Mr. Chairman,

I thank you for giving me the floor to introduce a draft resolution under the agenda item 97 (e) entitled “United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific” contained in document A/C.1/69/L-.

The sponsors of draft resolution are Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Micronesia (Federate State of), Mongolia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Vietnam and my own country Nepal. My delegation expresses its sincere gratitude to all the sponsors and those delegations that will co-sponsor it.

The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific was established by the General Assembly resolutions 42/39 D of November 1987 and 44/117F of 15 December 1989, with headquarters in Kathmandu. As per the General Assembly resolutions, the Regional Centre is mandated to provide, on request, substantive support for the initiatives and other activities mutually agreed upon by the Member States in the Asia-Pacific region for the implementation of measures for peace and disarmament affairs.

Nepal believes that regional disarmament mechanism complements efforts to promote the global disarmament agenda. Since its relocation in Kathmandu in 2008, the UN Regional Centre is actively engaged in and supporting peace and disarmament initiatives in Asia and the Pacific region. The regional centre serves as a common forum to assess the progress achieved in the areas of disarmament and non-proliferation, and to discuss the way forward through the sharing of experiences, best practices as well as education and awareness building. While continued regional dialogue among the Member States in the region on these various aspects go a long way in creating and sustaining conducive environment for disarmament and non-proliferation, the Centre’s activities need expansion and consolidation in view of the challenges facing the region.
Being host country to the Regional Centre, Nepal pledges its commitment to providing all possible support to the Centre to make it an effective primary United Nations regional entity dealing with disarmament and non-proliferation issues in the Asia and the Pacific region.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to take this opportunity to express Nepal’s sincere appreciation to those Member States that have extended their continued support to the Regional Centre, including through the voluntary contributions for the program and activities of the Centre. We are confident that more Member States will lend their support to expand and enrich the Centre’s activities in the course of promoting peace and stability in the region and beyond.

It is in this context that my delegation has the honor to introduce, on behalf of the sponsors, draft resolution L- entitled “United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific” before this Committee, with technical updates on the Centre’s work over the past one year.

My delegation is confident that the Committee will adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.