

**Outline of end-of-regular-session remarks by His Excellency Durga Prasad Bhattarai, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations, New York, and Chair of the Administrative and Budgetary Committee (Fifth Committee) of the United Nations General Assembly at the 70<sup>th</sup> session**

New York, Wednesday 23 December 2015

*Please check against delivery*

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Under-Secretary-General Takasu, Friends and colleagues:

I have no intention to make a long statement, particularly on the substance of our work at the Committee.

Nonetheless, it would be remiss of me to not acknowledge the kind words expressed by so many of you today for me, my country Nepal, and members of the Bureau, as well as the tremendous understanding, support and cooperation my bureau colleagues and I have received from you all, to be able to conclude our work today.

I congratulate you all on this accomplishment!

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The main session of the Fifth Committee this year has been extraordinarily efficient, for the first time in many years, despite our exceptionally heavy workload: the biennial budget, the triennial review of the scales of assessment, the review of the UN common system compensation package in over 25 years, products of the UN's 70<sup>th</sup> year processes (including 2030 Agenda and Financing for Development), in addition to all other regular matters.

I am privileged to say that this was achieved with my country, Nepal, as Chair of the Committee.

Whether our performance this year has anything to do with this fact, I do not know.

What I *do* know is that our accomplishment belongs firstly to the negotiators, who have worked tirelessly these past months, and especially these past few days and nights, to achieve this consensus. I have directly witnessed you in action and I admire you all from the bottom of my heart for your commitment, for your determination, for your zeal for excellence and, above all, the spirit of cooperation and compromise that made it possible today.

What also I know is that it wouldn't have been possible without our 25 coordinators, who volunteered to guide negotiations as part of the extended Bureau, as well as the members of the Bureau itself (comprising the distinguished Vice Chairs Abdallah Bachar Bong of Chad representing African Group, Omar Castaneda of Guatemala representing GRULAC and Yotam

Goren of Israel representing Western European and Other Countries Group, and Rapporteur Gert Auvaart of Estonia representing Eastern European Group) who have firmly steered the Committee to this point. I am grateful for their professionalism and team spirit.

And finally I do not have enough praise for the phenomenal work done by Sharon van Buerle, our Committee Secretary, as well as her great team: Thank you.

My sincere thanks go to the Secretariat as a whole, but I can't help mentioning Department of Management led by Mr. Takasu, and Controller Bettina, and DGACM, and also the colleagues in my own small delegation of Nepal.

I am grateful for every one of these people for their contributions, and I admire their work deeply.

I want to say 'Thank You' to all who have contributed to our work

- In a 'visible' manner: more prominently the ACABQ and its Chair and conference personnel
- In a partly-visible manner: the interpreters and technicians
- In an unseen manner but without whose guidance and contribution our work would not have been possible: The President of the General Assembly, as well as Ambassadors, and colleagues elsewhere in the UN System.

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Distinguished colleagues,

This session has already been long and tiring as it is, and I do not want to take any more of your time.

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I think, at the end of all this, we deserve some rest, and time with our loved ones.

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With that, I congratulate you all once again, and wish happy holidays and Happy New Year 2016 to you all!

Thank you and God bless you all!