

18/1/08 (UK)

*The Security Council,*

*Recalling* Security Council resolution 1740 of 23 January 2007,

*Recalling* the signing on 21 November by the Government of Nepal and the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) of a Comprehensive Peace Agreement, and the stated commitment of both parties to transforming the existing cease-fire into a permanent and sustainable peace and commending the steps taken to date to implement the Agreement,

*Welcoming* the report of the Secretary-General of 3 January 2008 (S/2008/5) on the United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN), in accordance with his mandate,

*Welcoming* the 23-point agreement reached between the Government of Nepal and the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) of 23 December 2007 with a view to holding Constituent Assembly elections on 10 April,

*Noting* that the timelines set out in the agreement are challenging and will require continuing all-party cohesion to meet deadlines and avoid mutual recrimination,

*Recognising* the need to pay special attention to the needs of women, children and traditionally marginalized groups in the peace process, as mentioned in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and UNSCR 1325 (2000); and the important conflict prevention role that strengthened civil society and non-governmental organisations, including women's organisations, actively play.

*Echoing* the Secretary-General's call for all parties in Nepal to move forward swiftly in the implementation of the agreements reached and *recognising* UNMIN's willingness to assist the parties in this, as requested, in order to achieve peaceful, inclusive credible elections,

*Noting* that the Government of Nepal in its letter to the Secretary-General of 18 December, recognises UNMIN's contribution and requests an extension of the mandate for six months,

*Welcoming* the completion of two phases of the verification process and continuing assistance with the management of arms and armed personnel of both sides in accordance with UNSCR 1740 and in line with the provisions of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement,

*Noting* that following completion of the verification process, major tasks still remain, including the discharge of minors and late recruits from within the cantonment process and discussions to find a durable solution regarding the future of those verified as combatants, and the future of the country's security sector,