

“Leave no one behind”

**State of National Implementation of SDGs in Nepal:
Accelerating Localization of SDG 16
Human Rights Perspective on SDGs**



September 2019



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This report includes CSOs perspectives on goal 16+ and the current status of state implementation in Nepal. Sustainable Development Goal 16 - peace, justice and strong institutions - is one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals established by the United Nations in 2015. NGO Federation of Nepal (NFN) is taking the lead role in achieving the targets of SDG 16 by collaborating with other stakeholders working towards peace, human rights and justice. This report is focused on providing an overview of the state of implementation, human rights perspective on SDGs, think-tank's perspectives and some glimpses of NFN's contributions for accelerating localization SDG 16. NFN applies its entire effort to establish inclusive, just, equitable and sustainable development by advocating issues of human rights, development justice, governance system, transparency and accountability for structural and social transformations in Nepal.

NFN, through “Nepal SDGs Forum” is continuously coordinating and organizing various formal and informal meetings with the respective civil society organizations and prepared this form as a result.

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Thank you,

Jit Ram Lama
President



Acronyms/Abbreviations

AATWIN	Alliance Against Trafficking in Women and Children in Nepal
AYON	Association of Youth Organizations in Nepal
ACORAB	Association of Community Radio Broadcasters
BDS	Blue Diamond Society
CAHURAST	Campaign for Human Rights and Social Transformation Nepal
CBOs	Community based organizations
CBS	Central Bureau of Statistics
CNI	Confederation of Nepalese Industries
CSO(s)	Civil Society Organization (s)
CS(s)	Civil Society (Societies)
DNF	Dalits NGO Federation
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
FECOFUN	Federation of Community Forest Users Nepal
FEDWASUN	Federation of Drinking Water and Sanitation Users Nepal
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FNCCI	Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry
GBV	Gender based violence
GoN	Government of Nepal
HLPF	High Level Political Forum
IDPs	International Development Partners
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
IEE	Initial Environmental Examination
IFIs	International Financial Institutions
INGOs	International Non-Governmental Organizations, UN
LDCs	Least developed countries



LGBTIQ	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and questioning
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MOF	Ministry of Finance
MoI	Means of Implementation
NCC	Nepal Chambers of Commerce
NCE	National Campaign for Education
NEFIN	National Federation of Indigenous Nationalities
NIDA	Nepal Indigenous Disabled Association
NIWF	National Indigenous Women's Federation
LAHURNIP	Lawyers' Association for Human Rights of Nepalese Indigenous Peoples
NGO FONIN	NGO Federation of National Indigenous Nationalities
NGOs	Non-Government Organizations
NIWF	National Indigenous Women's Federation
NPC	National Planning Commission
ODA	Official Development Assistance
PLWD	Persons living with disabilities
RECPHEC	Resource Centre For Primary Health Care
SDGs	Sustainable development goals
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
VNR	Voluntary National Review
YFIN	Youth Federation Of Indigenous Nationalities, Nepal



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Background

Nepal joined the United Nations on 14 December 1955 and established a permanent mission in the following year. Nepal regularly participated in the annual GA sessions since joining the UN. Nepali delegations to the UN General Assembly sessions have been led at the ministerial level, some at the level of head of government and occasionally by the Permanent Representative. The Rt. Hon. K.P. Sharma Oli, Prime Minister of Nepal, led the Nepali delegation to the 73rd session of the United Nations General Assembly in 2018.

Nepal has been active in the work of the United Nations ranging from the maintenance of international peace and security to development and human rights. Nepal played a leading role in the negotiations of the Istanbul Programme of Action in 2011 and contributed to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, among others. Nepal is currently the fifth largest troops and police contributing country. Nepal served twice in the United Nations Security Council as an elected non-permanent member, in 1969-70 and in 1988-1989. Currently, Nepal is serving as a member of the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC) for the term 2018-2020.

In September 2000, the United Nations adopted the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), an international time-bound commitment to reduce poverty and advance other social development targets by 2015. Nepal is one of the 189 countries that committed to these goals. Since then Nepal has aligned its national policies, strategies and plans to achieve the MDGs.

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), based on the Millennium Declaration in the year 2000 by the United Nations (UN), have set the foundation for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be achieved by 2030. The UN Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012, and UN General Assembly (UNGA) held in September 2014 prepared solid a foundation for the SDGs and finally agreed on them in the UNGA held in September 2015. Nepal, as a member of the UN, is part of this global initiative.

Nepal is also aspiring to graduate from the least developed country (LDC) by 2022. The SDGs indicators set by the Government of Nepal (GoN) will



help in achieving this ambition. Nepal aspires to emerge as an inclusive, equitable, and prosperous middle-income country by 2030 with the spirit of a welfare state by achieving the targets of the SDGs and its agendas by 2030.

Strengthening the domestic, financial, policy and human resource base for helping LDCs like Nepal to thrive on their own is a major concern of the global development partnership in the absence of which fulfilling the SDGs remains a challenging task. Nevertheless, the SDG goals have been incorporated in the current 14th Five-Year Plan, and Nepal has embarked on a journey to achieve the goals by 2030.

1. Purpose of the Report

This Report is to give an overview about the state of national implementation of SDG 16+ in Nepal, human rights perspectives on SDGs, think-tanks views on SDG 16+ and the some initiatives of NFN, especially concerning legislation, national mechanisms and instruments for implementation and monitoring by providing basic data and information from secondary data and available documents. This will be used as a basis for an independent assessment of the national implementation of the SDGs with focus on the SDG 16 and its targets.

2. National Government Structure and Functions

2.1 Constitution

The idea of a Constituent Assembly (CA) in Nepal dates back to the 1950s when the country was, for the first time, entering into democracy after the end of 104-year old autocratic Rana rule. However, it was not until fifty-eight years later that Nepal started drafting a constitution through an inclusive and participatory CA after the election of the first CA (CA-I) in 2008. In 2005, when King Gyanendra took power away from the Parliament, the Seven Party Alliance (SPA) and then Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) (CPN-Maoist) reached a 12-point understanding and launched a joint movement in 2006, popularly known as the People's Movement-II. As a result, King Gyanendra gave up power, the parliament was reinstated, the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) 2006 was signed, and the Interim Constitution of Nepal was promulgated in 2007. The CA-I of Nepal was elected in 2008 with the mandate to draft a constitution that protects people's rights - especially those



of minorities and vulnerable groups - and enshrines democratic principles. The CA-I expired on 28 May 2012 without finalizing the constitution as the major parties could not find consensus on crucial issues. A provisional government led by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court (SC) Khil Raj Regmi prepared for the election of the second Constituent Assembly (CA-II) which was held on 19 November 2013. The CA-II identified 22 January 2015 as the date for the promulgation of the constitution, which it again failed to meet. From this date until late April, differences between parties continued to delay the process of constitution drafting. Nepal made headlines around the world on 25 April and 12 May 2015 as two devastating earthquakes struck the country. More than 8,500 people lost their lives, thousands were injured and there was insurmountable damage to buildings and infrastructure, including some world heritage sites. In the immediate post-earthquake environment, constitution building naturally took a back-seat while elected representatives and government functionaries were immersed in primary earthquake response efforts. Throughout the month of May 2015, the long-term impacts of the natural disaster and human crisis on constitution building had an equal possibility of accelerating or indefinitely delaying the process. Acceleration came out as the winner with a 16-point agreement entered into force among the four major political parties on 8 June, the tabling of Preliminary Draft Constitution on June 30, public opinion collection on 20-21 July, the release of the Constitution Bill on 23 August and the promulgation of the constitution on 20 September 2015. Although the constitution drafting process took longer than expected, there are many reasons to be optimistic and hopeful. The strength of Nepal's fledgling democracy was evident by the fact that the rebels who waged a war against the state and the elite parties came together to overthrow the monarchy. Furthermore, when those rebels, the UCPN (Maoist), won the highest seats in the CA-I election, the Nepali Congress and Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) (CPN-UML) gracefully accepted the results and joined the government. Similarly, when the results were once again altered in favour of the Nepali Congress (NC) in the CA-II election, the UCPN (Maoist) rose above their own interests and differences and joined hands with the winning party. This willingness to compromise is a testimony of the commitment of all parties to work together to fulfil their mandate to create a secular federal democratic republic in Nepal. It is also significant that, since the overthrow of the king, there has been no real effort towards a reinstatement of the monarchy, which shows the people's aspirations to sustain a democratic, just, and an inclusive society.



2.2 National Parliament

The **National Assembly** (*Rastriya Sabha*) is the upper house of the bicameral Federal Parliament of Nepal. Members of the National Assembly are elected by an electoral college and appointed by the President. One third of the members hold their seats for six years, one third for four years and the last third for two years. Which members hold their office for which time is determined by drawing lots after the first commencement of the Nepali constitution. Vacant seats will be determined in the same way as the vacating seat was filled.

The National Assembly consists of 59 members. 56 of the Members are elected from the seven provinces through an electoral college while three are appointed by the President on recommendation of the government. The Electoral College is composed of members of the State Assembly, Chair- and Vice-Chairpersons of the Village Bodies and Mayors- and Deputy-Mayors of the Municipalities with different weight age of votes as provided for in the Federal Law.

The **House of Representatives** (*Pratinidhi Sabha*) is the lower house of the bicameral Federal parliament of Nepal. Members of the House of Representatives are elected through a parallel voting system. They hold their seats for five years or until the body is dissolved by the President on the advice of the council of ministers. The house meets in the International Convention Centre in Kathmandu. The House has 275 members; 165 elected from single-member constituencies by first-past-the-post voting and 110 elected through proportional electoral system where voters vote for political parties, considering the whole country as a single election constituency. The House of Representatives, unless dissolved, continues to operate for five years from the date appointed for in its first meeting. However, in a state of emergency, the term of the House of Representatives may be extended, not exceeding one year in accordance with federal law. The current House of Representatives was elected in 2017 and its first meeting was held on 5 March 2018.



2.3 National Government – Executive Branch

The Government of Nepal is an executive body and the central government of Nepal. Prior to the abolition of the monarchy, it was officially known as **His Majesty's Government**. The Head of state is the President and the Prime Minister holds the position of the Head of executive. The role of the President is largely ceremonial as the functioning of the government is managed entirely by the Prime Minister who is appointed by the Parliament. The heads of constitutional bodies are appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Constitutional Council, with the exception of the Attorney General, who is appointed by the President on the recommendation of Prime Minister.

2.4 The Judiciary

The Supreme Court is composed of the Chief Justice and maximum twenty judges. The Chief Justice is appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Constitutional Council and shall maintain in office for 6 years. She or he is appointed from among the justices which worked at least three years as a Supreme Court justice. Judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by the President of Nepal on the recommendation of the Judicial Council. The Judicial Council is a five member independent body headed by the Chief Justice along with a minister of law and justice, senior justice of Supreme Court and two distinguished jurists representing the Prime Minister and Nepal Bar Association. The Chief Justice and the justices of the Supreme Court have to be confirmed by the Parliamentary Hearing Committee before they can be appointed by the President. The administrative head of the Supreme Court is the Chief Registrar. In addition to the Chief Registrar, one Registrar and four Joint-Registrar are appointed to lead different departments of the Supreme Court and offer administrative assistance to the Court. Officers of the Supreme Court are appointed by the Government of Nepal under the recommendation of the Judicial Service Commission

2.5 Independent National Institutions

The Constitution of Nepal provides for the following constitutional bodies:



Election Commission

The Election Commission consists of the Chief Election Commissioner and up to four other Commissioners. If apart from the Chief Election Commissioner, other Election Commissioners are appointed, the Chief Election Commissioner shall act as the Chairperson of the Election Commission. The President, on the recommendation of the Constitutional Council, appoints the Chief Election Commissioner and the Election Commissioners for six years from the date of appointment. However, the tenure will expiry if the Chief Election Commissioner and the Election Commissioner attains the age of sixty-five and they may be removed from the office on the same grounds and in the same manner as has been set out for the removal of a judge of the Supreme Court.

National Human Rights Commission

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) is an independent body established in 2000 as a statutory body under the Human Rights Commission Act 1997 and was later recognized as a constitutional body under the Interim Constitution of Nepal in 2007. The Commission consists of a Chairperson appointed from among the retired Chief Justices or Judges of the Supreme Court of Nepal and four members having outstanding contribution to the protection and promotion of human rights.

The Interim Constitution vests primary responsibility in the NHRC to protect and promote the human rights of Nepalese people. NHRC is headed by full-time Commissioners who are appointed by the Prime Minister upon the recommendation of the Constitutional Council. NHRC has been frequently receiving complaints on killing, abduction, physical and mental torture, extortion and disappearance that cause violation and abuse of human rights. Thus, NHRC has been focusing on protecting human rights including the criminal and forensic field.

The Chairperson and the members of the National Human Rights Commission are appointed for six years from the date of appointment and may be removed on the same ground and in the same manner as has been set out for removal of a Judge of the Supreme Court.



Public Service Commission

The independent constitutional body, the Public Service Commission (PSC) as established on 15 June 1951 A.D. is involved in selecting meritorious candidates required by the Government in various vacant posts of the civil service. The Commission consists of a chairperson and a number of other members as required. They are appointed by the President on recommendation of the Constitutional Council for 6 years. However, the tenure will expire if the Chairman and members attain the age of sixty-five and they may be removed from their offices on the same grounds and in the same manner as has been set forth for removal of a judge of the Supreme Court.

Commission for the Investigation of Abuse of Authority

The Commission for the Investigation of Abuse of Authority investigates cases of improper conduct or corruption by a person holding any public office. The Commission consists of a Chief Commissioner and other Commissioners as required.

The president shall, on the recommendation of the Constitutional Council, appoint the Chief Commissioner and other Commissioners for six years from the date of appointment. However, the tenure will expiry if the Chief Commissioner or a Commissioner attains the age of sixty-five and they may be removed from his/her office on the same ground and in the same manner as has been set out for the removal of a judge of the Supreme Court.

Office of Attorney General

Part 12, Article 157 of the Constitution of Nepal, 2015 governs the appointment, power, function and legal status of the Attorney General of Nepal. The Attorney General is appointed by the President, on the recommendation of the Prime Minister and holds his office during the pleasure of the Prime Minister. The office of the attorney general becomes vacant if he or she issues a letter of resignation to the President or Prime Minister, if he or she is removed from office by the President on recommendation of the Prime Minister or if he or she dies. A person who is qualified to be appointed as a Judge of the Supreme Court shall be eligible to be appointed as the Attorney General.



The Attorney General, as the chief legal advisor to the Government of Nepal, gives opinions and advices on constitutional and legal matters to the Government of Nepal and such other authorities as the Government of Nepal may specify. The Attorney General has the right to appear and express his or her opinion on any legal question in any meeting of the Parliament, the Constituent Assembly or any of their committees but he or she shall not have the right to vote.

Public Prosecutors/Government Attorneys

There are a total of 242 Public Prosecutors/Government Attorneys in different status working throughout the country. Under the broad Judicial Service Category of Employees, a sub-group of Government Attorneys has been classified under Judicial Service. Fresh law graduates can sit for the competitive examination conducted by Public Service Commission every year. On the recommendation of the Public Service Commission, the Government appoints the successful candidates for the post of Assistant District Government Attorneys (Gazated Third-Class). The post of Public Prosecutor/Government Attorney is a cadre-based job in the Judicial Service. The cadre is promoted on the basis of file promotion after a certain time he/she spent in the same post. There are four categories of cadre based Public Prosecutor/Government Attorney under Attorney General.

After their appointment, they come under the purview of the Judicial Service Commission (JSC) for their posting, transfer and promotion within the organization. JSC is a high-level constitutional body headed by Chief Justice, Chairman of the Public Service Commission and the Attorney General as its members. Except the Attorney General, all other Public Prosecutors/Government Attorneys including the four Deputy Attorneys General are career civil servants.

Article 154 of the Constitution of Nepal, 2015 has made provisions for Judicial Service Commission for the purpose of appointment, transfer, promotion and any department actions to the employee of Judicial Service.

Office of Auditor General

The Auditor General of Nepal is appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Constitutional Council for six years from the date of appointment. However, the tenure will expire if the Auditor General attains



the age of sixty-five and may be removed from his/her office on the same ground and in the same manner as has been set out for the removal of a judge of the Supreme Court.

National Natural Resources and Fiscal Commission

The National Natural Resources and Fiscal Commission of Nepal consists of five members including a Chairperson. The President appoints Chairperson and members of this Commission on recommendation of the Constitutional Council for six years from the date of appointment. The position of the Chairperson and members shall be vacant if a resignation letter is written to the president, if a motion of impeachment is passed against him or her under Article 101, if he or she is removed from office by the President on recommendation of the Constitutional Council on grounds of his or her inability to hold office, if he or she discharges the functions due to physical or mental illness or if he or she dies.

Other Commissions

National Women Commission

The National Women Commission of Nepal, consisting of a Chairperson and four other members, is appointed by the President on recommendation of the Constitutional Council for a term of six years. A position in this council becomes vacant if the officeholder tenders resignation in writing to the President, if the officeholder attains the age of sixty-five years, if a motion of impeachment is passed against the officeholder under Article 101, if the officeholder is removed from office by the President on recommendation of the Constitutional Council on grounds of his or her inability to hold office and discharge the functions due to physical or mental illness, or if the officeholder dies.

National Dalit Commission

The National Dalit Commission, consisting of a Chairperson and four other members, is appointed by the President on recommendation of the Constitutional Council for a term of six years. Positions of officeholders in this Commission become vacant if he or she tenders resignation in writing to the President, if he or she attains the age of sixty-five years, if a motion of impeachment is passed against him or her under Article 101, if he or she is removed from office by the President on recommendation of the



Constitutional Council on grounds of his or her inability to hold office and discharge the functions due to physical or mental illness, or if he or she dies.

National Inclusion Commission

The National Inclusion Commission, consisting of a Chairperson and four other members, is appointed by the President on recommendation of the Constitutional Council for a term of six years. Positions of officeholders in this Commission become vacant if he or she tenders resignation in writing to the President, if he or she attains the age of sixty-five years, if a motion of impeachment is passed against him or her under Article 101, if he or she is removed from office by the President on recommendation of the Constitutional Council on grounds of his or her inability to hold office if he or she discharges the functions due to physical or mental illness, or if he or she dies.

Madhesi Commission

The Madhesi Commission, consisting of a Chairperson and four other members, is appointed by the President on recommendation of the Constitutional Council for a term of six years. Qualifications, vacancy circumstances, remuneration, conditions of service and functions, duties and powers of the Commission are provided in the Federal Law.

Tharu Commission

The Tharu Commission, consisting of a Chairperson and four other members, is appointed by the President on recommendation of the Constitutional Council for a term of six years. Qualifications, vacancy circumstances, remuneration, conditions of service and functions, duties and powers of the Commission are provided in the Federal Law.

Muslim Commission

The Muslim Commission, consisting of a Chairperson and four other members, is appointed by the President on recommendation of the Constitutional Council for a term of six years. Qualifications, vacancy circumstances, remuneration, conditions of service and functions, duties and powers of the Commission are provided in the Federal Law.



3. Local Government

3.1 Local Executive

Executive powers in the local level are vested in the Village Executive or the Municipal Executive.

Chairpersons are elected and Village Executives - consisting of one Vice-Chairperson, Ward-Chairpersons and members - are formed under their respective supervision. Chair- and Vice-Chairperson are elected by voters residing in the respective village or municipality by secret ballot and one vote – one person voting system. The Village Executive has to include four women and two Dalit or members of minority communities. The Term of office for the whole Village Executive is 5 years. A position in the Village Executive (including Chair- and Vice-Chairperson) becomes vacant when Chair- and Vice-Chairperson each issue a resignation letter for the respective position (including their own), if the term of office expires or when the respective person dies.

Each Municipality has a Mayor, under whose supervision the respective Municipal Executive is formed. This Executive is made up of one Deputy Mayor, a Ward Chairperson elected from each Ward and regular members. Mayor and Deputy Mayor are elected with a secret ballot one person – one vote system. Members of The Municipal Executive are made up in the same way as the Village Executive Members. Likewise, Term of Office for the whole Municipal Executive is five years. A position in the Municipal Executive (including Mayor and Deputy-Mayor) becomes vacant when Mayor and Deputy-Mayor each issue a written resignation letter for the respective position (including their own), if the term of office expires or when the respective person dies.

3.2 Local Legislature

Legislative powers of the local level are vested in the Village Assembly or the Municipal Assembly.

A Village Assembly consists of the Chair- and Vice-Chairperson of the Village Executive, Ward-Chairpersons, four members elected from each Ward and the members of the village executive.



A Municipal Assembly consists of the Mayor- and Deputy-Mayor of the Municipal Executive, Ward-Chairpersons, four members elected from each ward and the members of the Municipal Executive.

The term of office for Village and Municipal Assembly is 5 years. Both, Village- and Municipal Assembly possess powers to make laws with respect to the state law of Nepal.

3.3 Local Judiciary

Judiciary competences are situated within district courts. Local level judicial bodies are established in accordance with the State Law and are subordinated to district courts.

Judges in district courts are appointed by the Chief of Justice on recommendation of the Judicial Council. All judges to be taken into consideration have to prove an academic background in law science, as well sufficient experience and competence. 20% of Judges to be appointed are considered from officers of the state run Gazetted Second Class of the Nepal Judicial Service by evaluation of competency, seniority and qualification, 40% of Judges from officers of the state run Gazetted Second Class of the Nepal Judicial Service by open competitive examination and 40% from Nepalese citizens who practices as an advocate for 8 years constantly or who have served a Gazetted post of the Judicial Service for at least eight years or have constantly been engaged in teaching or research of law or served in any other field of law or justice for at least eight years.

District Courts shall have the power to originally try and settle all cases under their jurisdiction, to try petitions under law, including petitions of habeas corpus and prohibition, hear appeals under law from decisions made by quasi-judicial bodies, hear appeals from decisions made by Local level judicial bodies formed under the State law, institute contempt proceedings and punish for contempt under the Federal law if anyone makes obstruction in the dispensation of justice by, or disregards any order or judgment by, it or any of its subordinate courts.

(All information for section 2. and 3. of this report were obtained from the Constitution of Nepal)



4. National Mechanisms / Institutions to implement the SDGs

The National Planning Commission is a nodal agency for SDG monitoring in Nepal. The NPC set up a National SDG platform to enable tracking of Nepal's progress towards achieving the SDGs by 2030 and other national development plans.

Norm-setting / Legislation

There is no specific legislation – neither law nor presidential decree - about the institutionalization and operationalization of the SDGs at the national level. However, there is a parliament committee at upper house called “SDGs and Governance”.

National Government

There are 4 layers of high-level committees which were formed in Government to facilitate SDGs implementations:

i. National SDG Steering Committee chaired by the Prime Minister

In 2017, the government formed an SDG Steering Committee, chaired by the Prime Minister, who is also the Chairman of the National Planning Commission. Other members include the Finance Minister, Foreign Minister and Chief Secretary with the NPC Secretary as Member Secretary. This and other committees to be elaborated below are also mandated to include ‘invitee’ members from private and cooperative sectors, Non-Governmental Organisations, civil society, media, among others. The committee provides policy directives, works to create a conducive policy environment and builds partnerships for achieving the SDGs with multilateral and bilateral development partners, multi-national companies and private investors.

ii. SDG Implementation & Coordination Committee chaired by the Vice-President of the NPC

The government has formed a national level SDG Coordination and Implementation Committee under the leadership of the Vice Chairman of the National Planning Commission with the NPC member responsible



for the macroeconomic affairs as joint-coordinator. The committee is responsible for guiding line ministries on mainstreaming the SDGs into national, provincial and local plans, arranging financial, human and technical resources by mobilizing internal and external resources and coordinating between the public and private sectors, civil society and development partners.

iii. Nine SDG thematic committees, each is headed by NPC Members

Nine other SDG Implementation and Monitoring Thematic Committees are also formed under the leadership of the related NPC members for economic development, industrial development, urban development, social development, labour and employment, agriculture, climate change and environment, infrastructure development, energy development and governance. The members of these committees include the secretaries or joint secretaries of concerned ministries and invitees from the private sector, civil society and development partners. The concerned NPC joint secretaries or programme directors are member secretaries. They coordinate with sectoral government agencies, the private sector, civil society, international organizations and other partners. They also coordinate among programmes and projects implemented with ODA and arrange to mobilize ODA through the national budgetary system.

iv. Provincial Local Level Mechanisms

The administrative set up of 7 Provinces for SDGs implementation is expected to be established in the second half of 2018 although there is not progress till date. These committees will coordinate with the private sector, civil society organisations, development partners, cooperatives and other non-government stakeholders.



Institutional Reengineering



Government of Nepal, National Planning Commission, Singhadurbar, Kathmandu, Nepal

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Source: https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/Nepal_15.pdf



5. National SDGs – Targets and Indicators

After a series of public consultations and collaborative work of the multi-stakeholder working groups on 16 SDGs (except goal 14), including 158 targets, 479 indicators (including 245 national indicators) were adopted by the National Planning Commission in 2015.

Table 1: Numbers of National Targets and Indicators

	Global	National	Difference Global/ National	Remarks – comparisons between global and national goals
Goal	17	16		No difference, expect not accepting goal 14
Targets	167	158	-9	Targets of goal 14 not accepted
Indicators	232	245	+245	245 newly created

Table 2: Number of National Targets and Indicators according to 17 Goals

National	Total	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Targets	122	7	8	13	10	9	8	5	12	8	10	11	5	10		12	12	19
<i>Deleted</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-
<i>New</i>	14	-	-	3	-	0	3	1	-	1	-	-	3	1	-	1	1	-
Indicators	224	14	13	27	11	14	14	6	17	12	11	15	13	8	-	14	23	23
<i>Deleted</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	-
<i>New</i>	245	14	17	32	35	22	14	9	14	8	16	15	10	11	-	17	8	3

Total indicators: 469; Global indicators: 224; National indicators: 245 (Expect indicators of goal 14)



6. Major Events regarding SDGs

Table 3: Major Events regarding SDGs

Timeline	Major Events
April and May 2015	Massive Earthquakes
20 September 2015	President Ram Baran Yadav officially promulgated the new constitution of Nepal
Sept. 25, 2015	Nepal attends the SDGs Summit at the UN A
2016	MDG Final Status Report (NPC, 2016)
2016	Adopted SDGs and prepared the baseline
25 February 2016	Formed CSOs Forum on SDGs called “Nepal SDGs Forum”
6 November and 7 December 2017	Nepalese legislative election
2017	Government formed different committees on SDGs
July 2017 July	The First VNR presented at the HLPF
July 2017 July	CSO monitoring report published
2018 July	Participated in HLPF
2018 Sept.	4 th year celebration
2019 July	Participated in HLPF
2019 Sept.	Participation in UN SDGs Summit
2020 July	VNR 2020

7. State of National Implementation of the SDGs

Table 4: State of National Implementation of the SDGs

Checklist	Status
<input type="checkbox"/> Translation of 2030 Agenda	All – 2030 Agenda, SDGs, and global Indicators
<input type="checkbox"/> Translation Language(s)	Nepali



<input type="checkbox"/> National legislation	YES : A parliamentary committee to monitor & guide on “SDG & Governance”
<input type="checkbox"/> National inter-ministerial coordination mechanism under the President or Prime Minister	YES: A SDG Steering Committee chaired by the Prime Minister; a SDG Coordination Committee chaired by the VC of the NPC, and Eight SDG thematic committees, each is headed by a NPC Member
<input type="checkbox"/> Coordinating Ministry	National Planning Commission (NPC), Chaired by Prime Minister of Nepal
<input type="checkbox"/> National Goals and Targets	16 Goals (except goal 14) and 158 Targets
<input type="checkbox"/> National Indicators	479 Indicators (245 national indicators)
<input type="checkbox"/> National Action Plan (NAP)	National SDGs Monitoring Framework and Baseline information of some of indicators of each goals
<input type="checkbox"/> Governmental Annual Report	Not annual
<input type="checkbox"/> Year of VNR at the UN HLPF	July 2017 https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/16513Nepal.pdf
<input type="checkbox"/> Year of UPR at the UN HRC	Date of consideration: Wednesday 4 November 2015, 14:30 - 18:00 https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/NPindex.aspx

8. SDG 16 - National Targets, Indicators and responsible agencies

Out of 12 global targets under the Goal 16, all targets are accepted. All global indicators were accepted, and 8 new national indicators were created.



Table 5: SDG 16 National Targets and Indicators

	Facts and Figures	Nepal	Global
SDG 16 – national targets	Number of Targets for SDG 16 (both global and national)	12	12
	Number of global targets accepted for national targets of SDG 16	12/12	
	Number of newly created national targets and contents	None	
	Numbers of global targets of SDG 16 not accepted	None	
SDG 16 – national indicators	Total number of global indicators out of 23 for SDG 16 used nationally	YES	8
	Number of new voluntary national indicators adopted for SDG 16	8	

Table 6: Descriptions of the SDG 16 National Targets, Indicators and implementing government body

No	Targets and Indicators	Ministry
	Target 16.1: Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere	
16.1.1	Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population, by sex and age	M O H A , MOLJPA
<i>1</i>	<i>Direct deaths from armed and violent conflict (number)</i>	M O H A , MOLJPA
16.1.2	Conflict-related deaths per 100,000 population, by sex, age and cause	M O H A , MOLJPA
16.1.3	Proportion of population subjected to physical, psychological or sexual violence in the previous 12 months	MOHA



16.1.4	Proportion of population that feel safe walking alone around the area they live	M O G A , CBS
Target 16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children		
16.2.1	Proportion of children aged 1-17 years who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month	CBS
<i>I</i>	<i>Children age 1-14 years who experienced psychological aggression or physical punishment during the last one month (%)</i>	CBS
16.2.2	Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age and form of exploitation	M O H A , CBS
<i>I</i>	<i>Children trafficking to abroad (including India) per annum (reported number)</i>	N H R C , NOHA
16.2.3	Proportion of young women and men aged 18-29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18	CBS
Target 16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all		
16.3.1	Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms	M O H A , MOGA
<i>I</i>	<i>Transparency, accountability, and corruption in public (score out of 6)</i>	OPMCM
16.3.2	Un-sentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population	M O H A , MOLJPA
<i>I</i>	<i>Proportion of seized small arms and light weapons that are recorded and traced, in accordance with international standards and legal instruments</i>	MOHA



2	<i>Good governance (Reported along a scale of -2.5 to 2.5. Higher values correspond to good governance) for control of corruption</i>	OPMCM
Target 16.4 By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime		
16.4.1	Total value of inward and outward illicit financial flows (in current United States dollars)	MOHA
16.4.2	Proportion of seized, found or surrendered arms whose illicit origin or context has been traced or established by a competent authority in line with international instruments	MOHA
Target 16.5 Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms		
16.5.1	Proportion of persons who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials, during the previous 12 months	MOGA
1	<i>People's perception on corruption (% of people with at least one instance in the past 12 months that require to give a bribe/present) (Corruption index score)</i>	MOGA
16.5.2	Proportion of businesses that had at least one contact with a public official and that paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials during the previous 12 months	CBS
Target 16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institution at all levels.		
16.6.1	Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget, by sector (or by budget codes or similar)	MOF



16.6.2	Proportion of population satisfied with their last experience of public services	M O G A , CBS
Target 16.7 Ensure responsive, participatory and representative decision making at all levels		
16.7.1	Proportions of positions (by sex, age, persons with disabilities and population groups) in public institutions (national and local legislatures, public service, and judiciary) compared to national distributions	MOGA
16.7.2	Proportion of population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive, by sex, age, disability and population group	MOGA, CBS
<i>1</i>	<i>Proportions of decision making positions held by women in public institutions</i>	MOGA, CBS
Target 16.8 Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance		
16.8.1	Proportion of members and voting rights of developing countries in international organizations	MOFA
Target 16.9 By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration		
16.9.1	Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age	MOFALD, CBS
Target 16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements		



16.10.1	Number of verified cases of killing, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and torture of journalists, associated media personnel, trade unionists and human rights advocates in the previous 12 months	MOHA
16.10.2	Number of countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information	OPMCM
Target 16.a Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime		
16.a.1	Existence of independent national human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles	NHRC
Target 16.b Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development		
16.b.1	Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law	MOGA

9. Nepal’s Engagement in the Voluntary National Review

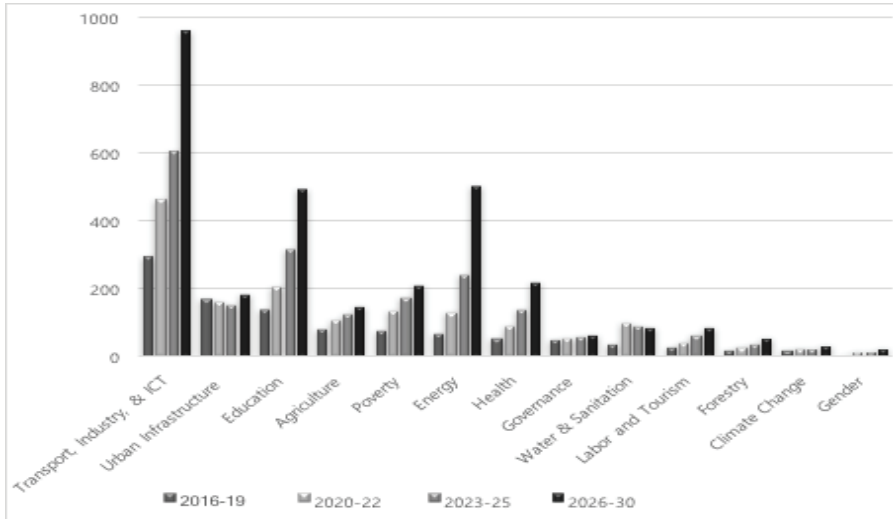
The Voluntary National Review (VNR) reports for 2018 demonstrate improved focus on documenting whole-of-society approaches to monitoring and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). According to United Nations, Overall 29 of 46 reporting countries (63%) documented the contributions of volunteers in 2018, increasing from 40% in 2017 and 9% in 2016. UN Volunteers provided direct support to 11 countries to strengthen data and analysis on volunteering for inclusion in the reports.

The Nepalese government presented its VNR report to the UN HLPF in 2017 which was the year of the first VNR cycle.



10. Nepal's Position in the SDG Framework: Facts and Figures

Overall Annual Average Investment requirements for SDGs (Rs. billion, 2015 const. prices: Source NPC 2019)



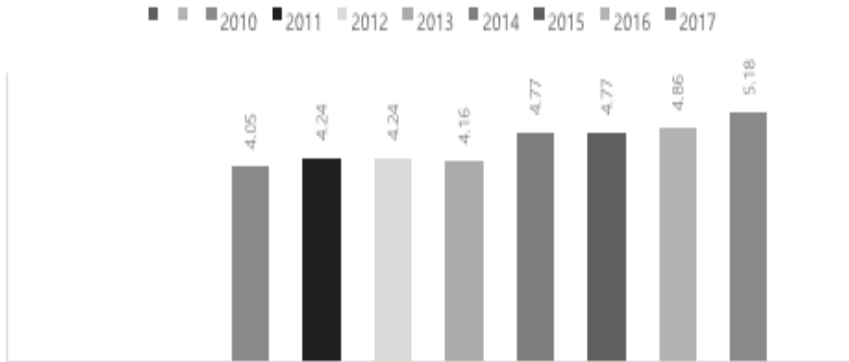
Overall Avg. Annual SDGs Financing Needs and Financing Gaps Against Requirement (Optimal Scenario)

Major components\ Year	Unit	2016-19	2020-22	2023-25	2026-30	2016-30
1. Total SDG Investment Need	Rs. In billion	1,055	1,559	2,046	3,070	2,025
2. Total SDG need in USD	USD billion at 2015 price	10.25	15.14	19.87	29.87	19.68
3. Total SDG investment needs as % of GDP	%	43.8	48.8	48.8	49.7	47.8
4. Public Investment requirement	Rs. In billion	702	979	1,134	1,505	1,111
5. Public resource available (including ODA)	Rs. In billion	521	698	905	1,300	893
6. Public Sector Finance Gap	Rs. In billion	181	281	229	205	218
7. Private Sector Finance Gap	Rs. In billion	35	110	318	815	366
8. Overall SDG Finance gap	Rs. In billion	216	391	547	1020	584
9. Overall Gap as % of GDP	%	9	11	12	15	12

11

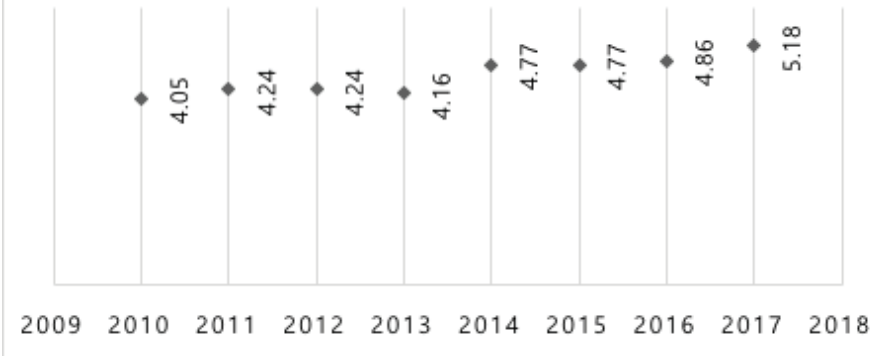


HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX (HDI) - NP



Source: UNDP

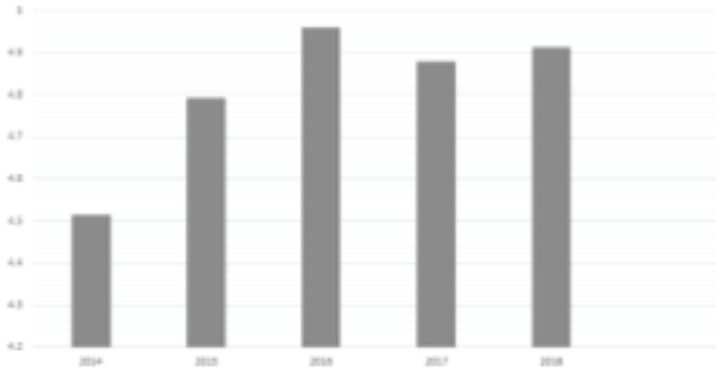
DEMOCRACY INDEX



<https://datawrapper.dwcdn.net/jkMCN/2/?abcnewsembedheight=550>



Happiness Index : Ranking 100



11. List of International Indicators and Reports regarding Nepal

Table 7: Framework and Guideline for the Monitoring Report on Goal 16 \ according to the Existing Global Data

17 Sept 2019

SDGs, Goal 16 and 12 Targets	Category	Institution/Organization, Data / Report and Website
SDGs	All SDGs	UNDP Human Development Index (HDI) 2019 Nepal: Medium Human Development (0.55 – 0.7) http://worldpopulationreview.com/countries/hdi-by-country/



SDGs	All SDGs	<p>Sustainable Development Solutions Network(SDSN)</p> <p>SDG Index and Dashboards 2018</p> <p>SDG Index Nepal: Rank 102/156 with a score of 62,8</p> <p>https://s3.amazonaws.com/sustainabledevelopment.report/2018/2018_sdg_index_and_dashboards_report.pdf</p>
Goal 16	SDG 16	<p>SDG 16 Data Initiative</p> <p>http://www.sdg16.org/countries/?iso=NPL</p>
Goal 16	SDG 16	<p>UNDP Global Alliance</p> <p>SDG 16 Hub</p> <p>https://www.sdg16hub.org/global-alliance</p>
		<p>16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere</p> <p>16.1.1 Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population, by sex and age: 2.30 Score range: 108.6 (worst) - 0 (best) Rate per 100,000 population Last update 2013</p> <p>16.1.2 Conflict-related deaths per 100,000 population, by sex, age and cause: 0 Score range: 364 (worst) - 0 (best) Deaths per 100,000 population Last update 2014</p> <p>16.1.3 Proportion of population subjected to physical, psychological or sexual violence in the previous 12 months: No data Score range: No data</p>



	<p>16.1.4 Proportion of people that feels safe walking alone around the area they live: 60.46 % Score range: 0 (worst) - 100 (best) Percentage Last update 2015</p> <p>16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children</p> <p>16.2.1 Proportion of children aged 1-17 years who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month: 81.70 % Score range: 100 (worst) - 0 (best) Percentage Last update 2014</p> <p>16.2.2 Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age and form of exploitation: No data Score range: No data</p> <p>16.2.3 Proportion of young women and men aged 18-29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18: 11.30 % Score range: 100 (worst) - 0 (best) Percentage Last update 2011</p> <p>16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all</p> <p>16.3.1 Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms: No data Score range: 0 (worst) - 100 (best) Percentage</p> <p>16.3.2 Unsentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population: No data Score range: 100 (worst) - 0 (best) Percentage</p>
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	<p><u>Complementary Global Indicators</u></p> <p>16.3.3 The accessibility, affordability, impartiality, and effectiveness of civil justice systems: 0.42 Score range: 0 (worst) - 1 (best) Score Last update 2015</p> <p>16.3.4 Whether justice systems are capable of investigating and adjudicating criminal offenses successfully through an impartial system that protects the rights of both victims and the accused: 0.42 Score range: 0 (worst) - 1 (best) score Last update 2015</p> <p>16.4 By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime</p> <p>16.4.1 Total value of inward and outward illicit financial flows (in current United States dollars): 0 Score range: 258640 (worst) - 0 (best) Millions of USD Last update 2013</p> <p>16.4.2 Proportion of seized small arms and light weapons that are recorded and traced, in accordance with international standards and legal instruments: No data Score range: No data</p> <p>16.5 Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms</p> <p>16.5.1 Proportion of persons who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials, during the previous 12 months: 31 % Score range: 100 (worst) - 0 (best) Percentage Last update 2013</p>
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	<p>16.5.2 Proportion of businesses that had at least one contact with a public official and that paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials during the previous 12 months: 14.40 % Score range: 100 (worst) - 0 (best) Percentage Last update 2013</p> <p><u>Complementary Global Indicators</u></p> <p>16.5.3 Corruption Perception Index score: 27 Score range: 0 (worst) - 100 (best) Score Last update 2015</p> <p>16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels</p> <p>16.6.1 Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget, by sector (or by budget code or similar): 1 Score range: 4 (worst) - 1 (best) 1-4 score Last update 2008</p> <p><u>Complementary Global Indicators</u></p> <p>16.6.2 Proportion of the population satisfied with their last experience of public services: 46.40 % Score range: 0 (worst) - 100 (best) Percentage Last update 2015</p> <p>16.6.3 Global Indicators of Regulatory Governance: 0 Score range: 0 (worst) - 6 (best) 0-6 score Last update 2015</p> <p>16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels</p>
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		<p>16.7.1 Proportions of positions (by sex, age, persons with disabilities and population groups) in public institutions (national and local legislatures, public service, and judiciary) compared to national distributions: No data Score range: No data</p> <p>16.7.2 Proportion of population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive, by sex, age, disability and population group: No data Score range: No data</p> <p><u>Complementary Global Indicators</u></p> <p>16.7.3 Percentage of seats held by women in parliament (lower house): 29 % Score range: 0 (worst) - 100 (best) Percentage Last update 2014</p> <p>16.7.4 Power distributed by social group: 2.79 Score range: 0 (worst) - 4 (best) Score Last update 2014</p> <p>16.8 Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance</p> <p>16.8.1 Proportion of members and voting rights of developing countries in international organizations: No data Score range: No data</p> <p>16.9 By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration</p> <p>16.9.1 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age: 42.30 % Score range: 0 (worst) - 100 (best) Percentage Last update 2011</p>
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		<p>16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements</p> <p>16.10.1 Number of verified cases of killing, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and torture of journalists, associated media personnel, trade unionists and human rights advocates in the previous 12 months: No data Score range: No data</p> <p>16.10.2 Number of countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information: Yes Score range: - Yes/No Last update 2016</p> <p><u>Complementary Global Indicators</u></p> <p>16.10.3 Confirmed cases of journalists killed in previous calendar year: 0 Score range: 14 (worst) - 0 (best) Number Last update 2015</p> <p>16.10.4 Freedom of the Press index score: 54 Score range: 100 (worst) - 0 (best) Score Last update 2015</p> <p>16.a Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime</p> <p>16.a.1 Existence of independent national human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles: A Score range: C (worst) - A (best) grade Last update 2014</p>
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		<p>16.b Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development</p> <p>16.b.1 Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law: No data Score range: No data</p> <p><u>Complementary Global Indicators</u></p> <p>16.b.2 Educational equality: No data Score range: 0 (worst) - 4 (best) 0-4 scale</p> <p>16.b.3 Health equality: 1.05 Score range: 0 (worst) - 4 (best) 0-4 scale Last update 2014</p>
Target 16.1	Peace	<p>Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) Global Peace Index 2019 Nepal: Rank 76/163 with a score of 2,003 http://visionofhumanity.org/indexes/global-peace-index/</p>
Target 16.1	Homicide	<p>UN Office on Drugs and Crimes (ODC) Global Report on Homicide 2019 https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/global-study-on-homicide.html Nepal: No data (https://dataunodc.un.org/GSH_app)</p>
Target 16.1	Militarization	<p>Bonn International Center for Conversion Global Militarization Index 2017 Nepal: High https://gmi.bicc.de/</p>



Target 16.1, 8.7	Human Trafficking, Slavery	Global Slavery Index 2019 Nepal: Prevalence Index Rank 55/167 https://www.globallslaveryindex.org/2019/findings/foreword/
Target 16.2.	Violence against Children (VAC)	NetClean Benchmarking Index on the Response to Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation https://www.netclean.com/2019/01/11/benchmarking-index-response-to-child-sexual-abuse-and-exploitation/
Target 16.3, 16.5, 16.6, 16.7,	Governance	World Bank Worldwide Governance Indicators Nepal (2017) (0=lowest, 100=highest) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ Voice and Accountability: 38,92 ☐ Political Stability and Absence of Violence: 22,38 ☐ Government Effectiveness: 18,75 ☐ Regulatory Quality: 25,96 ☐ Rule of Law: 27,4 ☐ Control of Corruption: 23,56 https://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/#home
Target 16.3.	Rule of Law	World Justice Project Rule of Law Index 2019 Nepal: Rank 59/126 with a score of 0,53 https://worldjusticeproject.org/our-work/research-and-data/wjp-rule-law-index-2019
Target 16.3.	Access to Justice	World Justice Project (WJP) Global Insights on Access to Justice 2019 https://worldjusticeproject.org/our-work/research-and-data/global-insights-access-justice-2019



Target 16.5	Public Integrity	Index of Public Integrity 2019 (109 countries) Nepal: Rank 62 with a score of 6,27 https://integrity-index.org/
Target 16.5	Corruption	Transparency International Corruption Perception Index 2018 Nepal: Rank 124/180 with a score of 31/100 https://www.transparency.org/cpi2018
Target 16.6	Open Government	World Justice Project (WJP) Open Government Index 2019 Nepal: Rank 40 with a score of 0,56 https://worldjusticeproject.org/our-work/wjp-rule-law-index/wjp-open-government-index-2015
Target 16.6, 16.7, 16.10	Civic Space	CIVICUS Civic Space Monitoring Nepal: Obstructed Civic Space (Civic space is heavily contested by power holders, who impose a combination of legal and practical constraints on the full enjoyment of fundamental rights. Although civil society organisations exist, state authorities undermine them, including through the use of illegal surveillance, bureaucratic harassment and demeaning public statements. Citizens can organise and assemble peacefully but they are vulnerable to frequent use of excessive force by law enforcement agencies, including rubber bullets, tear gas and baton charges. There is some space for non-state media and editorial independence, but journalists face the risk of physical attack and criminal defamation charges, which encourage self-censorship.) https://monitor.civicus.org/



Target 16.10	Press Freedom	Reporters Without Borders World Press Freedom Index 2019 Nepal: Rank 106/180 with a score of 21,97 https://rsf.org/en/ranking_table
Target 16.10	NHRI	Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) Chart of the Status of National Institutions (Classifications for accreditation A, B and C) Nepal (Last review period in 2012 – 2014): A https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/NHRI/Chart_Status_NIs.pdf
Target 16.a	Peace-Terrorism	Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) Global Terrorism Index 2018 Nepal: Rank 33/163 with a score of 5,30 http://visionofhumanity.org/indexes/terrorism-index/
Target 16.b	Non-discrimination / Inclusiveness	Hass Institute Inclusiveness Index Report Nepal: Rank 96, Total Inclusiveness Score: Low https://haasinstitute.berkeley.edu/inclusivenessindex

12. Human Rights Perspectives on SDG 16

After signing the peace accord between the Maoists and the Seven Party Alliance in 2006, Nepal has made great steps towards a peaceful, human rights oriented and democratic future. Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, as well as elections, democratic governance and transitional



justice mechanisms encourage for stability. As a result, the Constitution of Nepal was promulgated in 2015, followed by the first legislative elections in Nepal after almost twenty years in 2017. (Dahal, 2017)

However, the reconditioning of the Nepalese Civil War is still ongoing. The success of The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and the Commission of Investigation on Enforced Disappeared Persons (CIEDP), introduced by the GoN in 2015 to investigate war crimes and punish perpetrators, is hindered by a lack of financial resources, legal framework and qualified officers. As such, processing and investigating the altogether 63,000 complaints filed to the Commissions takes place slowly. (Amnesty International Report, 2017/18)

Nepal has drafted a constitution in 2015 guaranteeing fundamental freedoms and rights to its population, has ratified the majority of UN human rights bodies and has been subject to several UN special procedures concerning human rights issues in the last years. Even though a constitutional framework for the protection of human rights is given, human rights lack comprehensive enforcement and representation in government policies.

- The introduction of the new criminal code in August, 2018 has caused concerns among journalists with regards to reporting on public figures. Himal Southasian magazine was forced to relocate its headquarters from Kathmandu to Sri Lanka in 2018, due to fears about an enforced government shutdown
- The Constitution of Nepal guarantees the freedom of sexual expression and identification, while the new Criminal Code does not include a protection clause in that sense
- Cases of security forces using excessive force in the context of demonstrations continue to surface
- As roughly one quarter of Nepal's GDP is earned abroad and reports of labour trafficking are frequent, the GoN passed the Human Trafficking and Transportation (Control) Act in 2007. Still, criminal conduct under this act is taking place and workers are systematically deceived about working conditions in foreign countries. Currently, many Nepali



nationals are trapped in miserable enforced working situations overseas and local Nepalese embassies rarely provide assistance

- The new Criminal Code also contains provisions against torture, degrading and inhumane treatment, but in practice, criminal investigations still go along with torture and ill-treatment
- Impunity of security forces remains an urgent topic, especially since the hundreds of killings of demonstrators by security forces since 1990 were not properly investigated
- Discrimination in Nepal -whether on gender, origin, caste, sexuality or religion- is continuing and amendments to Nepal's constitution did not address these shortcomings effectively
- Punishments regarding rape in the new Criminal Code were not according to international laws and standards (Amnesty International Country Report Nepal, 2019)

Democracy in Nepal has made good progress since the promulgation of the Constitution in 2015 and legislative elections in 2017 promised for a stable future. But still, there is more work to be done in order to bring the principles of democracy and good governance into all government institutions and policies, as well as into society. As large parts of minorities do not enjoy equal participation in society, this clearly represents a shortcoming in creating an inclusive environment for all parts of society. The success of according policies can be directly related to accountable, transparent and responsive government decisions and decision makers. In sharp contrast to this stands Nepal's corruption perception index. In 2018 Nepal performed 31/100 points, ranking the country on place 124/180 globally.



13. UN and Other International Organizations

Memberships of Nepal

Table 8: UN Memberships of Nepal

International Organization	Membership (years)
UN	Since 1955 https://www.un.org/en/member-states/
ECOSOC	NO https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/content/members
Human Rights Council (HRC)	YES (2018-2020) https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/CurrentMembers.aspx
UN Security Council	NO
Least Developed Countries (LDCs)	YES http://unohrlls.org/about-ldcs/
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	YES https://www.iom.int/member-states
UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)	Since 1953 http://www.unesco.org/eri/cp/ListeMS_Indicators.asp
WHO (World Health Organization)	YES https://www.who.int/choice/demography/by_country/en/
UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organization)	Since 1985 https://www.unido.org/member_states
FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization)	Since 1951 http://www.fao.org/legal/home/membership-of-fao/en/
ILO (International Labour Organization)	YES https://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/relm/country.htm



ESCAP (Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific)	Since 1955 https://www.unescap.org/about/member-states
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Table 9: Non-UN Memberships of Nepal

International Organization	Membership (years)
Asian Development Bank (ADB)	Since 1966 https://www.adb.org/about/members
IMF (International Monetary Fund)	Since 1961 https://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/memdir/memdate.htm
BIMSTEC (The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation)	YES https://bimstec.org/?page_id=189
WTO (World Trade Organization)	Since 2004 https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/whatis_e/tif_e/org6_e.htm
G-77	YES http://www.g77.org/geninfo/members.htm
IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency)	Since 2008 https://www.iaea.org/about/governance/list-of-member-states
IBRD (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development)	Since 1961 https://www.worldbank.org/en/about/leadership/members
IDA (International Development Association)	Since 1963 https://www.worldbank.org/en/about/leadership/members#2
IFC (International Finance Corporation)	Since 1966 https://www.worldbank.org/en/about/leadership/members#3



MIGA (Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency)	Since 1994 https://www.worldbank.org/en/about/leadership/members#4
ICSID (International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes)	Since 1969 https://www.worldbank.org/en/about/leadership/members#5
SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation)	Since 1985 http://saarc-sec.org/about-saarc

14. Linking UN SDGs with Human Rights Treaties and Special Procedures

9. Human Rights Treaties and 44 Thematic Special Procedures as of Aug. 2019

Treaty Bodies

1. CERD: [Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination](#)
2. CESCR: [Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](#)
3. CCPR: [Human Rights Committee](#)
4. CEDAW: [Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women](#)
5. CAT: [Committee against Torture](#)
6. CRC: [Committee on the Rights of the Child](#)
7. CMW: [Committee on Migrant Workers](#)
8. CRPD: [Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#)
9. CED: [Committee on Enforced Disappearances](#)



Treaties

1. ICERD : International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
2. ICCPR : International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
3. ICESCR : International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
4. CEDAW : Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
5. CAT : Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
6. CRC : Convention on the Rights of the Child
7. ICMW : International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families
8. ICPED : International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance
9. CRPD : Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Table 10: UN SDGs, Human Rights Treaties and Special Procedures

17 Goals	Treaty Bodies	Special Procedures
1: No Poverty	CESCR	Poverty (SR)
2: Zero Hunger	CESCR	Food (SR)
3: Good Health and Well-being	CESCR	Health (SR) Disability (SR) Older persons (SR) Hazardous substances (SR)
4: Quality Education	CESCR	Cultural Rights (SR) Education (SR)



5: Gender Equality	CESCR, CCPR, CEDAW	Women and girls (WG) Trafficking in persons (SR) Violence against women (SR) Sale of children (SR)
6: Clean Water and Sanitation	CESCR	Environment (IE) Water and sanitation (SR)
7: Affordable and Clean Energy	CESCR	Environment (IE)
8: Decent Work and Economic Growth	CESCR	Business (WG) Slavery (SR) Migrants (SR)
9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	CESCR	Business (WG) Internally displaced persons (SR)
10: Reduced Inequality	CESCR	Right to Development (SR) International order (IE) Migrants (SR) Poverty (SR)
11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	CESCR	Internally displaced persons (SR) Housing (SR)
12: Responsible Consumption and Production	CESCR	Business (WG)
13: Climate Action	CESCR	Environment (IE) Internally displaced persons (SR)
14: Life Below Water	CESCR	Environment (IE) Hazardous substances (SR)
15: Life on Land	CESCR	Environment (IE) Hazardous substances (SR)
16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions		



<p>16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere</p>	<p>CAT</p>	<p>Slavery (SR) Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) (SR) Mercenaries (WG) Countering terrorism (SR) Violence against women (SR) Torture (SR) Execution (SR)</p>
<p>16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children</p>	<p>CAT CRC</p>	<p>Trafficking in persons (SR) Sale of children (SR)</p>
<p>16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all</p>	<p>CCPR</p>	<p>Truth, justice and reparation & guarantees on non-recurrence (SR) Independence of judges and lawyers (SR) Arbitrary Detention (WG) Execution (SR)</p>
<p>16.4 By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime</p>	<p>CCPR UNCAC*</p>	<p>Business (WG) Cultural Rights (SR) Trafficking in persons (SR)</p>
<p>16.5 Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms</p>	<p>UNCAC*</p>	<p>Business (WG)</p>
<p>16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels</p>	<p>CCPR</p>	<p>Independence of judges and lawyers (SR)</p>



<p>16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels</p>	<p>CCPR</p>	<p>Minority issues (IE) Internally displaced persons (SR) Human rights defender (SR) Freedom of opinion and expression (SR)</p>
<p>16.8 Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance</p>		<p>Right to Development (SR) International order (IE) International solidarity (IE)</p>
<p>16.9 By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration</p>	<p>CCPR</p>	<p>Slavery (SR) Minority issues (IE) Migrants (SR)</p>
<p>16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements</p>	<p>CCPR</p>	<p>Privacy (SR) Environment (IE) Freedom of peaceful assembly and of association (SR) Human rights defender (SR) Hazardous substances (SR) Freedom of opinion and expression (SR) Arbitrary Detention (WG) Religion or belief (SR)</p>
<p>16.a Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime</p>	<p>CCPR CED</p>	<p>Slavery (SR) Countering terrorism (SR) Disappearance (WG)</p>



<p>16.b Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development</p>	<p>CERD CEDAW</p>	<p>Leprosy (SR) Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) (SR) Albinism (SR) Disability (SR) Older persons (SR) Women and girls (WG) Minority issues (IE) African Descent (WG) Indigenous peoples (SR) Migrants (SR) Racism (SR) Religion or belief (SR)</p>
<p>17: Partnerships to achieve the Goals</p>		
<p>17.1-17.5 Finance</p>	<p>CERD</p>	<p>Right to Development (SR) International solidarity (IE) Foreign debt (IE) Migrants (SR)</p>
<p>17.6-17.8 Technology</p>		<p>Right to Development (SR) Privacy (SR) Freedom of opinion and expression (SR)</p>
<p>17.9 Capacity-building</p>		<p>Education (SR)</p>



<p>17.10-17.12 Trade</p>	<p>CESCR</p>	<p>Right to Development (SR) Unilateral coercive measures (SR) International order (IE) Business (WG) Hazardous substances (SR) Sale of children (SR)</p>
<p>17.13-17.15 Policy and institutional Coherence</p>		<p>International order (IE)</p>
<p>17.16-17.17 Multi-stakeholder partnerships</p>		<p>Business (WG) Freedom of peaceful assembly and of association (SR) International solidarity (IE) Human rights defender (SR)</p>
<p>17.18-17.19 Data, Monitoring and Accountability</p>		<p>Leprosy (SR) Privacy (SR) Albinism (SR) Disability (SR) Older persons (SR) Women and girls (WG) Minority issues (IE) Indigenous peoples (SR) Migrants (SR) Poverty (SR)</p>



14.1 UN Human Rights Special Procedures with Treaties and SDGs

Table 11: UN Human Rights Special Procedures with Treaties and SDGs

UN Human Rights Thematic Procedures	Human Rights Treaties	SDGs 1-15	SDG 16 12 Targets	SDG 17 19 Targets	Category
1. Disappearance (WG)	ICCPR CED		16.1, 16.10	17.19	Civil Political Rights
2. Torture (SR)	CAT		16.1, 16.2, 16.10		
3. Execution (SR)	ICCPR CAP		16.1, 16.2, 16.10		
4. Religion or belief (SR)	ICCPR	4.7	16.10		
5. Arbitrary Detention (WG)	ICCPR		16.10		
6. Freedom of opinion and expression (SR)	ICCPR	4	16.10		
7. Independence of judges and lawyers (SR)	ICCPR		16.3, 16.6		
8. Trafficking in persons (SR)	ICCPR, CED		16.10		
9. Slavery (SR)	ICCPR, CAT, CED,	8	16.1, 16.2, 16.10		
10. Freedom of peaceful assembly and of association (SR)	ICCPR		16.10		
11. Truth, justice and reparation & guarantees on non-recurrence (SR)	ICCPR		16.3, 16.10		
12. Privacy (SR)	ICCPR		16.10	17.8	



13.	Poverty (SR)	ICESCR	1, 2, 10			Economic, Social and Cultural (ESC) Rights
14.	Education (SR)	ICESCR	1, 2, 10			
15.	Housing (SR)	ICESCR	11			
16.	Food (SR)	ICESCR	2,3			
17.	Health (SR)	ICESCR	3			
18.	Water and sanitation (SR)	ICESCR	6			
19.	Cultural Rights (SR)	ICESCR	12			
20.	Violence against women (SR)	CEDAW	5	16.1, 16.2		Sectoral (Group) Rights
21.	Women and girls (WG)	CEDAW	5	16.b		
22.	Sale of children (SR)	CRC	5	16.2		
23.	Migrants (SR)	MWC	10	16.9, 16.b		
24.	Disability (SR)	CRPD		16.b		
25.	Human rights defender (SR)	ICCPR		16.5, 16.6, 16.7		
26.	Indigenous peoples (SR)	ICCPR		16.9, 16.b		
27.	African Descent (WG)	ICCPR	1,2	16.b		
28.	Internally displaced persons (SR)	ICCPR, ICE-SCR	11	16.b		
29.	Mercenaries (WG)	ICCPR		16.1		
30.	Minority issues (IE)	ICCPR, ICE-SCR, ICERD		16.9, 16.b		
31.	Older persons (SR)	ICCPR, ICE-SCR	3	16.b		
32.	Albinism (SR)	ICCPR, CRPD	3	16.b		
33.	Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) (SR)	ICCPR, ICESCR		16.b		
34.	Leprosy (SR)	ICCPR	3	16.b		



35. Racism (SR)	ICERD		16.b		Thematic Rights
36. Hazardous substances (SR)	ICESCR	12, 15,	16.10		
37. Foreign debt (IE)	ICESCR	10			
38. Countering terrorism (SR)	ICCPR		16.1, 16.a,		
39. International solidarity (IE)	ICESCR		16.2		
40. International order (IE)	ICESCR	10	16.8		
41. Business (WG)	ICESCR	8, 9, 10,			
42. Environment (IE)	ICESCR	13, 14, 15	16.10		
43. Unilateral coercive measures (SR)	ICESCR				
44. Right to Development (SR)	ICESCR	9, 10			

Table 12: UN Human Rights Treaties with Special Procedures and SDGs

Treaty Body	Special Procedures: Thematic Mandate	SDGs 1-15	SDG 16 12 Tar- gets	SDG 17 19 Tar- gets
CERD	Racism (SR)		16.b	
	Migrants (SR)	10		
	Indigenous peoples (SR)	15	16.b	
	African Descent (WG)		16.b	
	Minority issues (IE)		16.b	
	Slavery (SR)		16.9	



CE- SCR	Poverty (SR)	1, 2	16.6, 16.7	17.1-12, 17.18-19
	Education (SR)	4		
	Housing (SR)	11		
	Food (SR)	2, 6, 12		
	Health (SR)	3		
	Water and sanitation (SR)	6		
	Cultural Rights (SR)	4, 5		
	Right to Development (SR)	1, 10		
	Unilateral coercive measures (SR)	10		
	Environment (IE)	12, 13, 14, 15,		
	Business (WG)	8,9	16.5	17.17
	International order (IE)	10	16.8	
	International solidarity (IE)	10	16.8	
	Foreign debt (IE)	10		17.4
	Hazardous substances (SR)	12		
	Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) (SR)	5	16.b	
	Older persons (SR)			
	Minority issues (IE)		16.b	
	Internally displaced persons (SR)	11		
	Indigenous peoples (SR)		16.b	
Cultural Rights (SR)	12			



CCPR	Disappearance (WG)			
	Torture (SR)		16.1	
	Execution (SR)		16.1	
	Religion or belief (SR)		16.10	
	Arbitrary Detention (WG)			
	Freedom of opinion and expression (SR)		16.10	
	Independence of judges and lawyers (SR)		16.3	
	Trafficking in persons (SR)			
	Slavery (SR)			
	Freedom of peaceful assembly and of association (SR)		16.10	
	Truth, justice and reparation & guarantees on non-recurrence (SR)		16.3	
	Privacy (SR)			
	Countering terrorism (SR)		16.b	
	Racism (SR)		16.b	
	Albinism (SR)		16.b	
	Minority issues (IE)		16.b	
	Mercenaries (WG)			
	Indigenous peoples (SR)		16.b	
Human rights defender (SR)		16.7		
CE-DAW	Minority issues (IE)	5	16.b	17.18
	Women and girls (WG)	5		17.18
	Violence against women (SR)	5		17.18
CRC	Business (WG)	5	16.2	
	Sale of children (SR)		16.2	
	Women and girls (WG)			17.18



MWC	Right to Development (SR)	1, 10	16.8	
	Business (WG)	8,9,		
	Racism (SR)		16.b	17.18
	Minority issues (IE)		16.b	
	African Descent (WG)	1	16.b	
	Indigenous peoples (SR)	15	16.b	
	Migrants (SR)	10	16.b	
CAT	Countering terrorism (SR)		16.a	
	Human rights defender (SR)		16.7, 16.10	
CRPD	Leprosy (SR)		16.b	
	Disability (SR)			
CED	Disappearance (WG)			
	Internally displaced persons (SR)	11		
	Human rights defender (SR)		16.7, 16.10	

14.2 List of UN Human Rights Special Procedures

By Chronological order of the establishment (Aug. 2019)

Special Rapporteur (SR), Independent Expert (IE), Working Group (WG)

(Office of the High UN Commissioner on Human Rights, Thematic Mandates, UN Website)

Table 13: List of Human Rights Special Procedures

Year / Key Words / Type of Mandate Holder	Full Name of Special Procedures
1. 1980 Disappearance (WG)	Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances
2. 1982 Execution (SR)	Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions



3. 1985 Torture (SR)	Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment
4. 1986 Religion or belief (SR)	Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief
5. 1990 Sale of children (SR)	Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material
6. 1991 Arbitrary Detention (WG)	Working Group on Arbitrary Detention
7. 1993 Freedom of opinion and expression (SR)	Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression
8. 1993 Racism (SR)	Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance
9. 1994 Independence of judges and lawyers (SR)	Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers
10. 1994 Violence against women (SR)	Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences
11. 1995 Hazardous substances (SR)	Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes
12. 1998 Education (SR)	Special Rapporteur on the right to education
13. 1998 Poverty (SR)	Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights
14. 1999 Migrants (SR)	Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants
15. 2000 Food (SR)	Special Rapporteur on the right to food



16. 2000 Foreign debt (IE)	Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights
17. 2000 Housing (SR)	Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context
18. 2000 Human rights defender (SR)	Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders
19. 2001 Indigenous peoples (SR)	Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples
20. 2002 African Descent (WG)	Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent
21. 2002 Health (SR)	Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health
22. 2004 Internally displaced persons (SR)	Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons
23. 2004 Trafficking in persons (SR)	Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children
24. 2005 Countering terrorism (SR)	Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism
25. 2005 International solidarity (IE)	Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity
26. 2005 Mercenaries (WG)	Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination



27. 2005 Minority issues (IE)	Special Rapporteur on minority issues
28. 2008 Water and sanitation (SR)	Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation
29. 2009 Cultural Rights (SR)	Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights
30. 2009 Slavery (SR)	Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences 2007
31. 2010 Freedom of peaceful assembly and of association (SR)	Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association
32. 2010 Women and girls (WG)	Working Group on discrimination against women and girls
33. 2011 Business (WG)	Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises
34. 2011 International order (IE)	Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order
35. 2011 Truth, justice and reparation & guarantees on non-recurrence (SR)	Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence
36. 2012 Environment (IE)	Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment
37. 2013 Older persons (SR)	Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons
38. 2014 Disability (SR)	Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities
39. 2014 Unilateral coercive measures (SR)	Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights



40. 2015 Albinism (SR)	Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism
41. 2015 Privacy (SR)	Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy
42. 2016 Right to Development (SR)	Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy
43. 2016 Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) (SR)	Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity
44. 2017 Leprosy (SR)	Special Rapporteur on the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members

Sources of Information

- Human Rights Treaty Bodies

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/Pages/TreatyBodies.aspx>

- Thematic Special Procedures Special Procedures (Thematic) : Special Rapporteur (SR), Independent Expert (IE), Working Group (WG)

https://spinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/SpecialProceduresInternet/ViewAllCountryMandates.aspx?Type=TM

- UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>



14.3 SDGs Framework with Human Rights Treaty Bodies and Special Procedures within Nepal

Table 14: SDG Framework of Nepal

17 SDGs	Treaty Bodies	Special Procedures
1: No Poverty	CESCR	Indigenous People (SR) – July 2009
2: Zero Hunger	CESCR	
3: Good Health and Well-being	CESCR	Indigenous People (SR) – July 2009
4: Quality Education	CESCR	Indigenous People (SR) – July 2009
5: Gender Equality	CESCR, CCPR, CEDAW	
6: Clean Water and Sanitation	CESCR	
7: Affordable and Clean Energy	CESCR	
8: Decent Work and Economic Growth	CESCR	Migrants (SR) – June, July 2018 Indigenous People (SR) – July 2009



9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	CESCR	
10: Reduced Inequality	CESCR	Indigenous People (SR) – July 2009 Migrants (SR) – June, July 2018
11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	CESCR	
12: Responsible Consumption and Production	CESCR	
13: Climate Action	CESCR	
14: Life Below Water*	CESCR	
15: Life on Land	CESCR	
16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions		
16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere	CAT	Torture, Inhumane and Degrading Treatment and Detention (SR) – Jan 2006 Internally Displaced Persons (SR) – Jan 2006 Enforced Disappearances (WG) – Jan 2005
16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children	CAT CRC	Torture, Inhumane and Degrading Treatment and Detention (SR) – Jan 2006 Enforced Disappearances (WG) – Jan 2005



<p>16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all</p>	<p>CCPR</p>	<p>Torture, Inhumane and Degrading Treatment and Detention (SR) – Jan 2006 Indigenous People (SR) – July 2009 Internally Displaced Persons (RSG) – Jan 2006</p>
<p>16.4 By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime</p>	<p>CCPR UNCAC</p>	<p>Enforced Disappearances (WG) – Jan 2005</p>
<p>16.5 Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms</p>	<p>UNCAC</p>	
<p>16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels</p>	<p>CCPR</p>	
<p>16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels</p>	<p>CCPR</p>	<p>Indigenous People (SR) – July 2009 Internally Displaced Persons (SR) – Jan 2006</p>
<p>16.8 Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance</p>		



<p>16.9 By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration</p>	<p>CCPR</p>	<p>Migrants (SR) – June, July 2018</p>
<p>16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements</p>	<p>CCPR</p>	<p>Indigenous People (SR) – July 2009</p> <p>Torture, Inhumane and Degrading Treatment and Detention (SR) – Jan 2006</p> <p>Indigenous People (SR) – July 2009</p> <p>Enforced Disappearances (WG) – Jan 2005</p>
<p>16.a Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime</p>	<p>CCPR</p>	
<p>16.b Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development</p>	<p>CERD CEDAW</p>	<p>Migrants (SR) – June, July 2018</p>
<p>17: Partnerships to achieve the Goals</p>		
<p>17.1-17.5 Finance 17.6-17.8 Technology 17.9 Capacity-building</p>	<p>CERD</p>	<p>Migrants (SR) – June, July 2018</p>
<p>17.10-17.12 Trade 17.13-17.15 Policy and institutional Coherence 17.16-17.17 Multi-stakeholder partnerships</p>	<p>CESCR</p>	



17.18-17.19 Data,
Monitoring and
Accountability

Indigenous People (SR) – July
2009
Enforced Disappearances (WG)
– Jan 2005

* SDG 14 was not accepted by the Government of Nepal

Special Procedures

RSG Report of the Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons

Sources of Information

➤ Human Rights Treaty Bodies

https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/Treaty.aspx?CountryID=122&Lang=EN

➤ Thematic Special Procedures Special Procedures (Thematic) : Special Rapporteur (SR), Independent Expert (IE), Working Group (WG)

➤ https://spinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/SpecialProceduresInternet/ViewCountryVisits.aspx?Lang=en&country=NPL

➤ UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>



15. The Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

Goal No.	2030 Agenda and the 17 Goals	Recommendations for Nepal
1	No Poverty	<p>124.2. Sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights</p> <p>123.22. Ratify International Labour Organization Convention No. 87</p> <p>124.4. Consider ratifying International Labour Organization Convention No. 189</p> <p>124.3. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure</p> <p>121.6. Amend the existing Child Labour Act to include child labour in the informal sector within the purview of the law</p> <p>122.86. Ensure effective implementation of its poverty alleviation policy as well as consider adopting a comprehensive national strategy to ensure food and nutrition security for its people</p> <p>122.82. Ensure the freed bonded laborers' access to fertile land and their equal enjoyment of human rights, including the right to work and right to property, in line with the observations made by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural</p>



	<p>Rights</p> <p>122.78. Ensure equal opportunities for women in the labour market</p> <p>122.80. Ensure implementation of legislation on the minimum wage in all sectors</p> <p>122.51. Give specific attention to the implementation of the plan aimed at eliminating worst form of child labour by 2016 and all forms of child labour by 2020, including prohibiting child labour in the informal sector</p> <p>122.49. Enforce legislation prohibiting child labour, facilitate access to education for poor and disadvantaged children and reinforce labour inspections</p> <p>122.48. Take measures to enforce legislation prohibiting child labour and to facilitate access to education for all children, particularly the poor and disadvantaged</p> <p>122.50. Reinforce and protect the rights of children, in particular by eliminating child labour and facilitating access of poor children to education</p>
<p>2</p> <p>Zero Hunger</p>	<p>122.88. Adopt a comprehensive national strategy to ensure food and nutrition security for all in line with international standards</p>



		<p>122.86. Ensure effective implementation of its poverty alleviation policy as well as consider adopting a comprehensive national strategy to ensure food and nutrition security for its people</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>Good Health and Well-Being</p>	<p>121.22. Put emphasis on suicide prevention and support to these people and their families, taking into account the despair generated by such act</p> <p>122.90. Continue to implement policy measures to ensure that quality healthcare is accessible to all, particularly women and children</p> <p>122.91. Take measures to ensure universal vaccination coverage</p> <p>122.92. Improve access to affordable healthcare for all through the effective implementation of its policies and directives</p> <p>122.93. Further accelerate the efforts aiming at decreasing the infant, child and maternal mortality rates and increasing average life expectancy</p> <p>122.94. Continue taking action to reduce maternal and infant mortality</p> <p>122.95. Continue to implement measures to ensure all women and girls have equal access to quality sexual and reproductive healthcare</p>



		<p>122.98. Continue to increase spending on education in order to improve coverage and quality of education with the special attention to the right to education of the vulnerable groups, including poor students, girls and children with disabilities</p> <p>122.106. Continue strengthening successful social policies that promote access to education and health of the people, particularly for women and children</p>
4	Quality Education	<p>22.20. Continue its implementation of the national plan of action on the provision of education for all, including for economically disadvantaged social groups</p> <p>122.99. Implement ongoing national policies to guarantee quality education to the multi-ethnic people</p> <p>1122.100. Accelerate the discussions regarding the bill to make basic education compulsory and free, currently under consideration</p> <p>122.101. Accelerate the process of considering the Education Bill currently under consideration at the Ministry of Education</p> <p>122.102. Ensure equal access to education for all children</p>



122.103. Continue its efforts to improve access to education for all, including by providing adequate resources

122.97. Consider expediting its work on the draft Bill to make basic education compulsory and free

124.17. Provide refugees and their families with identification certificates making sure that all children of refugees have access to education, and repeal restrictions on refugees' rights to own property, to work, to establish and incorporate businesses and to travel freely

122.24. Implement human rights education programmes for law enforcement officials

122.106. Continue strengthening successful social policies that promote access to education and health of the people, particularly for women and children

122.107. Amend current education policies to ensure an inclusive education system and implement concrete measures to increase the participation of children with disability

124.18. Register refugees and provide documentation so they are able to work, access education, and travel



5	Gender Equality	<p>122.43. Strengthen the protection of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people and work towards the full implementation of the current laws</p> <p>123.24. Enact consolidated laws addressing all types of sexual violence effectively, with provisions of no statutory limitation on rape and other sexual violence, adequate witness and victim protection mechanisms, compensation from state and measures to address special needs of girls below 16</p> <p>122.6. Amend the Domestic Violence Act, in particular to clarify the definition of sexual harm and broaden the definition of domestic violence to also include threats of violence, as well as include all types of physical harm</p> <p>122.9. Bring the laws on rape into compliance with international norms, particularly with regard to the legal definition of rape and the timeframe to file complaints</p> <p>122.11. Enact the draft law on sexual harassment in the workplace</p> <p>122.12. Consider adopting a national legislation on combating sexual harassment</p> <p>122.13. Bring rape laws in line with international standards and remove the 35-day limitation on lodging a complaint of rape with the police</p>
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121.7. Adopt a bill criminalizing harmful cultural practices, and abolish child, early and enforced marriage

122.42. Establish specific mechanisms for the investigation and punishment of possible cases of discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, particularly with regard to issues in relation to the administration

121.20. Step up efforts to eliminate gender inequity and implement the national strategy on ending child marriages

122.57. Ensure that law enforcement thoroughly investigates all claims of domestic violence, and that perpetrators are prosecuted

122.58. Facilitate complaints from victims of gender-based violence and their access to justice, prosecute and punish the perpetrators and protect the victims

122.59. Adopt effective measures for the protection of and assistance to victims of gender-based violence and ensure that all cases of gender-based violence are duly investigated and perpetrators prosecuted



		<p>122.34. Promote gender equality including through an awareness-raising programme to combat negative stereotyping against women</p> <p>121.21. Guarantee the necessary personal and material resources to protect victims of gender-based violence, especially in emergency situations and as it pertains to the effectiveness of protection orders</p> <p>122.32. Continue efforts to sanction discrimination and violence against women and ensure that there are adequate mechanisms for the provision of assistance and protection to women victims of crime</p> <p>122.7. Amend legislation on domestic violence to encompass all forms of sexual violence, including between partners and outside marriage, in addition to threats</p> <p>122.23. Increase awareness-raising campaigns on women's rights and the negative effects of gender-based violence</p> <p>122.45. Combat violence against women and guarantee equality of rights</p>
6	Clean Water and Sanitation	<p>122.87. Persevere in its efforts to combat poverty and facilitate access to water for rural populations</p>



7	Affordable and Clean Energy	
8	Decent Work and Economic Growth	<p>122.82. Ensure the freed bonded labourers' access to fertile land and their equal enjoyment of human rights, including the right to work and right to property, in line with the observations made by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights</p> <p>122.78. Ensure equal opportunities for women in the labour market</p> <p>124.1. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights</p> <p>124.18. Register refugees and provide documentation so they are able to work, access education, and travel</p> <p>122.80. Ensure implementation of legislation on the minimum wage in all sectors</p> <p>123.22. Ratify International Labour Organization Convention No. 87</p> <p>124.4. Consider ratifying International Labour Organization Convention No. 189</p> <p>122.85. Apply in its periodic development plans a policy on poverty reduction aimed at social and economic justice</p> <p>122.75. Redouble efforts towards providing more opportunities for women's active involvement in the economic and political spheres</p>



10	Reduced Inequality	<p>122.22. Enhance measures on protecting the rights of children, women and other vulnerable groups</p> <p>122.40. Work actively to abolish legal and factual discrimination based on ethnicity, gender and caste, inter alia, by developing effective and independent mechanisms for the implementation of the Caste-based Discrimination and Untouchability Act</p> <p>121.9. Strengthen the legislative and institutional framework for the promotion and protection of rights of indigenous peoples, in particular to ensure their full participation in society</p> <p>122.36. Put in place a concrete strategy for the comprehensive implementation of the 2011 Law on Discrimination Based on Caste and Untouchability</p> <p>122.20. Continue its implementation of the national plan of action on the provision of education for all, including for economically disadvantaged social groups</p> <p>122.33. Develop public policies for the effective implementation of the Law on discrimination based on caste and untouchability</p>
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122.37. Put in place an effective mechanism for addressing the reported multiple forms of discrimination against indigenous women in Nepal

121.17. Strengthen its efforts to effectively implement existing laws and policies to eliminate all forms of discrimination

121.18. Make increased efforts to truly bring an end to discrimination

122.2. Take necessary measures to ensure the guarantee in the Nepal's

Constitution of full equality between men and women with respect to the nationality of their children and in accordance with article 9 (2) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which Nepal has ratified

122.3. Ensure equality between men and women in its new Constitution as well as the right of all to be free from discrimination

122.35. Ensures full and effective implementation of the 2011 Caste-based Discrimination and Untouchability Act

121.16. Take the necessary steps to ensure that the new constitution is implemented while protecting human rights and thus ensuring its provisions on gender equality, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons, and minorities



		<p>122.39. Assess the implementation and effectiveness of laws aimed at ending and preventing all forms of discrimination, in particular against women and Dalits, and take concrete steps to translate anti-discrimination efforts into effective practice on the ground</p> <p>122.41. Take all necessary measures to ensure effective implementation of the Caste-based Discrimination and Untouchability Act of 2011 and to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women</p> <p>121.20. Step up efforts to eliminate gender inequity and implement the national strategy on ending child marriages</p>
	<p>16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere</p>	<p>123.16. Ratify and implement in the national legislation the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court</p> <p>122.6. Amend the Domestic Violence Act, in particular to clarify the definition of sexual harm and broaden the definition of domestic violence to also include threats of violence, as well as include all types of physical harm</p> <p>122.8. Develop a national action plan to end gender-based violence and to bring rape laws in line with international standards</p> <p>122.45. Combat violence against women and guarantee equality of rights</p>



		<p>122.9. Bring the laws on rape into compliance with international norms, particularly with regard to the legal definition of rape and the timeframe to file complaints</p>
	<p>16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children</p>	<p>122.29. Partner with States and organizations which have experience working with children affected by armed conflict to develop programmes designed to their need for rehabilitation and integration</p> <p>123.12. Consider ratifying the Palermo Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children</p> <p>124.3. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure</p> <p>121.8. Finalise the revision of child act in order to set up coordination mechanism related to cases of child victims trafficking</p> <p>122.22. Enhance measures on protecting the rights of children, women and other vulnerable groups</p> <p>121.7. Adopt a bill criminalizing harmful cultural practices, and abolish child, early and enforced marriage</p>



121.5. Intensify efforts to adopt a revised Children's Act that complies with international standards, including provisions on prohibition of all forms of violence against children, and to ensure sufficient budgetary resources to its implementation

121.6. Amend the existing Child Labour Act to include child labour in the informal sector within the purview of the law

123.29. Raise the age of criminal responsibility of children that currently stands at 10 years of age

122.19. Establish a special mechanism responsible for independent child rights monitoring

124.8. Set up an independent Commission for children and women

121.20. Step up efforts to eliminate gender inequity and implement the national strategy on ending child marriages

121.25. Make increased efforts to introduce and effectively carry out new measures to deal with human trafficking of women and children



		<p>122.47. Strengthen measures to combat violence against children, particularly with regard to the prevention of early and forced child marriages and child trafficking and in particular through awareness-raising campaigns among families</p> <p>122.51. Give specific attention to the implementation of the plan aimed at eliminating worst form of child labour by 2016 and all forms of child labour by 2020, including prohibiting child labour in the informal sector</p> <p>122.49. Enforce legislation prohibiting child labour, facilitate access to education for poor and disadvantaged children and reinforce labour inspections</p> <p>122.48. Take measures to enforce legislation prohibiting child labour and to facilitate access to education for all children, particularly the poor and disadvantaged</p> <p>122.50. Reinforce and protect the rights of children, in particular by eliminating child labour and facilitating access of poor children to education</p>
	<p>16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all</p>	<p>21.1. Continue to ensure the implementation of ratified human rights treaties</p> <p>123.1. Study the possibility of accepting the competence of the Committee against Torture</p>



		<p>1123.2. Study the possibility of the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture</p> <p>123.4. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture</p> <p>123.15. Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and incorporate its provisions into national legislation; and accede to the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Court</p> <p>124.2. Sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights</p> <p>124.5. Ratify the conventions on refugees and stateless persons</p> <p>122.28. Consider establishing a permanent inter-ministerial committee responsible for the implementation of its international human rights obligations, inter alia, for coordinating the drafting of the national reports to the treaty bodies</p> <p>121.2. Advance in the comprehensive implementation of the new Constitution, consistent with the protection of human rights</p> <p>122.43. Strengthen the protection of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people and work towards the full implementation of the current laws</p>
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122.72. Ensure the right to freedom of expression online/offline in law and in practice, including by decriminalizing defamation, and to investigate all cases of threats and attacks against journalists and human rights defenders

121.11. Amend its National Human Rights Commission Act in order to guarantee the independence and financial autonomy of this Commission

121.13. Ensure the effective functioning of the National Human Rights Commission of Nepal, including a representative approach to appointments

122.17. Strengthen its National Commissions, namely the National Women Commission, in order to implement the adopted policies

122.36. Put in place a concrete strategy for the comprehensive implementation of the 2011 Law on Discrimination Based on Caste and Untouchability

121.12. Enact relevant legislation to provide for necessary autonomy and independence of the National Human Rights Commission in accordance with the decision of the Supreme Court of Nepal

122.20. Continue its implementation of the national plan of action on the provision of education for all, including for economically disadvantaged social groups



	<p>16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels</p>	<p>121.10. Continue efforts to improve national mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights</p> <p>121.11. Amend its National Human Rights Commission Act in order to guarantee the independence and financial autonomy of this Commission</p> <p>121.13. Ensure the effective functioning of the National Human Rights Commission of Nepal, including a representative approach to appointments</p> <p>122.16. Ensure the independence and financial autonomy of the National Human Rights Commission</p>
	<p>16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels</p>	<p>122.76. Continue to advocate for the principle of equality between men and women in the decision making</p> <p>122.110. Include defenders of human rights of persons with disabilities in the decision-making process on education policies</p> <p>122.38. Ensure an inclusive dialogue with all Nepalese minority groups</p> <p>122.1. Consolidate the constitution building and democratization process by accommodating all sections of Nepal to enable broad-based ownership and participation</p>



		<p>121.9. Strengthen the legislative and institutional framework for the promotion and protection of rights of indigenous peoples, in particular to ensure their full participation in society</p> <p>122.65. Adopt measures to ensure the participation of women in the peace process, including the truth commissions</p> <p>121.10. Continue efforts to improve national mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights</p>
	<p>16.9 By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration</p>	<p>122.70. Implement measures to ensure that the rights to acquire, transfer and retain citizenship are extended equally to all women and their children</p> <p>122.68. Ensure that provisions in the revised Constitution guarantee the equal rights of women as well as their right to acquire, retain and transfer citizenship</p> <p>124.5. Ratify the conventions on refugees and stateless persons</p> <p>122.67. Amend the citizenship laws to allow citizenship through either parent</p> <p>123.23. Consider amending the Constitution to allow women to convey their citizenship to their children and foreign spouses on an equal basis with men</p>



	<p>16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements</p>	<p>124.7. Consider amending the Constitution to strike provisions that appear to curtail religious freedoms</p> <p>122.72. Ensure the right to freedom of expression online/offline in law and in practice, including by decriminalizing defamation, and to investigate all cases of threats and attacks against journalists and human rights defenders</p> <p>124.16. Eliminate the prohibition of conversion to another religion, which undermines freedom of religion</p> <p>122.74. Ensure that freedom of assemblies are guaranteed and lift all restrictions on peaceful protests</p>
	<p>16.a Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime</p>	<p>122.15. Ensure the effective functioning of the National Human Rights Commission in accordance with the Paris Principles, in particular by providing the Commission with required and adequate levels of funding as well as sufficient autonomy</p> <p>122.30. Seek enhanced international support for economic development and reconstruction of infrastructure destroyed due to the conflict and the devastating earthquakes</p>



121.14. Submit its overdue reports on the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

122.28. Consider establishing a permanent inter-ministerial committee responsible for the implementation of its international human rights obligations, inter alia, for coordinating the drafting of the national reports to the treaty bodies

123.27. Accept the requests to visit the country made by some special procedures, including the request made by the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence

124.13. Extend a standing invitation to special procedures

122.31. Continue cooperation with the United Nations system

122.26. Mobilise the efforts of the international community to provide effective assistance to Nepal in accordance with national priorities



	<p style="text-align: center;">16.b Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development</p>	<p>121.18. Make increased efforts to truly bring an end to discrimination</p> <p>122.2. Take necessary measures to ensure the guarantee in the Nepal’s Constitution of full equality between men and women with respect to the nationality of their children and in accordance with article 9 (2) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which Nepal has ratified</p> <p>122.35. Ensures full and effective implementation of the 2011 Caste-based Discrimination and Untouchability Act</p> <p>121.16. Take the necessary steps to ensure that the new constitution is implemented while protecting human rights and thus ensuring its provisions on gender equality, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons, and minorities</p> <p>122.55. Investigate all acts of discrimination against the Dalit community</p>
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17	Partnerships to achieve the Goal	<p>122.112. Collaborate with civil society, regional and global organisations to protect the rights of Nepalese migrant workers abroad</p> <p>122.114. Continue to engage its partners with the view to build capacity and mobilize resources in support of its development efforts and in fulfilling its human rights obligations</p> <p>122.26. Mobilise the efforts of the international community to provide effective assistance to Nepal in accordance with national priorities</p>
	17.9 Capacity-building	<p>122.114. Continue to engage its partners with the view to build capacity and mobilize resources in support of its development efforts and in fulfilling its human rights obligations</p>

16. Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)

The mobilization of CSOs on SDGs is very unique of Nepal. All civil society organizations and leaders came in common platform and founded *CSOs Forum on Sustainable Development in Nepal* called „*Nepal SDGs Forum*” 25 February, 2016 by 44 networks and now more 60 larger networks, organizations and national platform are the members of Nepal SDGs Forum. The main aim is to engage CSOs on sustainable development process in effective, accountable and systematic manner. Within SDGs Forum following organizations and networks are taking convener/coordination role for goal 1-17 and major groups and stakeholders. NGO Federation of Nepal is taking secretariat and leading the Nepal SDGs Forum.



Table 15: CSOs of Nepal

1. Senior Citizens	National Senior Citizen Federation (NASCIF)
2. LGBTIQ	Blue Diamond Society/ Federation of Sexual and Gender Minorities Nepal, (FSGMN)
3. Children	Children as Zones of Peace National Campaign (CZOP)
4. Youth	Association of Youth Organization of Nepal (AYON)/ Youth NGO Federation of Nepal/Youth Advocacy Nepal
5. Media	Federation of Nepali Journalists (FNJ)/Association of Community Radio Broadcasters Nepal (ACOR-AB),
6. Farmers	All Nepal Peasants' Federation (ANFA)
7. Women	Alliance Against Trafficking In Woman And Children In Nepal (AATWIN)
8. Indigenous	Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities (NEFIN)
9. Madhesi	Nepal Madhesh Foundation (NEMAF)
10. Dalit	Dalit NGO Federation/National Dalit Network/ Samata Foundation
11. Muslim	Nepal Muslim Women Welfare Society (NMWWS)
12. Cooperatives	National Cooperative Federation of Nepal/ Nepal Federation of Savings and Credit Cooperative Unions Ltd. (NEFSCUN)
13. Local Authorities	Municipal Association of Nepal (MuAN)/National Association of Rural Municipalities in Nepal (NARMIN)
14. Workers and Trade Unions	General Federation of Nepalese Trade Unions (GFONT)
15. Business and Industry	Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce & Industries (FNCCI)



17. Major Groups and Other Stakeholders

Table 16: Major Groups and Stakeholders in Nepal

Goals	Convener Organizations /Focal Organizations
GOAL 1: No Poverty	Rural Reconstruction of Nepal (RRN)
GOAL 2: Zero Hunger	Food First Information and Action Network (FIAN)and All Nepal Peasants' Federation (ANFA)
GOAL 3: Good Health and Well-being	Resource Centre For Primary Health Care / Right Here Right Now (RHRN) Platform
GOAL 4: Quality Education	National Campaign on Education (NCE) Nepal
GOAL 5: Gender Equality	Beyond Beijing Committee (BBC) / Alliance Against Trafficking In Woman And Children In Nepal (AATWIN)
GOAL 6: Clean Water and Sanitation	Federation of Drinking Water and Sanitation Users Nepal (FEDWASUN)
GOAL 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	Clean Energy Nepal (CEN)
GOAL 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth	National Federation of the Disabled- Nepal (NFDN)
GOAL 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	National Federation of Irrigation Water User's Association, Nepal (NFIWUAN)
GOAL 10: Reduced Inequality	Dalit NGO Federation (DNF)
GOAL 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	National Society for Earthquake Technology - Nepal (NSET)
GOAL 12: Responsible Consumption and Production	Forum for Protection of Consumer Rights
GOAL 13: Climate Action	Climate Action Network (CAN)
GOAL 14: Life under Water	Mountain Partnership



GOAL 15: Life on Land	Federation of community Forestry Users Nepal (FECOFUN)
GOAL 16: Peace and Justice Strong Institutions	NGO Federation of Nepal (NFN)
GOAL 17: Partnerships to achieve the Goal	NGO Federation of Nepal (NFN)

18. Expert Analyses on SDG 16

Sustainable Development Goals and Participation of Civil Society Organizations

Gopal Lamsal, Immediate President, NGO Federation of Nepal

CSOs in Nepal have significantly contributed to Nepal’s socio-political and economic development. It is also very important driving force for implementing and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). CSOs in Nepal have expressed their commitment to implement the SDGs successfully by adopting the five principles of development justice: *redistributive justice, economic justice, social justice, environmental justice and accountability to the people* (Joint Declaration of Nepali CSOs, 2015).

CSOs in Nepal have jointly formed a common platform called “Nepal SDGs Forum” led by NGO Federation of Nepal to engage collectively in implementation of SDGs processes. The objective of the Forum is to exchange learning and foster collective action for SDG implementation among CSOs. Nepal SDGs Forum now has provincial chapters as well. We intend to review provincial level plans and policies from the SDG standpoint. We are also going to pick local governments for review. There is tremendous interest in incorporating the SDGs at local level. We also need an accounting mechanism at the local level to ensure that the SDGs are properly implemented.

As we know, CSOs represent the voice of major groups and the under-privilege communities and marginalized sector. This makes CSOs to be inevitable partners for ensuring SDGs strategies and targets for safeguarding accountability in SDG implementation. CSOs being working in the grassroots level, understand the local contexts and issues so they can make



suitable recommendations for intervention of SDGs accordingly. They, therefore, represent themselves as a part of multi-stakeholder bodies and thematic committees for public consultation on important issues for SDGs planning and its effective implementation.

For the effective SDGs implementation requires engagement of different stakeholders, including CSOs, academia, think tanks, the private sector as well as human rights organizations and CSOs require enabling environment, adequate space and mechanisms from the government. CSOs are not only advocate for strengthen people's basic political rights but also works to create better policies to generate better development outcomes.

The government of Nepal has tried to adopt multi-stakeholder approaches to encourage and facilitate partnerships between government and non-government actors. Under the same approach government has formed two high level committees and nine thematic committees to implement the SDGs by 2030. The above mention committees are responsible for providing oversight and political direction in implementing and coordinating SDG-related work, through incorporating SDGs into the government plans, policies and budgets.

The participation of CSOs is not provisioned in the national steering committees. It is not mandatory in the Thematic Committees either, and is left to the discretion of the coordinator but recently National planning commission has been invited to CSOs in the thematic committees meeting so let's hope to include mandatory in all structures. The exclusion of CSOs from state-led structures tends to limit their ability to represent issues of the marginalized and minority groups. Also the multi-stakeholder entities are heavily dominated by the government. So, we urge the government for effective partnership approach being implemented at all structures and at all levels.

Key challenges:

In the federal context, the central government's role is to formulate policies and to generate resources and ideas. Implementing the policies and the ideas is the responsibility of the provincial and local governments. The problem is that although there are national structures for implementing the SDGs, it is not clear how they link with the other two tiers of government. What is the



provincial structure for implementing the SDGs? How should we integrate the SDGs in the local governments? How should we inject SDGs in local planning and budgeting process? There has been inadequate localization—with very little knowledge about the SDGs among the local government representatives.

The provincial governments that are being formed need to have a SDGs support mechanism like federal one. There should be a planning toolkit and a checklist for provincial and local governments to integrate the SDGs in their programmes and policies. But, the important thing here is uniformity. As such, we have requested the National Planning Commission to put together a template and guidelines for provincial and local level structures for implementing the SDGs. This will ensure consistency and uniformity across the country.

Another challenge is availability of data, data sources and disaggregated data. In 2011 as part of the census national data was collected since then no initiation has been taken to generate new data. This causes to undertake planning based on outdated data. Besides some national data, there is no proper data at the provincial and local levels. The principle of ‘leave no one behind’ requires disaggregated data be generated for all sectors and at all levels.

Effectively implementation of the SDGs and achieving desired results require good preparation on multiple initiations, such as awareness, ownership, and policy coherence, and localization, integration of SDGs into development plans, resource mobilization and establishment of a system for monitoring. In the past two years we have witnessed the government of Nepal have taken numerous initiatives in preparing for and implementing the SDGs. The most notable efforts have been in the areas of raising awareness and establishing high-level institutional mechanisms. It is high time for government of Nepal to create appropriate mechanism at the provincial and local levels which provide ample space for all stakeholders, including the CSOs to contribute on timely implementation of these global goals.

Issues and concerns of CSOs of the HLPF:

The civil society organizations from all over the globe have been demanding HLPF reforms and it becomes all the more important looking at the end of



the 1st cycle of the four years of HLPF in 2019 and the special review by the UN member state of the HLPF to be taken place during the UNGA on September 23-24, 2019. There are many issues and concerns of CSOs to high level political forum on its mandates and functioning of HLPF.

A common critique of the HLPF by civil society is that it is a very state-led and state-centered process, the role played by civil society and other key stakeholders in the HLPF is currently a very limited one, despite the clear commitment of the Agenda 2030 to a multi-stakeholder approach to monitoring and implementation.

Most national delegations attending the HLPF do not include CSO representatives. Where they do involve CSO representatives, these individuals are allowed approximately two minutes to comment publicly on the VNRs produced by governments. The growing number of high-quality, CSO Shadow Reports produced in parallel to the VNRs are given no official status of any kind as part of the HLPF, and cannot be uploaded on the UN website.

A major outcome of the annual HLPF is the publication of an official “Inter-Ministerial Declaration” that reflects some of the current issues and priorities identified by the Member States linked to the monitoring and implementation of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.. Unfortunately civil society and other stakeholders are only given a very limited opportunity to provide input into this Declaration and generally react to its publication by issuing their own official response.

Fortunately, UN Member States have committed themselves to carrying out an official review of the HLPF in September 2019. Over the coming year, broader civil society must engage in intensive advocacy aimed at governments and other key actors. They must ensure that this planned review goes well beyond a superficial reflection process and that a range of fundamental and necessary HLPF reform proposals and policy changes are generated that will be implemented over the next few years.

When UN Member States review the HLPF in September 2018, the focus of the review should be multi-level and include the national, regional and global levels of the HLPF cycle. This will mean that Member States should review : (i) the Voluntary National Review processes, (ii) the regional level peer



review processes which take place through the UN's Regional Sustainable Development Forums and (iii) the global level HLPF annual peer review system that takes place in New York every July.

Although all levels of the HLPF cycle are equally important, particular attention should be paid to the VNR process in order to ensure that it becomes a national and locally- owned process. With this objective in mind, governments should be required to present draft VNRs for debate and approval by national parliaments and by the official multi-stakeholder Sustainable Development Forum before it is submitted at a global level to the HLPF.

At the regional level, civil society should be properly resourced to organize itself across national and sub- regional boundaries. Multi-annual funding should be provided to resource permanent secretariats for the new Regional Civil Society Engagement Mechanisms (RCEMs) being established in each region. Resources should also be provided under Goal 17 of the Agenda 2030 to engage in CSO capacity development at a regional level. Regional exchange and learning hubs should be established involving diverse stakeholders to promote more effective Agenda 2030 monitoring and implementation across each region.

At a global level the HLPF should create a “ civil society forum” similar to the existing “ Business Forum” where CSOs can come together to debate issues and agree positions linked to the monitoring and implementation of the Agenda 2030. CSO Shadow Reports linked to VNRs should be given a formal status by the UN and a dedicated website linked directly to the UN website should be provided where these parallel reports can be uploaded.

The draft Ministerial Declaration adopted at the end of each HLPF should be much more “action- oriented”. It should be shared with other stakeholders in advance of its publication. These stakeholders should have the right to request that certain elements of the Declaration be amended or re-written before final adoption.

There should be a clear focus each year during the HLPF on involving all stakeholders in fulfilling its mandate to. Review progress with implementing Goal 17 (Means of Implementation) of the Agenda 2030. This should particularly include issues of Financing for Sustainable Development, Multi-



Stakeholder Partnerships and the Capacity Development of stakeholders. Spaces should be created within the HLPF for mutual exchange and learning to take place amongst governments, and between governments and other stakeholders including civil society, the private sector, trade unions, academia etc.

In conclusion, the official review by UN Member States of the HLPF will take place during the UNGA in 2019, on Sept 23rd & 24th. In the meantime, civil society must be extremely proactive in carrying out necessary advocacy with national governments and other key actors globally. The focus of this advocacy must be to ensure that the review results in a reformed HLPF which will allow for much more meaningful and effective participation by civil society in the monitoring and implementation of the Agenda 2030 globally.

Social inclusion and meaningful participation of Dalits yet to be realized by SDGs process in Nepal

Bhakta Bishwakarma, National Acting President, Dalit NGO Federation (DNF)

1. Background:

“Leave No One Behind” is known as an overarching goal of overall sustainable development which provides enormous optimism and hopes and encourages coming forefront to those who are lacking behind not even decades but centuries in every sphere of life. The constitution of Nepal ensures de jure equality and prohibits untouchability and discrimination based on caste and recognizes such practice as an offense punishable by law however; inequalities, discriminations, and segregations are rampant.

History shows that Nepal’s development achievements have suffered from exclusion and vulnerability. Nepal Social Inclusion Survey (NSIS), 2013 conducted by Tribhuvan University, Department of Sociology/Anthropology shows that 60.7% Hill Dalit and 11.7% Madhesi Dalit have experienced denial in entry into temples during the last five years. Likewise, 84.5% Hill



Dalit and 65.4% Madhesi Dalit were not allowed to enter into private houses. Approximately 42% of Dalits fall below the poverty line, which is a 17% point higher than that of the national average (25.2%). An average per capita consumption in Nepal is 34,187, yet Madhesi Dalits are 23,106, followed by Hill Dalit 25,298 per annum. The Dalits' literacy rate (6 years and above) is 52.4% and 34.5% for Tarai/Madhesi Dalit whereas national average is 65.9% which clearly indicates the disparity and difference.

The political participation of Dalit, although improved, is still not proportional as the constitution says. Only 6.5% of Dalit representatives are at the parliament, less than half of what it should be - 13.8%. Only 32 (5.83%) seats are secured by Dalit out of 550 seats at provincial level. The federal cabinet has only one (4%) Minister from Dalit community out of 24 Ministers where no any in provincial level. Although at the local levels 6567 out of 6742 are Dalit women are elected since last election which is a good sign, however; their capacity for effective representation is still limited.

1. Current Country Status (CSOs engagement, government's efforts and progress)

Nepal, being a LDC and LLDC country coming cross decade long arms conflict and prolonged political transition, SDGs can be an opportunity for inclusive development which has to capitalize carefully. Nepal Has already begun making its national plans, programs and annual budgets including 15th Periodic National Development Plan (2019/020-2023-024) in-lining with SDGs though there are enormous works need to be done for ensuring effective implementation of SDGs in the grounds. NPC has prepared and published a SDGs status and Road Map (2016-2030) setting 489 national indicators for achieving SDGs in an effective manner. Nepal is planning for second Voluntary National Report VNR 2020 where the issues of marginalized and excluded communities need to be incorporated.

As being an active member of Nepal civil society SDGs forum, Dalit NGO Federation (DNF) is engaging actively and created a platform of Dalit civil society for SDGs. The forum is struggling with the lack of adequate financial and technical resources to smooth implementation of the programs. The government of Nepal formed various structures including a high-level steering committee and the committees for implementation, coordinating and monitoring at various levels even though the government does not



envision or considers the participation of Dalits in those structures. National Planning Commission (NPC), a lead agency for SDGs has created numbers of committees and platforms that neglected the participation of Dalits in its entire process. So, issue of inclusion and participation of Dalits in multi-sectoral structures is a major concern.

Though four years have already passed of adoption of SDGs there are huge gaps and lack of awareness at the local level which is hindering towards integrated development of Dalit and marginalized people. Moreover, there is a lack or no disaggregated data for monitoring the implementation of SDGs as Dalit perspective.

2. Identification of major gaps:

Lack of participatory institutions, no focused (Targeted) program with adequate budgets and effective monitoring mechanisms maintaining disaggregated data would be the major challenges and gaps in achieving SDGs effectively.

3. Opportunities and Challenges:

There are no coordinated efforts between and among multi-stakeholders including all three levels of governments, private sectors and civil society in planning, budgeting, implementation and monitoring which directly reflects in Dalit sectors as well. Lack of adequate knowledge, understanding, skills, and capacity at local governments which are the driving force of SDGs implementation is major challenge for effective implementation of SDGs whereas Dalit CSOs are also suffering from same problem. Unavailability of adequate financial and technical resources along with facts and figures at local level is another great challenge for better localization of SDGs in Nepal.

4. Recommendations:

Considering all the given facts, the following actions can be taken as a way forward:

- Establish an equitable approach to implementing all 17 goals and targets, placing foremost the needs of the poorest, most excluded and vulnerable people.



- Secure equal access, to basic services, the right to own land and property and financial services ensuring rights of education, health, water and sanitation for reducing the gaps between Dalit and non-Dalit communities.
- Recognize that extreme poverty and inequality are the key hindrances to economic growth of Dalit and Nepal as a whole.
- Realize caste-based discrimination and untouchability as one of the key obstacles for uplifting Dalits' particular and equitable development in Nepal in general.
- Ensure targeted plans, policies, and programs allocating adequate budget for Dalits and other marginalized so that no one will be left behind.
- Initiate adequate affirmative action policies and implement universal appropriate social protection measures to Dalits.
- Protect women, girls, and people with disabilities of the marginalized groups as they are the most vulnerable.
- Ensure the availability of high-quality, timely and disaggregated data to ensure monitoring of progress for marginalized groups.
- Promote access to justice, rule of law proper adjudication against the case of caste-based discrimination and untouchability and eliminate caste and descent-based discrimination by 2030
- Make Dalit friendly SDGs platform created by the government, assess achievements and produce a yearly status report against goals and targets set by the government.

5. Conclusion:

Though four years has already been passed in the adoption of SDGs Agendas 2030 however; the level of understanding and awareness in the provincial and local level is limited and negligible so there is high need of awareness-raising about SDGs and series of discussions, policy dialogues, planning, budgeting in line with SDGs should be strategically initiated and enhanced. Localization of SDGs can only be succeeded if we could collaborate and



mobilize state and non-state actors, especially in local level. Thematic CSOs' networks and alliances should also be strengthened and better coordinated.

All three (Federal, provincial and local) level governments have to produce disaggregated reliable and updated data collaborating CSOs and maintain database systems as public domain. A national census is going to be held in 2022 for having demographic and socio-economic statistics that need to be more transparent, reliable and participatory for reflecting accurate status of all the marginalized populations. All the state and non-state actors including all three levels of governments, private sectors, and the civil society should be aware that the SDGs will not be achieved without localizing into local levels implementing Dalit and marginalized people targeted program.

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3. <http://sdg.npc.gov.np/>
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Equality and Prosperity in Nepal

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1. Global Scenario of Inequality

Globally, the gap between the richest and poorest has reached extreme levels, and is growing rapidly. The richest 1% now has more wealth than the rest of humanity, and in 2017 they received 82 % of the global increase in wealth. In the same year, the poorest half of the world's population saw no increase in their wealth at all.

There is also a broad consensus, based on a growing body of evidence, that extreme inequality hinders economic growth¹ and poverty reduction. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has estimated that growth could have lifted 240 million more people out of extreme poverty in Southeast Asia between 1990 and 2010, if growth had not been accompanied by growing economic inequality.² It has also been estimated that tackling gender inequality could add \$12 trillion to the global economy by 2025.³ Extreme inequality also corrupts politics, giving the richest and most powerful undue influence over policy-making, so they can skew it in their own favour.

1 See for example:

Dabla-Norris, E., et al. (2015) 'Causes and consequences of income inequality: A global perspective',

<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/sdn/2015/sdn1513.pdf>

2 Asian Development Outlook 2012: Confronting Rising Inequality in Asia, <https://www.adb.org/publications/asian-development-outlook-2012-confronting-rising-inequality-asia> (pg. 41)

ADB calculations based on 11 countries where comparable data was available, which include the People's Republic of China (PRC), India, and Indonesia that hold 82% of Asia's population

3 How advancing women's equality can add \$12 trillion to global growth

<https://www.mckinsey.com/global-themes/employment-and-growth/how-advancing-womens-equality-can-add-12-trillion-to-global-growth>

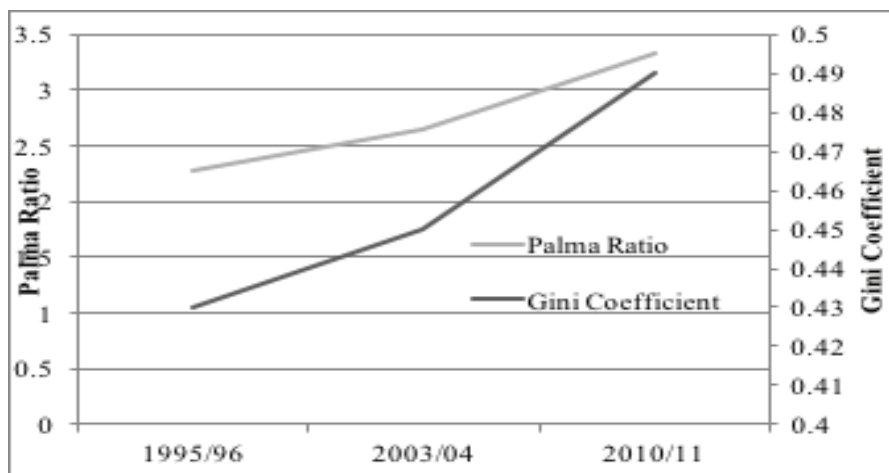


2. Nepal's Scenario of Inequality

More than 8.1 million Nepalese live in poverty. Women and girls are more likely to be poor despite the significant contribution they make to the economy, especially through unpaid care and household work. More than one third of Nepal's children under 5 are stunted, and 10 % suffer wasting due to acute malnutrition.⁴ Without a concerted effort to tackle inequality and pursue policies that benefit the many rather than the richest few, the poorest and most marginalised Nepalis will continue to be excluded from progress. Trends in income and wealth tell a clear story about the gap between the rich and poor in Nepal; economic inequality is extreme and growing.

In 2010/11, **Nepal had one of the highest income ginis in the world, at 49.42%**, and the level of income disparity increased considerably in the preceding fifteen years. The Palma ratio, which compares the income share of the top 10 % and the bottom 40 %, shows a similar trend. **Today, the income of the richest 10% of Nepalis is more than three times that of the poorest 40%.**

Figure 1: Gini Coefficient and Palma Ratio



Source: Computed based on Nepal Living Standard Survey Data Sets from 1995/96 to 2011/11.

4 <https://phpnepal.org.np/publication/current-issue/recently-released/120-key-indicators-of-nepal-demographic-and-health-survey-2016>



In fact, in the five years leading up to 2010/11, only the richest fifth of Nepal's population saw their income share increase. The income share decreased for everyone else. This is hardly surprising when we consider the scale of the wage divide between top earners and the rest. **In Nepal, top bank executives earn more than 100 times the salary of an average worker.**

There are also significant geographical divides in income. Between 1995/96 and 2010/11 the average income in urban areas was consistently more than double that of rural areas, and the Mountain and Tarai regions also have lower average per capita incomes than Hills.⁵ These low-income areas have higher poverty levels, less infrastructure and services, and are home to more ethnic minorities. They are places where economic and horizontal inequalities combine to hold poor and marginalised groups further back.

Inequality of wealth is also substantial in Nepal, and the wealth gini is significantly higher than the income gini at 0.74 (per capita), underlining how money is trickling upwards over time. **The richest 10% of Nepal's population have more than 26 times the wealth of the poorest 40%.**

The scale of wealth inequality becomes even more extreme when we look at the very richest individuals. The richest person in Nepal, saw his net worth rise by USD 200 million last year. This represented a 14.5 % rise from 2017, taking his total net worth to USD 1.5 billion.⁶ **The 2017-18 rise in richest person's wealth could pay more than half of Nepal's spending on social protection. It would also take a poor Nepali more than 100,000 years to earn this amount.**

Land inequality is the oldest and most fundamental type of wealth inequality. More than 66 % of the population depend on land for their livelihood in Nepal,

5 Ecologically the country is divided into three regions, running east to west. – Mountain, Hill and Terai (Plains). The Mountain Region : The altitude ranges from 4877 meters to 8848 meters above the sea level. According to the 2011 census, the region accommodates 6.73 percent of the total population

It lies between the altitudes of 610 meters above the sea level and 4876 meters. Share of population of this region is 43.1 percent. The Terai, forms a low flat land (plain). It accommodates 50.27 percent of population in 2011

6 <http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2018-03-08/chaudharys-fortune-rises-by-200-million.html>.



yet land is concentrated in the hands of a rich minority. **The wealthiest 7% of households own around 31 % of agricultural land.**⁷ More than half of Nepali farmers own less than 0.5 hectare of land,⁸ and 29 % of the population do not own any land at all. **Women work long hours on agricultural land, yet 81 % are landless.** Minorities are also less likely to own land, with landlessness as high as 44 % among Dalits in the Tarai.⁹ Despite repeated election promises, Nepal is still waiting for much-needed land reform that will redistribute the country's most significant asset.

Economic inequality in turn impacts on life chances. A poor child in Nepal is nearly three times more likely to die before they are five than a rich child. Half of the poorest women in Nepal have no education at all, compared to one in a hundred of the richest men.¹⁰

3. Gender inequality in Nepal

In Nepal, patriarchal norms are deep-rooted and reinforced by laws and institutions that are skewed against women and girls. Early marriage still exists despite strong evidence that it damages life chances,¹¹ and men hold an overwhelming majority of positions in legal institutions affecting women's access to justice.

Gender compounds the impact of economic inequality. A rich woman is four times more likely to have gone to school than a poor woman, whilst a rich

7 Fit for Purpose Land Administration Strategy 2018, A country level implementation strategy by Ministry of Agriculture, Land Management and Cooperatives, Kathmandu, Nepal Community Self Reliance Centre, Kathmandu, Nepal UN-Habitat, Nepal Country Office, Kathmandu, Nepal

8 CBS, 2011, Nepal Living Standard Survey: Statically Report Volume Two, National Planning Commission.

9 Dalit's population in Nepal is 13.1% according the Population Census of 2011.

10 Figures from the Nepal 2016 DHS Survey, tables 8.3, 3.3.1. and 3.3.2 Under five mortality for the poorest quintile is 62 deaths per 1000, compared to 24 deaths per 1000 for the richest quintile. 46.9% of women in the poorest quintile have not gone to school, compared to 12 % of the richest quintile of women and 1% of the richest quintile of men. <https://dhsprogram.com/publications/publication-FR336-DHS-Final-Reports.cfm>

11 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women_in_Nepal



man is fifty times more likely to have gone to school.¹²

Progressive laws are also often poorly implemented or ignored in practice. For example, there are indications that tax exemptions to incentivise land ownership among women are being abused by male relatives buying land in their name.

Illegal and harmful practices are also still common in some areas of Nepal, and put the lives of women and girls at risk. *Chaupadi*, for example, sees girls confined to cow sheds or separate shacks during menstruation. Despite a ban by the Supreme Court, this practice continues, and in Accham district alone 12 women died over ten years as a result.¹³ There is also evidence of caste-based discrimination in public hospitals, with Dalit women receiving poor care during childbirth (NHRC, 2017). A fundamental shift is needed to improve the economic, political and social status of women, or another generation of women and girls are destined to remain poor.

4. Drivers of Inequality

Nepal does very poorly in Oxfam's and Development Finance's Commitment to Inequality Index (CRI) which ranks countries on policies to tackle inequality. Nepal comes 138th out of 157 countries¹⁴. Income disparities and unequal access to assets are driving greater inequality in Nepal, and gender inequality is compounding and compounded by economic inequality. There are also two other fundamental drivers of inequality that must be taken into account.

Firstly, Nepal's economic system is based on an outdated ideology. The menu of neoliberal imposed by the IMF and World Bank's structural adjustment programs in the 1980s, has seen state investment and regulation replaced by a market-oriented economic policy regime.

12 Figures from the Nepal 2016 DHS Survey, tables 3.3.1. and 3.3.2 46.9% of women in the poorest quintile have not gone to school, compared to 1% of the richest quintile of men. <https://dhsprogram.com/publications/publication-FR336-DHS-Final-Reports.cfm>

13 <https://www.kantipurdaily.com/news/2018/04/28/152488301254652423.html>

14 Oxfam and Development Finance International (2018) Commitment to Reducing Inequality Index Oxfam Oxford



Without state intervention, such market reforms can fuel inequality by concentrating wealth and power in the hands of the few.

Neoliberal policies have also driven cuts to public spending, and increased privatisation in Nepal. Thirty State-Owned Enterprises (SEOs) have been privatized since 1992, and despite many of them being profitable when sold, today only 11 are still in operation, and just five of those are in profit.¹⁵ According to the Annual Review of Public Enterprises 2014 published by the Ministry of Finance, putting these businesses in private hands has cost the government NPR 4.93 billion over the last several years. Privatization also aggravated unemployment in Nepal, due to the haphazard way in which thousands of people instantly lost their jobs.

Public services like health and education have also seen increased privatization and commercialisation in Nepal. Such reforms have created a two-tier system, where the rich pay for and support private services, while public sector services are starved of funding and political support. Yet these public services are the only option for those with low incomes. Privatization fuels inequality, and poor women and girls, along with minorities, pay the highest price.

Secondly, the cycle of political capture is another significant driver of inequality. When money and power are concentrated into the hands of the few, these elites can exercise excessive influence that undermines institutions and skews policy-making in their favour. There is no natural incentive for the richest companies and individuals to support higher taxes and greater transparency for example. Between 1990 and 2008, Nepal was the sixth top exporter of illicit financial flows among Least Developed Countries. This resulted in losses of US\$9.1 bn, which is nearly eight times the amount Nepal received in ODA in that period (UNDP, 2011).

Crony capitalism has flourished in Nepal, under regressive monetary and fiscal policy. There has been a significant accumulation of trade based wealth, as carteling has thrived in the absence of sufficient regulation, and as the nexus between political elites and unethical businesses has been facilitated

15 State Owned Enterprises Information 2072: Yellow Book [Nepali version], p.23



by highly corrupt bureaucratic apparatus¹⁶.

Economic and power inequality is a fertile breeding ground for corruption, and this further compounds inequality of power. Nepal is one of the most corrupt states in the world; in 2017 it ranked 122 of 180 countries on the Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI). Increasingly, trends are being seen that political candidates at all levels are selected on the basis of their wealth¹⁷, and there has been a failure to crack down on illegal wealth. Deliberate and concerted action is needed to counteract political capture in Nepal, so the needs of the many are prioritised over the interests of a powerful few.

5. Disasters that hit the poor and minorities hardest

Nepal is also one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world, ranking 11th in the world in terms of earthquake risk, and 20th in terms of disasters. Between 2011 and 2015, more than twelve thousand people were reported dead, and a further 26,453 injured as a result of natural disasters. The estimated economic loss to Nepal in this period was \$ 7.8 billion.¹⁸

Such disasters exacerbate and compound existing inequalities and vulnerabilities; the poorest people are more likely to suffer death, injury, and damage to property, as they live in more hazard-exposed areas and are less able to invest in risk-reducing measures. Women and children are 14 times more likely to die than men during a disaster,¹⁹ and in the aftermath, women are more likely to become victims of domestic and sexual violence and less likely to receive help. Minorities face the same challenges, for example there is evidence that *Dalits* were willfully neglected by relief workers distributing

16 VAT and other tax scandals, attempts of tax evasions in billions of Rs, institutionalization of rent seeking practices in contracts and other public service delivery system and flourishing of parallel economy as indicated above are the best examples of this.

17 <http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com / 2017/11/14>.

18 http://neoc.gov.np/uploads/news/file/Seven%20year%20data_20180427010733.pdf

19 <http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/gender/Gender%20and%20Environment/PB3-AP-Gender-and-disaster-risk-reduction.pdf>



emergency supplies during the April 2015 earthquake²⁰. By contrast, there are reports that members of higher castes with political connections use their influence to get limited resources for themselves.

6. Policies to tackle inequality

6.1 Taxes to level the playing field

The fiscal system is one of the most important tools that any government has to tackle inequality. Progressive taxation and proper enforcement can redistribute resources and raise money to invest in inequality-busting services. However, Nepal's tax system is characterised by low tax rates and tariffs, alongside significant tax exemptions and regressive taxes.

The upper income tax rates for individuals, the corporate sector, and banking and financial institutions are low, at 15, 25 and 30 % respectively. There are also exemptions and concessions for some industries; for example the 2018 budget gave special industries, including manufacturing, forestry and mineral extraction a 15 % applicable tax rate rather than the full 25 %.²¹ Tariff rates are also low, and were reduced further as part of fulfilling membership conditions of the WTO when Nepal joined in 2004. These factors limit the tax contribution of top earners and profitable companies, and reduces the country's ability to tackle inequality.

Despite efforts to expand the tax base, there are also gaps in tax collection, and Nepal's tax to GDP ratio is still below the 20 % ratio recommended by the United Nations (UN) as a minimum level to meet development goals. One study has found that **Nepal lost Rs. 3.44 bn in unpaid taxes during the first four months of the 2011/12 fiscal year**. Another report found that as many as 385 firms were engaged in producing counterfeit VAT bills in order to evade taxes during the same period, the majority being the big corporate houses of Nepal

20 22. Amnesty International. *Nepal, Earthquake Recovery Must Safeguard Human Rights*. 1 June 2015. <<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/ASA31/1753/2015/en/>>.

21 <https://ca.studentsnepal.com/income-tax-rates-nepal-20732074-individual-couple/>.



(Pyakurel et al, 2013).²²

Nepal's tax system also needs to be more progressive. While the proportion of direct taxes has risen, indirect taxes still account for more than two thirds (68.4%) of Nepal's total tax revenue. VAT (in the form of sales tax before 1995) has increased as a share of commodities and services from 31.3 % in 1989/90 to 47 % in 2014/15. This is a regressive tax that places a disproportionate burden on the poorest in society. While some essential commodities and services have been exempted, there is evidence that poor households are still paying a significant amount in indirect taxes (MoF, 2016, Table 5 in the main report).

Nepal is also missing the opportunity to implement taxes that could increase revenue, while also making the tax system more progressive, such as property and wealth taxes. Nepal did have a wealth tax in the early 1990s, but this was abolished after years of opposition from industry and business underlining how political capture can stand in the way of progressive reform.

6.2 Public spending

Spending on public services and other social programmes is a key tool for any government in tackling both poverty and inequality. In recent years Nepal has made an effort to increase spending, and to address cuts that were enforced under structural adjustment. There has been some considerable success, with spending as a share of GDP increasing from 17.4 in 2001/02 to 31.7 % in 2016/17.

However, there is evidence that some sectors crucial to tackling poverty and inequality remain underfunded. Health spending fell from 7.8 % of spending in 2011/12, to just 4.7 % in 2016/17, and education spending dropped from 18.3 to 11.4 % in the same period. While spending on pensions and other social security measures related activities have increased, reaching Rs. 60.6 billion in 2014/15, more than two thirds of the spending that year was due to retirement benefits to civil servants meaning this spike did not benefit the wider population.

²² Noticeably, evasion of VAT in a mammoth scale by the big business houses only a few years back have been reported by the media with confession by the concerned authorities. But the action or punishment is still awaited more so in a very unstable political environment with diverse interests.



6.3 Public services that tackle inequality

There is strong evidence that free public health and education systems play an important role in reducing economic inequality.²³ Education also boosts life chances, future wages, and combats gender inequality by giving women and girls more control over their lives.

While Nepal has seen significant progress in educational attainment, there is more to do. Today, 17 % of children that enter grade 1 do not complete the primary cycle, and less than one third reach grade 10 (DoE, 2016). Only six % of the poorest girls complete primary school²⁴. Access to education is limited by geographical constraints, poor infrastructure, social and cultural norms, and a lack of well-trained teachers that are necessary to ensure quality education. Poor children are also excluded due to the persistence of out of pocket payments. Evidence shows that families bear 56.6 % of the total cost of education. Despite the policy of free primary education, families pay more than one third of the primary education costs due to informal fees and charges for learning materials and uniforms²⁵.

Girls, and those living in rural areas are most likely to miss out on a quality education in Nepal. The literacy rate is 20 % lower among girls than boys, and this is greater in rural areas. Girls are also more likely to be put to work, or to be married off young; this creates a vicious cycle, as girls with higher levels of education are significantly less likely to marry under 18. The gender gap in school enrolment is widest in the poorest and second poorest wealth quintiles, and is non-existent in the richest quintile showing that gender inequalities are more pronounced for those of lower economic status. Effectively economic and gender inequality are combining to keep the poorest girls out of education in Nepal.

Recently the government of Nepal has committed to Universal Health

23 S. Gupta, M. Verhoeven and E.R. Tiongson (2003) „Public Spending on Health Care and the Poor“, *Health Economics* 12 (8): 685–696, <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/hec.759/abstract>

24 Figures from the Nepal 2016 DHS Survey, table 3.3.1. <https://dhsprogram.com/publications/publication-FR336-DHS-Final-Reports.cfm>

25 Now these structures have been merged as basic education by the Government of Nepal.



Coverage, however today more than one third of population has no easy access to health care. Too many health facilities in Nepal lack sufficient free medicines, and there is a substantial shortage of trained staff. **There is just one doctor for every 1,734 people in Nepal**,²⁶ and the government estimates that they need more than eleven thousand more health workers to meet the needs of the whole population. Poor communities, minorities, and those living in more remote areas of the country are more likely to be excluded or unable to access services.

Again, women are disproportionately affected; in 2016/17 an estimated 277,344 pregnant women had unsafe deliveries, and 15,760 women delivered without a skilled health attendant. This is putting the lives of women and children on the line. Nepal's maternal mortality ratio is 59 per 100,000 live births and the infant mortality rate is 622 (MoH, New ERA, and ICF 2017). Only 30% of the poorest women give birth in a health facility, compared to 90% of the richest women²⁷.

Given these significant challenges, it is important that the government invests in the right policies. This means scaling up free public health and education systems, that can meet the rights of every Nepali and fight inequality. Public services are vital for the poorest- less than 2% of the poorest mothers give birth in a private hospital, compared to 21% of the richest mothers.²⁸ However, there are worrying signs of increased commercialization and privatisation of health and education, and concerns that the health insurance remains unaffordable for the poorest people. Such trends risk making inequality worst, and pricing the poorest out of life-saving and life-changing services.

6.4 Work and wages

Paid work is the main way for the majority of people to make a living, provide for their basic needs, and improve their future life chances. Therefore, tackling inequality requires interventions to ensure sufficient, safe work and decent wages for everyone.

²⁶ <http://graphnepal.com/number-of-doctors-in-nepal/>.

²⁷ Figures from the Nepal 2016 DHS Survey, table <https://dhsprogram.com/publications/publication-FR336-DHS-Final-Reports.cfm>

²⁸ Figures from the Nepal 2016 DHS Survey, table 9.7 <https://dhsprogram.com/publications/publication-FR336-DHS-Final-Reports.cfm>



More than 500,000 people enter the labour force each year in Nepal, but employment opportunities are limited and 80 % of these people leave to seek employment abroad. For those who stay, too many face insecure jobs and underemployment. 31.8 % of Nepali labourers work less than 40 hours per week, and for a growing %age this is not by choice. Young people are particularly struggling to find work; 15-24 years old are more than twice as likely to be unemployed than adults.

Wages have increased in recent years, however they remain low for the average worker, and women continue to earn significantly less than their male counterparts. Establishing and strengthening minimum wages can play a significant role in reducing inequality. However, 96 % of workers are employed in the informal sector (Haque, 2017), where minimum wages and other provisions, such as the Social Security Fund, are less likely to be honored and harder to enforce.

The CRI shows that in Nepal respects for trade unions and the rights of women in the workplace in Nepal is very poor, where they are ranked amongst the lowest countries in the world in the Commitment to Reducing Inequality index. There are no laws to prevent discrimination based on gender and no law against rape in the workplace²⁹.

There is also worrying evidence of exploitation of children and vulnerable groups in Nepal; the International Labour Organisation estimates that 6.2 million children are currently at work in Nepal, with 2.1 million of them working in hazardous conditions (ILO, 2016). Bonded and forced labour are also still highly prevalent in Nepal, with more than 100,000 bonded labourer households involved in agriculture. These people are excluded from prosperity and their rights.

7. What Next?

7.1 For Government

There are a number of steps that the government could take immediately to tackle inequality, and put Nepal on track for a more prosperous future for all

29 Oxfam and Development Finance International (2018) Commitment to Reducing Inequality Index Oxfam Oxford



citizens. To demonstrate commitment to tackling inequality, the government should:

1. Commit to collecting data and publicly reporting on economic and horizontal inequalities, and to making policy decisions on the impact on reducing these inequalities
2. Prioritise and implement progressive land reform, to achieve a more equitable distribution of land in favour of the landless and poor farmers
3. Reform the tax system by implementing more progressive taxation, reducing exemptions, and ensuring transparency and enforcement that stops tax avoidance, evasion and illicit flows
4. Prioritise investment in inequality-busting sectors like education, health and social protection
5. Reject commercialisation and privatisation in favour of free universal health and education systems and a basic social protection floor for everyone
6. Implement minimum wages and protections for all workers, including the informal sector
7. Take action to end the exploitation of women, children and minorities in all forms

7.2 For Civil Society: Advocacy on SDG 16+

Sustainable Development Goal 16 deals with the core issues of peace, justice and strong institution, and thus is treated as the cornerstone to remaining other 16 goals. The goal is to “promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development [and thus] provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels”³⁰ This Goal has 12 targets to be achieved by 2030. Progress towards targets will be measured by 23 indicators.

30 Referred to as common online review platform which is dedicated to compiling information from countries participating in the voluntary national reviews of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development which can be obtained from United Nations official website on SDGs: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg16>



The United Nations, as part of its follow-up and review mechanisms, encourages member states to “conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels, which are country-led and country-driven”. These national reviews serve as a basis for the regular reviews by the high-level political forum (HLPF), meeting under the auspices of ECOSOC. The regular reviews by the HLPF are voluntary and state-led by involving multiple stakeholders. The voluntary national reviews (VNRs) is one of the ways to facilitate the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, with a view to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It seeks to strengthen policies and institutions of governments and to mobilize multi-stakeholder support and partnerships for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals³¹.

Looking upon the given 12 targets, that is, reducing violence, ending exploitation manifested in trafficking, and promoting rule of law, state has to fulfil the other goals together as they are inter-connected such as gender (Goal 5), inequality (Goal 10), and education (Goal 4), particularly, ensuring that *all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development* through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and *appreciation of cultural diversity* and of culture’s contribution to sustainable development.

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CSOs Perspective to Achieving SDG 16+: Building Accountable Institutions in Nepal

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Background:

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)-a set of 17 goals to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all- were adopted by the United Nations General Assembly with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in September 2015. The SDGs have been developed through an unprecedented consultative process that brought national governments and millions of citizens from across the globe together to negotiate and adopt this ambitious agenda. Each goal has specific targets to be achieved over the next 15 years while ensuring that “no one is left behind”. These 17 Goals build on the successes of the Millennium Development Goals, while including new areas such as climate change, economic inequality, innovation, sustainable consumption, peace and justice, among other priorities. The goals are interconnected - often the key to success on one will involve tackling issues more commonly associated with another.

Each member states expressed their commitments to achieve the goals through developing national mechanism and framework of their own. In order to monitor progress in achieving the UN goals and sub-goals, a set of 242 global indicators to measure the 169 sub-targets has been developed. Among those 17 Goals, Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions has been envisioned in Goal 16 which has defined 12 targets and 23 indicators. To promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels was explicitly emphasized in its target 16.6.

To achieve these goals, the country needs to understand the importance of collective efforts which could be obtained from all sections of society - be it the private, business and civil society organizations. The role of active



Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in any country is pivotal for advocacy to protect and promote human rights, rule of laws, accountability and major national issues which possibly hinder the enjoyment of such rights.

Considering the role of CSOs to support the implementation of SDGs at the national level, NGO Federation of Nepal (NFN) has formed Nepal SDGs Forum in 2016 to represent CSOs in Nepal and engage with Government and other stakeholders including International Development Partners and grassroots people like many countries did the same for the participation of the different stakeholders supporting national implementation processes. SDGs can only be achieved when there is collective effort, coordinated approach, clear policies, well-defined work division and well-designed action plan about the implementation, monitoring and follow-up of the SDGs.

Current Country Status (CSOs engagement, government's efforts and progress)

Nepal is among the least developed countries in the world, with about one-quarter of its population living below the poverty line and is heavily dependent on remittances, which amount to as much as 30% of GDP. In a country like Nepal, CSOs and NGOs play a vital role in facilitating the implementation of government's obligations in good governance, health, education, development and many other fields through supporting and coordinating on awareness and capacity strengthening activities for the people. CSOs have made significant contributions to Nepal's socio-political and right-based development and hence are important vehicles to implement and achieve SDGs. The 2030 Agenda reaffirms the vital role of civil society in general and of other stakeholders, like National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), for achieving the SDGs.

In this context, CSOs in Nepal have formed a common platform called the Nepal SDGs Forum, led by the NGO Federation of Nepal, to engage collectively in implementation of the SDGs. Nepal SDGs Forum organized a National Review Program on SDG-16 and it has ever since



been engaged collectively in implementation of the SDGs whereby organizing different thematic trainings, workshops and meetings. The objective of the Forum is to exchange learning and foster collective action among CSOs.

In order to coordinate SDGs implementation across various sectors, three high-level committees have been formed to help implement SDGs i.e. a Steering Committee chaired by the Prime Minister; a Coordination Committee chaired by the Vice Chairman of the National Planning Commission (NPC) and nine thematic committees are headed by NPC Members. These nine committees focus on Economic Development; Industrial Development; Urban Development; Social Development; Employment Management; Agriculture Climate and Environment; Physical Infrastructure; Energy Development; Peace, Justice, and Inclusive Institutions. The membership of the coordination and working committees is broadly representative of the public and private sectors, as well as civil society and development partners. Countries have the primary responsibility for follow-up and review of the progress made in implementing the Goals, which will require quality, accessible and timely data collection. The National Planning Commission has also formed National SDG platform intended to enable tracking of Nepal's progress towards achieving the SDGs by 2030 and other national development plans. The platform provides information about the Government of Nepal's efforts in terms of planning, implementation, and monitoring in relation to the SDGs. Furthermore, the platform serves as an online data and repository to support timely data collection and to monitor the implementation of SDGs.

While the SDGs are not legally binding, governments are expected to take ownership and establish national frameworks for the achievement of the 17 Goals. The Government of Nepal's National Planning Commission (NPC) takes the lead and hence prepared the first SDG country report in 2015, detailing and taking stock of its current development context and establishing the baseline for the SDGs. This made Nepal the first country in the world



to publish its SDG country report and symbolizes Nepal's commitment and readiness to execute the SDGs. Based on the report, the NPC has been working to align its national monitoring and evaluation framework including its periodic plans with the SDG and its targets. The current 14th Periodic Plan (2016/17-2018/19), and other sectorial plans, policies and their targets are being aligned with SDGs and specific SDGs codes are assigned for all national programs in the national budget.

Furthermore, Nepal has been among a select group of countries that have agreed to voluntarily submit its review of its progress towards the SDG and presented its Voluntary National Review (VNR) in 2017 regarding the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF).

Human Rights and SDG 16:

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development marks a paradigm shift towards a more balanced model for sustainable development aiming to secure freedom from fear and freedom from want for all, without discrimination. Strongly grounded in international human rights standards, the new Agenda strives to leave no one behind and puts the imperative of equality and non-discrimination at its heart. Despite some gaps from a human rights perspective, the new Agenda goes far beyond the MDGs in encompassing issues related not only economic, social and cultural rights but also civil and political rights and the right to development. With its universal applicability and its importance in shaping development priorities, the 2030 Agenda is new avenues to integrate human rights into national, provincial and local level policies in country. However, a strong accountability architecture must be established at national, provincial and local levels. Indicators should be grounded in human rights and data should be disaggregated as far as possible according to the grounds of discrimination prohibited under human rights law. People should be empowered to hold their governments accountable for meeting the new Goals.



The SDGs and the 2030 Agenda are a transformative development framework is that they are based on human rights. Over 90 percent of the goals and targets of the SDGs correspond to human rights obligations. Nepal remains fully committed to the promotion and protection of human rights, and has adopted a wide range of legislative, institutional, policy and administrative measures to fulfill its national and international obligations on human rights. The SDGs are the result of the most consultative and inclusive process in the history of the United Nations. Grounded in international human rights law, the agenda offers critical opportunities to further advance the realization of human rights for all people everywhere, without discrimination. Human rights principles and standards are strongly reflected in framework of SDGs. The SDGs are a truly universal framework and can be applicable to make in the path towards sustainable development, and face both common and unique challenges to achieving the many dimensions of sustainable development captured in the SDGs. Alongside a wide range of social, economic and environmental objectives, the 2030 Agenda promises “more peaceful, just and inclusive societies which are free from fear and violence” with attention to democratic governance, rule of law, access to justice and personal security (in Goal 16), as well as an enabling international environment (in Goal 17 and throughout the framework). It therefore covers issues related to all human rights, including economic, civil, cultural, political, social rights and the right to development.

The new Agenda strives to leave no-one behind, envisaging “a world of universal respect for equality and non-discrimination” between and within countries, including gender equality, by reaffirming the responsibilities of all States to “respect, protect and promote human rights, without distinction of any kind as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinions, national and social origin, property, birth, disability or other status.”

In line with the promise of the 2030 Agenda to ‘leave no one behind’, CSOs and other rights-based organizations can make a strong contribution to the integration of human rights throughout the process to define the SDGs and



can seek to ensure that strategies and policies to implement the 2030 Agenda are human rights-based.

One important indicator to measure the progress of SDGs particularly for SDG 16 is the establishment of rights-based institutions that help address inequality and discrimination by receiving and addressing complaints and advising governments on human rights-based legal frameworks. In this regard, the separate independent and constitutionally empowered Commissions have been established, as per envisioned in Constitution of Nepal 2015, to promote and protect the rights and interests of Women, Dalit, Indigenous Nationalities, Madheshi, Tharu and Muslims. Likewise, National Inclusion Commission is mandated to ensure that the constitutional and legal provisions are effectively implemented. Peace and human rights cannot be ensured without attaining inclusive development which SDGs envision. Faithful implementation 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other relevant internationally agreed development frameworks is central to the enjoyment of human rights by all. Nepal is one of the pioneering countries to mainstreaming human rights agendas into national policies and plans through National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP). Nepal has implemented periodic NHRAPs in collaboration with the National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) and CSOs for 15 years. At present, the Government of Nepal (GoN) is implementing its fourth five year NHRAP for the period 2014 to 2019 to develop collective ownership and integrate human rights programmes into the country's periodic development plans. The NHRAP covers eighteen thematic areas to fulfil the obligations including from Treaty Bodies and Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations.

Some positive improvements has been made to fulfil state's obligations on human rights by developing the normative and structural framework including establishment of constitutional commissions and ensuring the rights of accused in exercising Habeas Corpus writ through district Courts. The government seems fully committed to settle out the cases related to human rights/IHLs violations and abuses occurred during the Maoists' insurgency



whereby establishing transitional justice mechanism under which two independent Commissions-the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and the Commission of Investigation on Enforced Disappeared Persons (CIEDP)-have recently been in processing of receiving commissioners for second term to complete their mandates.

Moreover, GoN has introduced the Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) in formulation and implementation of all public policies, developmental plans and programmes. The GoN has shown its strong commitment to the international normative frameworks by ratifying core international human rights instruments and internalizing them in the domestic system. This has been reiterated by Foreign Affairs Minister of Nepal in United Nations Human Rights Council.

The enactment of 14 rights-based laws related to enjoyment of fundamental rights and freedom guaranteed in the Constitution of Nepal 2015, including an act pertaining to ensure the rights of persons with disabilities could be a remarkable achievement of government in the field of human rights. Similarly, the High Court which has jurisdiction to receive appeal has expanded its benches outside of provincial capital city is also commendable step to materialize the right to justice. Moreover, the judicial committee formed under the deputy mayor of local government is believed to be an affordable and accessible platform for local people to settle their disputes amicably before appealing for next door of the court. The GoN has strengthened the institutional structures for the protection and promotion of human rights by forming separate mechanisms on human rights at all ministries and security forces.

Identification of major gaps

The debates surrounding the SDGs have mainly concerned the setting of goals and indicators. Less attention has been paid to discussing the roles and responsibilities that different stakeholders should take in achieving these goals – in particular, how to best implement this universal framework at



the local level. Given the scope and ambition of the SDGs, it is clear that governments alone cannot achieve the agenda. They must also facilitate participation of all sectors of society, including CSOs, the private sector and the general public. To realize the ambition of SDGs, there need to be adaptable tools for data collection, monitoring and evaluation of processes related to the implementation of the SDGs. While adopting national framework associated with the SDGs, CSOs can contribute a constructive and active role achieving the goals on national development for forming partnerships with government which so far has not been included and recognized in all levels of government-led committees and delegations. The GoN and CSOs face numerous challenges having inadequate budget and resources to implement their own programs related to SDGs.

A strong accountability framework should be established at national, provincial and local levels, including accountability for other stakeholders and interlocutors. The 2030 Agenda commits government to establishing a “robust, voluntary, effective, participatory, transparent and integrated follow-up and review framework” and sets out important principles to guide the review process at all levels, including gender sensitivity and respect for human rights.

Since SDGs are very ambitious and challenging, it requires huge resources, national effort, international cooperation and strong commitments from all spheres of society to achieve the goals. The delay in constituting the national, provincial and local level government institutions, as envisioned in the Constitution of Nepal, like National Natural Resources and Fiscal Commission, Policy and Planning Commission, Public Service Commission might pose challenges to meet the SDGs. It is also essential that goal-specific and cross-cutting interventions are properly specified, implemented and monitored. Moreover, a strong national, provincial and local coordination mechanism to develop government partnership with the private sector and community organizations is crucial for implementing and monitoring the achievement of the SDGs. In absence of well-resourced mechanism and



institution to tackle the natural disaster-induced challenges, its recovery and rehabilitation can further deteriorate the overall development of affected communities and their survival. It is necessary to establish such mechanism and institution based on the SDGs assessment to achieve the goals. Similarly, the private and cooperative financial institutions are far behind to incorporate the SDGs targets in their operations

Looking into the enjoyment of fundamental rights and freedoms enshrined in Constitution of Nepal, several rules and regulations have not been enacted to enforce the laws related right to justice and fundamental freedom. This has also created a severe impact in executing the mandates of NHRIs. Likewise, NHRIs has also not adequately incorporated SDGs goals in their plans and polices owing to lack of resources resulted in failure to assess the human rights impact on SDGs.

Opportunities and Challenges:

SDGs are interlinked, indivisible, and ambitious posing major implementation challenges in a low-income country like Nepal, which has limited resources. As the country embarks on implementing a new federal structure of governance, a prominent challenge will be to quickly mainstream SDGs into the provincial and local level planning and budgeting systems. Weak database and lack of availability of disaggregated data by sex, age, social groups, disability status, geography, income and sub-national level will hinder monitoring of progress.

In the federal context, the central government's role is to formulate policies and to generate resources and ideas, while implementation is the responsibility of the provincial and local governments. The problem is that although there are national structures for implementing the SDGs, it is not clear how they link with the other two tiers of government. What is the provincial structure for implementing the SDGs? How should local governments integrate the SDGs? How should the SDGs be reflected in local planning and budgeting processes? With very little knowledge about SDGs



among the local government representatives, efforts at localization have been inadequate so far.

Provincial governments need to have an SDG implementation support mechanism like that of the federal level. There should be a planning toolkit and a checklist for provincial and local governments to integrate the SDGs in their programs and policies. National Planning Commission should develop a template and guidelines for provincial and local level structures to implement the SDGs. This will ensure consistency and uniformity across the country.

Another challenge is the availability of data, including disaggregated data. In 2011, as part of the census, national data was collected. But since there has been little initiative to generate new data. This means planning is being done using outdated data. Responding to the principle of ‘leave no one behind’ requires updated and disaggregated data for all sectors and at all levels. Likewise, effective implementation of the SDGs and achieving desired results requires preparation across many fronts, such as awareness, ownership, policy coherence, and localization, integration of the SDGs into development plans, resource mobilization and the establishment of a monitoring system. In the past two years some progress has been achieved by the government of Nepal making many such preparations, most notably in the areas of raising awareness and establishing high-level institutional mechanisms.

But it is high time for the government to also create appropriate SDG mechanisms at the provincial and local levels, mechanisms which provide ample space for all stakeholders, including the CSOs, to contribute to the successful implementation of the Global Goals.

Recommendations:

Nepal will need to constantly update its targets and indicators contained in sectoral master plans, medium term plans and strategies. Many SDG goals



and indicators do not yet have a quantitative baseline. This needs an urgent redress, and the data that do exist need further disaggregation, particularly based on new political jurisdictions. Monitoring SDGs progress within the existing institutional framework of data generation and management needs an overhaul. Above all, SDGs are interconnected and the achievement of one goal has a synergetic effect on others. These integrated challenge needs a matching response in terms of fiscal, managerial and institutional capacities. The government should frame a mechanism to include CSOs and avail them technical and financial support creating amicable environment to achieve the shared goals. The following recommendations might be helpful in achieving the SDGs.

Governments must also increase political commitment and financial resources behind efforts to reform institutions and systems to make them more accessible, affordable and accountable to citizens.

Action is needed to preserve the space of civil society, amplify the voice of those defending human rights and the rule of law, foster civic participation, and safeguard public freedoms.

Methodologies for data collection on SDGs should be harmonized. The analysis based on old data cannot achieve the realistic picture for desired goals.

Mainstreaming the SDGs into provincial and local planning and budgeting systems:

Establishing SDG implementation mechanisms in provincial and local governments:

Improve mechanisms for civil society engagement of the SDG implementation, monitoring and review at country-level to optimize civil society contribution to development



Make VNR process accessible, participatory, and transparent

Utilize inclusive processes to strategize unlocking bottlenecks in SDG implementation

Civil society, business and representatives of various interest groups need to participate in the review of progress undertaken regularly to ensure no one is left behind.

Formulate and enact rules and regulations including policies and plans to enforce fundamental human rights laws.

Fulfil the constitutional obligations in forming full-fledged the rights-based institutions in order to ensure their independency and autonomy which help make the institutions more accountable.

Develop advocacy and awareness as well as assessment mechanism in all levels of government to evaluate progress on implementation of SDGs.

Conclusion:

SDGs 16 is to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. Peaceful societies, rule of law and inclusive and effective institutions are aims in themselves but also catalysts for achieving many other SDG targets. Implementing SDG 16 with a focus of leaving no one behind is not only about identifying relevant groups that face exclusion, but determining and addressing inequalities and other root causes, structural issues and patterns of exclusion that have led to pervasive exclusions.

The Government of Nepal has been tirelessly on progress to achieve the SDGs and its agenda forming different committees and adopting procedural mechanism. It has proactively initiated some positive steps to materialize the goals into reality by adopting multi-stakeholder approaches to encourage



and facilitate partnerships between government and non-government actors. It has formed two high-level committees and nine thematic committees to support SDG implementation. These committees are responsible for providing oversight and political direction for incorporating the SDGs into government plans, policies and budgets. Moreover, the government has also developed National SDGs framework defining all the targets and indicators and its monitoring framework. In course of achieving the goal 16 of SDGs and make the institutions accountable, the government has established separate independent and constitutionally empowered Commissions, as per envisioned in Constitution of Nepal 2015, to promote and protect the rights and interests of Women, Dalit, Indigenous Nationalities, Madheshi, Tharu and Muslims. Likewise, National Inclusion Commission is mandated to ensure that the constitutional and legal provisions are effectively implemented.

Despite all these positive initiatives, there is a need to form strong mechanism to assess the impact of SDGs and its progress on implementation. The high level and thematic committees established to materialize SDGs and its agenda should be more proactive and vibrant in terms of assessing the progress and to provide the guidelines to all relevant and concerned shareholders. CSOs role has not been adequately recognized by the government in provincial and local level government. Moreover, the government is reluctant to form the committees in other two tiers of governments-Local and Provincial-for the implementation of SDGs. Due to lack of resources and budget, the newly established right-based constitutional commissions face numerous challenges in executing their mandated task. In one hand, the commissions are still waiting to have full-fledged members and staffs and endorsement of internal rules and regulations to develop standard procedure for operation needed to carry out its work. The Women and Dalit Commissions have been running without their commissioners for the last two years which certainly creates challenges while addressing



gender and caste-based issues including policy level interventions related to women and Dalits. Similarly, the criticism coming from different section of society indicates that the government is trying to delimit the autonomy and independency of National Human Rights Commission and Media Council endorsing an amended acts through parliament that might curtail some of the functional power of both institutions. This step of government could be contradictory against constitutional spirit that envisions enhancing democratic norms, values and ensuring the rights as well as making the government institutions more accountable. National Human Rights Commission has stated in its annual report which indicates that the government is far behind to implement its recommendations which might encourage impunity be prevailed in the country and challenges for ensuring accountability. The engagement and participation of CSOs has not been adequately included in the national steering committees nor does it has mandatorily been included in the thematic committees though NPC invites CSOs to participate in thematic committee meetings.

To achieve peace, justice and inclusion, it is important that governments, civil society and communities work together to implement lasting solutions to reduce violence, deliver justice, combat corruption and ensure inclusive participation at all times. The government should take a positive initiation to build a strong mechanism and network where private sector and CSOs feel proud to join hands for achieving the goals. CSOs and Right-based organizations can make large contributions for community development and ensuring the rights of people. Considering the role of CSOs, the government should include the representatives of CSOs in all the committees in provincial and local level. Most importantly, the government should have to strengthen overall capacity of right-based constitutional institutions letting them to carry out the constitutional mandate and their role in assessing the impact of SDGs.



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Observation SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

Indu Tuladhar, Advocate

Background

Without peace, stability, human rights and effective governance, based on the rule of law - we cannot hope for sustainable development. We are living in a world that is increasingly divided. Some regions enjoy sustained levels of peace, security and prosperity, while others fall into seemingly endless cycles of conflict and violence. This is by no means inevitable and must be addressed.

High levels of armed violence and insecurity have a destructive impact on a country's development, affecting economic growth and often resulting in long standing grievances that can last for generations. Sexual violence, crime, exploitation and torture are also prevalent where there is conflict or no rule of law, and countries must take measures to protect those who are most at risk.

The SDGs aim to significantly reduce all forms of violence, and work with governments and communities to find lasting solutions to conflict and insecurity. Strengthening the rule of law and promoting human rights is key to this process, as is reducing the flow of illicit arms and strengthening the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance.

SDG 16 – Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive. This goal is mainly accompanied by targets such as (i) significantly reducing all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere, ending abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children, (ii) promoting the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all,



(iii) reducing illicit financial and arms flows, (iv) strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime, (v) reducing corruption and bribery in all their forms, and (vi) developing effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels.

Despite being a progressive democracy which has made globally significant advances on inclusion, Nepal has a long way to go in practicing elements of good governance, such as transparency, accountability and decent rule of law. The freedom and vibrancy of the press and history of civic activism have provided a fine counterbalance to shortcomings by branches of the state and created widespread demand among the population for better governance in the coming years.

16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere

Nepal's armed conflict related violence has substantially reduced during the last few years owing to the absence of armed conflict in the last few years. However, post conflict symptoms have been observed in the nation. The Netra Bikram Chand 'Biplab'-led Communist Party of Nepal (CPN) and the Coordinator of the Alliance for Independent Madhes led by Chandra Kant Raut (CK Raut) are examples of the post conflict residues. These parties have contributed to a significant amount of violence within the valley of Kathmandu as well as several parts of the nation. Violence ranging from multiple political clash related deaths, deaths from police encounters with political party activists, bomb threats and explosions and death threats to various persons associated with the political movements has been witnessed.

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16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children



The country has witnessed the passing of various laws and service mechanisms to put an end to the rampant trafficking that plagues Nepal as well as to address the issues faced by trafficked victims post rescue. Though the numbers have been improving, the instances of trafficking occurring through new ways and to different destinations are being witnessed. A lack of clarity on the operation of the existing framework in the new federal structure further limits the scope and effectiveness of laws and service mechanisms. The service mechanisms made available to the victims post rescue are also ambiguous as to their scope and access. A lack of proper implementation mechanisms and ineffective resource mobilization further has not been able to tackle this problem at the core. Nepal continues to be classified in Tier 2 of the Trafficking in Persons Report of June 2019 since 2012.

The Government of Nepal does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking but is making significant efforts to do so. The government demonstrated overall increasing efforts compared to the previous reporting period, therefore Nepal remained on Tier 2. These efforts included identifying significantly more male trafficking victims than in previous years and creating and funding a law enforcement bureau dedicated solely to human trafficking crimes—the Anti-Trafficking-in-Persons Bureau (Anti-TIP Bureau). However, the government did not meet the minimum standards in several key areas. Its laws do not criminalize all forms of forced labour and sex trafficking and despite a large number of Nepali male trafficking victims overseas, government protection efforts are disproportionately focused on female victims. Official complicity in trafficking offenses remained a serious problem, both direct complicity as well as negligence, and the government did not report employ significant efforts to address it, even after a 2017 parliamentary call to take action. Officials encouraged migrant workers exploited abroad to register cases under the 2007 Foreign Employment Act (2007 FEA), which criminalized fraudulent recruitment, rather than refer cases to police for investigation of labour trafficking. **The Palermo Convention is still not ratified despite immense pressure from the civil society.**



16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all

With the advent of the Crime Victim Protection Act, 2018, the regulation that would follow it was soon expected to clarify the ambiguities in its operation. However, the regulation has not been passed yet and the law continues to serve no purpose in the cloud of ambiguity. The service mechanisms to be established for the victims within this Act have not been harmonised or coordinated with any other acts and any legal aid and support mechanisms established to promote the rule of law and ensure equal access to justice for all remains nonoperational. Furthermore, the reporting of various media outlets on the corruption are prevalent even in the highest level of judiciary, i.e., the Supreme Court, further reduces the impact justice seeks to serve and has heavily tarnished the image of the judiciary in the eyes of the public to maintain the rule of law. Furthermore the government has been found to have failed in enforcing minimum Constitutional provisions guaranteeing women's representation in political parties and different offices of the government. The legislations passed post Constitution have also not been in conformity with the Constitution, nor have previous legislations been amended to incorporate gender responsiveness and remain rather gender neutral or gender biased. The legislature has further failed to incorporate specific legislation for all provisions contained in the Constitution, within three years of the enactment of the Constitution, as has been provided for within the Constitution itself.

16.4 By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime

Having been signatory to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000, since 2002, Nepal had only ratified the Convention in 2011. While the country has coordinated its efforts to reduce transnational organized crime, the country is also seen to be making efforts internally to reduce illicit financial flow by beginning to tighten the system of banking



with incorporating reliable technology to computerise the systems to reduce malpractice .

16.5 Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms

16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels

Nepal is the 124 least corrupt nation out of 175 countries, according to the 2018 Corruption Perceptions Index reported by Transparency International. Corruption Rank in Nepal averaged 127.40 from 2004 until 2018, reaching an all time high of 154 in 2011 and a record low of 90 in 2004. These reports are reflective of Nepal's minimal efforts to tackle corruption from the highest to lowest levels. Nepal has done little to nothing to ensure the Right to Information as has been recognized as a fundamental right in the Constitution. The lack of transparency and accountability in Nepal is amply evident from the multiple cases being reported within the media and coming to the highest level of courts in Nepal. As aforementioned, even the court at the highest level has been shrouded in the cloud of corruption.

16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels

Government of Nepal has introduced several legislations, which have promoted inclusive participation in all level of government mechanism such as laws related to civil service, policy, election and so forth. However, Nepal has not been observing constitutionally mandated provisions of participatory provisions guaranteeing women's participation in political parties and in various offices of government. The 33% representation guaranteed for participation in political seats has not been observed by the political parties enjoying majority of the influence in Nepal. Likewise, there is very insignificant political will in fulfilling constitutional commitment to ensure inclusive proportional participation in the judiciary, appointment of constitutional bodies, executive position, prime ministerial and provincial level ministerial cabinet, along with various political positions. It strikes



at the very core of representation and political ideals that these parties do not seek to achieve inclusive and participatory representation, which is further guaranteed by the Constitution. This depicts the failure of the state in enforcing Constitutional principles and the poor status of political parties in Nepal that do not serve to ensure representation and responsiveness.

16.9 By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration

The state has passed laws for birth registration but the same has been poorly implemented. A major concerning factor within the nation of Nepal is the controversial constitutional provision concerning legal identity and citizenship according to which women do not have the right to pass on citizenship to their spouses whereas men do. Even the progressively interpreted right to impart citizenship on children by single mothers has been restrictively followed by authorities, i.e., Chief District Offices that impart citizenships, whereas the authorities seek Supreme Court orders for every single mother looking to impart citizenship and create multiple other barriers and actions that are at par with harassment. Patriarchal norms, race and gender discrimination and exclusion based on multiple factors are still a reality that massively plagues the state. The lack of independent single mothers' rights, the significant existence of marginalized and deprived women and the lack in providing birth registrations are ample evidence in that matter.

16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements

Though the National Information Commission and the Right to Information have been provided in the Constitution of Nepal as a fundamental right, the same is barely seen to be practiced in reality. The country is shrouded with various corruption allegations, malpractice in the fiscal budget, abuse of power and lack of information from the parliament along with corruption allegations and the lack of awareness by people of their right to information.



19. Some Glimpses on NFN's Activities in Accelerating the Localization SDG 16 in Nepal

NGO Federation of Nepal (NFN) was established in 1991 and is the umbrella organization of all NGOs and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) (6247) of the country. Since its foundation, it has been working as the platform of NGOs/CSOs. NFN has been contributing as the secretariat of Nepal SDGs Forum formed out of the CSOs in the country and also is working as the focal organization for achieving the SDGs in Nepal.

Advancing and localizing SDG 16 together with ASD (Alliance for Social Dialogue), it has organized a series of activities in different municipalities regarding sensitization, designing and implementation of SDG 16. The main purpose of these activities was to raise awareness among public and local representatives and stakeholders towards SDG 16 and incorporate it into policies and plans at local levels. Similarly, it served to gain insights into specific local issues and indicators, roles and jurisdictions of local governments, as well as identifying gaps in policies, provisions, knowledge, human resources and implementation mechanisms.

However, the localization of SDG 16 will be an ongoing and challenging process as local governments do not possess the same resources and institutional infrastructure as the federal government. In this light, it is of crucial importance to further assist local decision makers in realizing the SDG 2030 agenda. NFN and Nepal SDG Forum will act as the focal agencies in assisting local representatives in all efforts agreed upon after the workshops.

1. Phalebas Municipality, Parbat, 17 June 2019

The first activity within localizing SDG 16 in Nepal was chaired by Mr. Om Prasad Sharma, Chairperson of NGO Federation of Parbat, the Mayor



Presentation of Group Discussion by Participants



of Phalebas, Mr. Padampani Sharma as the chief guest and by many local representatives, adding up to a total number of 49 participants. Discussions on how the localization of SDG 16 can be strengthened and what the roles and jurisdiction of local governments are to incorporate it into periodic development plans were held during the event. Participants presented their group work on indicators of SDG 16 and its review at local level, policies and provisions to implement the SDGs at local level and roles and responsibilities of stakeholders to successfully implement SDG 16.

Ultimately, the workshop succeeded in identifying the specific local priorities and needs resulting from the inputs of local representatives, officials, stakeholders and other participants.

The main conclusions drawn from the event were:

- Organize more interaction at local level on SDGs
- Workshops at ward and community level need more inclusive participation
- Mobilize mass media to aware people about roles and responsibilities on SDGs
- Formulate policies and provisions aligning with SDGs at local level
- Identify concrete local indicators on SDGs and prioritize them on the basis of local needs
- People are feeling that SDGs are too vague, formulate them simpler and clearer

2. Changunarayan Municipality, Bhaktapur, 19 July 2019

This workshop of the program was chaired by Mr. Som Sharma, Chairperson of NGO Federation in Bhaktapur and the Mayor of Bhaktapur, Mr. Som Prasad Mishra as the chief guest. The President of NFN, Mr. Jitaram Lama participated



Mayor of Changunarayan Mr. Som P Mishra addressing the Workshop



as the special guest of the program. Altogether, 47 people attended the event. After discussing how the localization of SDG 16 can be strengthened and what the roles and jurisdictions of the local governments are to incorporate it to periodic development plans, the respective ward chairpersons were committed to disseminate insights from the workshop at ward level by organizing similar types of activities. The Mayor of Bhaktapur, Mr. Som Prasad Mishra committed to stick to the SDGs and to disseminate them among his staff and respective administrative sub-units as well.

Ultimately, the following recommendations were formulated:

- Provide training and orientation to all staff and representatives of local governments
- Organize more interactions at local level on SDGs
- Organize workshops at ward and community level with more inclusive participation of people
- Mobilize mass media to aware people about roles and responsibilities on SDGs
- Formulate policies and provisions aligning with SDGs at local level
- Identify concrete local indicators on SDGs and prioritize them on the basis of local needs
- Establish monitoring mechanisms along with rewards for successful achievement on SDG goals
- Develop and identify concrete local SDG indicators

3. Belaka Municipality, Udayapur, 2 August 2019

Belaka Municipality gathered in this episode of the workshop chaired by Mr. Durga Bahadur Thapa, Mayor of Belaka Municipality, Udayapur and Mr. Umesh Beshwakarma, NFN Secretary as the chief guest. 87 people participated in total.

After the participants were divided into three groups – focused on review of SDG 16 and additional indicators, gaps in policy,



implementation and knowledge on SDG 16 and local stakeholders and strategies to implement SDG 16 at local level, results were presented to all participants leading to an open discussion.



During the exchange of opinions and remarks among local representatives of government, CSOs/NGOs and stakeholders, Mr. Durga Bahadur Thapa urged that he had already incorporated the SDGs in the municipal periodic plan and that he was on the way of implementing it in order to achieve the set targets by 2030. He further promised to monitor the progress regularly.

The following recommendations were formulated at the end of the day:

- Organize more interaction at local level on SDGs
- Workshop at ward and community level with more inclusive participation of people
- Mobilize the mass media to aware people about roles and responsibilities on SDGs
- Introduce policies and provisions aligning with SDGs at local level
- Identify the concrete local indicators on SDGs and prioritize them on the basis of local needs
- People are feeling SDGs are too vague, make them simpler and clearer

4. Brahamapuri Rural Municipality, 11 August 2019

In the last workshop on accelerating and localizing SDG 16 in Nepal, Tulasi Poudel participated as the acting chairperson of NFN in Sarlahi and Mr. Binod Kumar Shah as the chief guest. The vice chairperson of Brahamapuri, Gita Devi Yadav was as special guest to the program. A total of 37 people attended the workshop.



The participants expressed their views on the review of SDG 16 at local level, policies and provisions to implement the SDGs at local level as well as roles and responsibilities of stakeholders to successfully implement SDG 16.



The ward chairpersons were committed to disseminate it at ward level by organizing similar types of activities. Mr. Binod Kumar Shah mentioned the difficulties to localize the SDGs at local level, but he urged to incorporate the SDGs into the municipal periodic plan and to implement them to achieve the agenda on time.

Finally, the following recommendations were agreed upon:

- Prepare SDG brochures in the local language
- Organize more interactions at local level on SDGs
- Workshop at ward and community level with more inclusive participation of people
- Mobilize mass media to aware people about roles and responsibilities on SDGs
- Formulate policies and provisions aligning with SDGs at local level
- Identify concrete local SDGs indicators and prioritize them on the basis of local needs
- Create the mindset among people that SDGs are regular activities



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Blending the Child Rights in Sustainable Development Goals

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Background

According to population census in 2011, the children under the age 18 are 41.84% (Central Bureau of Statistics [CBS], 2012). The multi-indicator survey shows that 37.4% children aged 5 – 17 are involving in child labor (CBS, 2014a), the population monograph study shows that the child marriage situation is 36.3% aged 10 – 18 years (CBS, 2014b). In 2017/18, 2330 children were missed and only 1017 children rescued and remaining were searching by Nepal government (CCWB, 2018). Child helpline (Toll free no. 1098) is operating in 12 districts and provided the services to 3385 children in 2017/18 (CCWB, 2018). In Nepal, Net enrollment in education at primary level is 97.2%, secondary level is 87.4% (CCWB, 2018).

Regarding sustainable development goals, Nepal government has prepared the road map on SDGs as well as SDGs costing. There are 10 goals of sustainable development directly address the children issues i.e goal 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11, 16 & 17. Regarding SDG goal 16, it directly related to peace, human rights and democracy and target 16.2 directly related to children and this target is mostly challenges to Nepal government because still, children are facing the corporal punishment in the name of discipline and happen the physical torture to death situation. As well, children are trafficking to neighbor country as well as abroad for different purpose like prostitution, domestic workers etc (National Planning Commission [NPC], 2018).



Laws, Policies and Status

Nepal is a state party to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) therefore Nepal government must ensure the rights of the child based on UNCRC. Nepal government has been amending and law, act and policies to fulfill the obligations of UNCRC. Currently, Nepal government has endorsed the law and act and also implementing the existing laws and acts. Article 39 of Nepal Constitution 2015 clearly mention about fundamental rights of the child. Nepal government has promulgated various national laws and policies including Children Act,2018; Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act,2000 and Regulation,2005; Juvenile Justice (Procedure) Regulation,2007; and National Children's Policy, 2012, School as Zones of Peace guideline and directorate 2011, Civil and Criminal Code 2074 BS, Child labor (prohibition and regulation) act and its regulation are in place, Social Security Act 2075 BS, Free and Compulsory Act 2075 BS, Human Trafficking (Transportation and Control) Act in place and 1st NPA against human trafficking expired and in the process of revision in placed (Ministry of Women, Children & Social Welfare [MoWCSC], 2016).

Besides this, Nongovernmental organization s (NGOs) also play vital role to develop the new acts and policies according to Nepal's Constitution 2072, CRC and Second Cycle Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Recommendation by UN. There are 49 recommendations to Nepal government directly related to child rights. Out of these, 42 recommendations are accepted to implement in policy and programs. Now, there are more than ten national networks working in the field of child rights and also representation on Nepal SDGs Forum in child theme. NGOs are also monitoring the government program as well as handshake with government to implement the program to ensure the rights of the child. In new political structure, NGOs are working in all levels i.e. federal, provincial and local level and also localize the SDGs to civil society and government entities.



Gaps between plan and SDGs

Nepal government has prepared the position paper of 15th development plan which is tried to inline plan and program with sustainable development goals (SDGs). However, there is still problem to blending the plan and program inline with SDGs because of localization of SDGs and new political structures. However, Nepal government has endorse the local government operation act 2074 and enforce to ensure the rights of the child but there is lacking of past best practices like 10% budget allocation to children because the local government operational act did not mention the clause of child budget allocation.

There were structures of child protection unit at local level and easy to channelize the protection issues from local to central level but these structures are dissolved after the new child act 2075 endorsement. So, federal government has the separate entity National Child Rights Council but there is no clear standards at provincial and local level therefore there are challenges to ensure the rights of the child at local level and directly effects on achievement of SDGs child indicators.

However, Provincial and local governments develop the policy and program as well as annual budget but they are unable to blending the policy and program with SDGs because of less sensitization to localize the SDGs during the planning process. If we see the budget from SDGs perspective, we mostly found that budget is mostly allocated on SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 but not allocated the budget in SDGs 10 and 16 because these goal also related with child.



Opportunities and Challenges

Due to new political structure, there are decentralize governance according to local government operational act 2074 BS therefore we can blend the SDGs and plan from local level to provincial level. But, there are still challenges to localize the SDGs because of lack of trained human resource. Therefore, we need to localize the SDGs inline with plan and program that contributes to sustain the planning process in coming days.

Conclusion and Recommendation

Nepal government has already adopted the SDGs and started the plan and program inline with SDGs in Federal level but there is still lacking at provincial and local level. Therefore, it is necessary to localize the SDGs to blend the program and planning with SDGs.

Regarding the child rights, National Child Rights Council is formed at federal level according to child act 2075 but it is necessary to activate and institutionalize at the provincial and local level. Therefore, there are challenges to protect the child in two level because of new act endorsement. So, it is necessary to create the entity for child protection at provincial and local level and need to develop the standards on child protection with localizing SDGs. NGOs need to do budget for child analysis with CRC article as well as SDGs child indicators which influence to local government to internalize the gap to address in plan and program.



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