



**Address by Representative of the Secretary-General in Nepal Karin Landgren to the  
100<sup>th</sup> meeting of Joint Monitoring Coordination Committee**

**28 May 2009**

It is a great honour to be with you for the 100<sup>th</sup> meeting of the JMCC. I am pleased to commemorate this occasion with you, to reflect on the current stage of Nepal's peace process and on the critical role you play in the future of your country.

This week marks three years since the ceasefire agreement: Nepal has been at peace for three years. In these years, the country has seen remarkable changes. The Jana Andolan in April 2006 and the Constituent Assembly election in April 2008 demonstrated the people's desire for change and for participation. They have further expectations of their political leaders, and of their institutions, for the protection of their security, their rights, and their livelihoods.

Meeting these expectations will require trust and cooperation, including among the actors at this table. Trust and cooperation are a challenge in any country's transition from war to peace, and in Nepal, the events of the past six weeks have again brought this challenge to the forefront.

It is essential to stay on the path of peace, and in recent days, the political actors have publicly reaffirmed their commitment to the peace process.

All of us have seen from close quarters the consequences of war. I have seen it in decades of working with refugees and in countries affected by conflict. At a practical level, you have already eliminated nearly 8000 kgs of explosive remnants of war, and cleared some of the minefields that were laid. This year, nine more NA minefields will be cleared, and the remaining explosive materials stored in the Maoist cantonments will be destroyed.

Healing a country from war is difficult in other ways as well, and sustaining peace will require efforts to find out what happened to the disappeared, to enable the return of displaced persons, to acknowledge the truth of past human rights violations, and to end impunity.

It is time for rapid reflection on how best to protect Nepal's achievements and ensure a successful conclusion to the peace process. This is Nepal's process and you are major actors in it. In my recent briefing to the Security Council, I emphasized the importance of the JMCC, the only forum that brings together Nepal Army and Maoist army representatives to discuss compliance with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and the Agreement on the Monitoring of the Management of Arms and Armies (AMMAA). When the history of Nepal's peace process is written, the record will show that through some very difficult moments, the NA and the Maoist army continued to comply with the AMMAA, and continued to take part in this forum. The JMCC is a shining example of the peace process at work.

UNMIN remains committed to supporting Nepal's peace process, impartially and in line with the Mission's mandate. The Mission carries out its work in consultation with all parties: one of the remarkable features of Nepal's peace process has been the level of dialogue, and UNMIN's door is always open for this. I recognize and acknowledge the hard work you as members have put in to making this forum for dialogue - the JMCC - effective.

Thank you.

