February 2010

Distinguished visitors, Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal “Prachanda,” Commander Nanda Kishore Pun “Pasang,” Deputy Commander Chandra Prakash Khanal “Baldev,” In-Charge of Security and Integration Bureau Barsha Man Pun “Ananta,” Vice Divisional Commander Abinash, former members of the Maoist army; Undersecretary of the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction Niranjana Uprety, Ambassadors and Heads of Missions, Resident Coordinator Robert Piper and all my colleagues in the UN family, whose combined effort in this exercise makes me deeply proud of our organisation; and everyone gathered here.

We are here to take part in the final cantonment discharge ceremony. The Security Council welcomed the signing of the Action Plan on Discharge, and called on all parties to implement it fully and expeditiously. According to the schedule, discharge ceremonies in all seven Main Cantonment Sites were to be completed in one month, ending on 8 February 2010. The UCPN-M political leaders and Maoist army commanders have kept their word. The Security Council counts on you to continue to do so.

You who are now leaving the cantonments are no longer in the Maoist army chain of command. The period of your life dedicated to armed struggle is now in the past. You have a role in helping make Nepal a country that is just, equitable, democratic and peaceful. And to the women and girls present, you have a right to full participation in power structures and decision-making. Your voices are not always heard in the peace process.

As you return to communities and families, and to a very different daily routine, support is available to you, if you want it, for your continued education, for vocational or business training, and for your well-being. There is a telephone number on your new ID card which you can call whenever you are ready, and the UN will give you more information and assistance.

The signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2006 ended the armed conflict that began not far from here, with the attack in Holeri. Many things have changed in little over three years, and the major challenge now is how to consolidate peace and prevent future conflict. Your party has found a democratic way forward. At the recent Standing Committee of the UCPN-M, your party committed itself to completing the peace process and the drafting of Nepal’s new constitution. Those are the priorities, and they can be resolved only by consensus.

Your leaders, and many of those here today to witness this ceremony, have been deeply involved in Nepal’s peace process. The world is also watching Nepal, hoping for the success of this country, and hoping that peace has taken root. Your peace process has supporters everywhere: in the United Nations Security Council, among experts in conflict resolution who see in Nepal’s recent achievements a better example than most countries have achieved after a war, and among countless others who have visited this country.

Nepal is poised to move forward, with peace, democracy and development. But there are challenges ahead in this critical period. Building the confidence to meet these challenges together, and in cooperation, requires great leadership from the parties, who are writing the history of Nepal with the actions they choose to take.

Particular responsibility and particular expectations fall on the UCPN-M as the largest party in the CA Constituent Assembly and as one party to the peace agreements. The constructive discussions and the efforts to rebuild trust over the last several weeks have introduced fresh hope and optimism that a good end to the peace process is within reach.

Today, the conclusion of the discharge process marks one step towards strengthening a more positive environment for the peace process, and to meeting the commitment of all parties to permanent peace in Nepal.

Thank you.