



Geneva - 28 August 2006

Following is a statement released today by Louise Arbour, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights:

"I welcome the appointment of Ian Martin as Personal Representative of the Secretary-General in Nepal, and wish him well in this new role at this most critical time in Nepal's transition to peace. I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the tremendous job he did as my Representative in Nepal and the role he played in protecting human rights during a very difficult time. I am presently in the process of identifying a successor to him as Head of our Nepal Office. In the meantime, OHCHR-Nepal will work very closely with Ian Martin in his new role and will continue to carry out its mandate to work for the protection and promotion of human rights of all Nepalis with impartiality and independence".