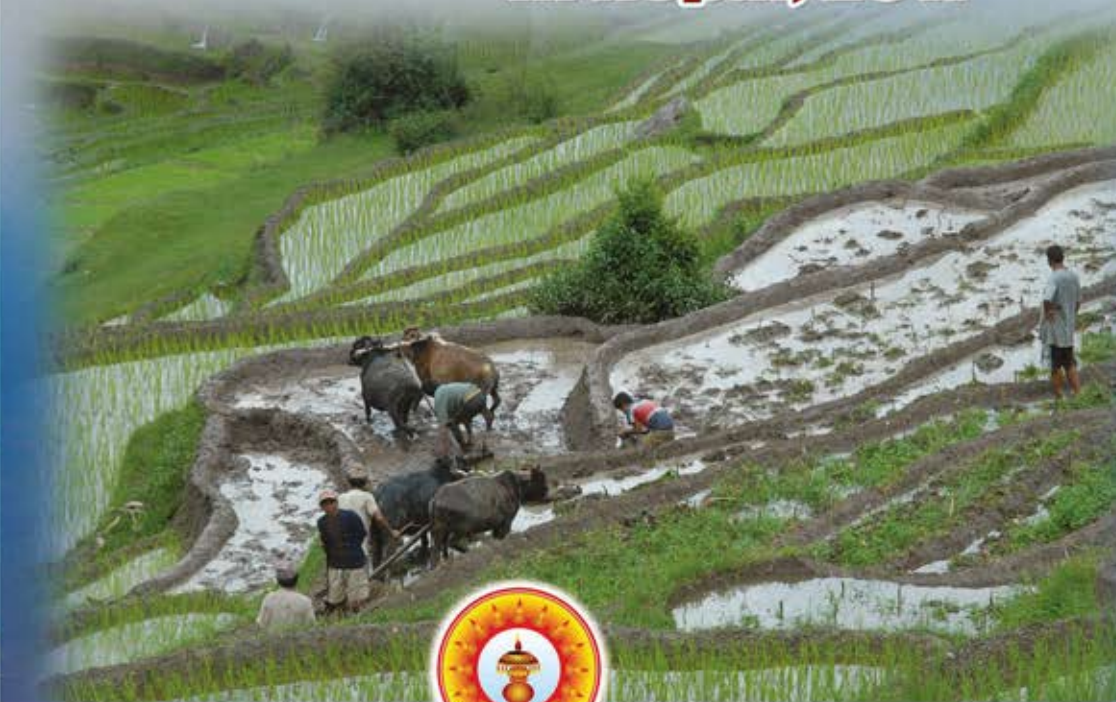*Connecting People for Development Justice*

Nepal SDGs Forum

Civil Society Report on

Implementation of SDGs in Nepal, 2017

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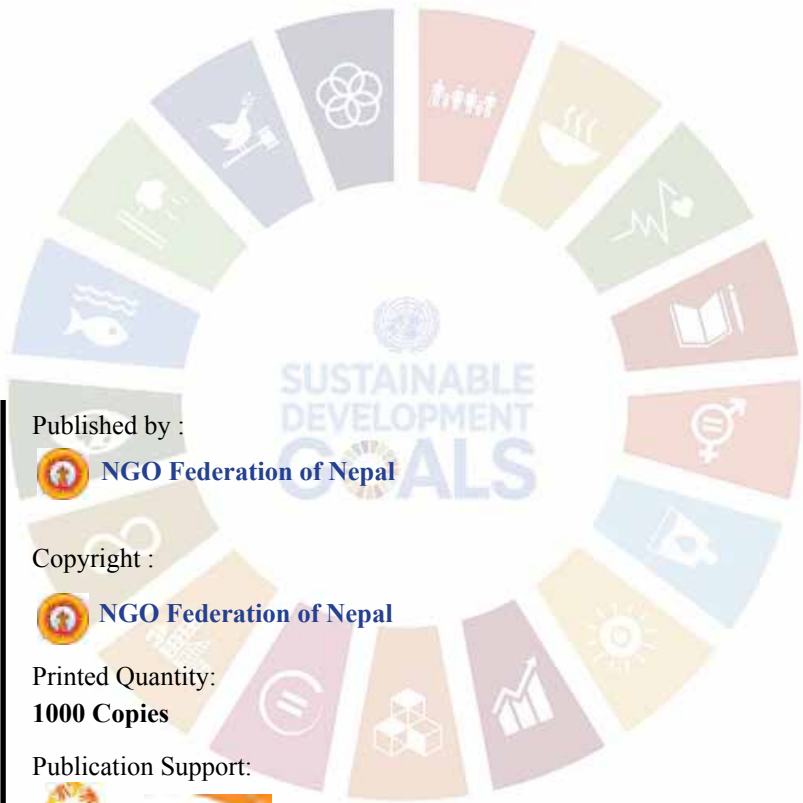*Connecting People for Development Justice*

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www.ngofederation.org

July 2017

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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
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
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 Disable 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	Person living with disability
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

Acknowledgement

NGO Federation of Nepal (NFN) has been continuously coordinating the civil society process on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs) before and after its adoption in 25 September 2015 by the United Nations. NFN believes the 2030 Agenda is a progressive global development framework for the whole world. Formation of Nepal SDGs Forum among CSOs itself is a collective and commendable effort to achieving SDGs in the country. This forum has enabled us to represent CSOs in Nepal and engage with Government, academia and other development actors including International Development Partners and grassroots people. NFN has been continuously striving for establishing inclusive, just, equitable and sustainable development in the country and it has been continuously advocating for development justice. We would like to recall our efforts we made during MDGs era, when NFN was able to produce several reports on progress of MDGs through civil society perspectives. Preparation of this report has been taken as the continuation of our past efforts. Main aim of this report is to expose the current status of our development and the progress we made so far in the course of implementing the 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development (SDGs). This report represents the voices and perceptions of CSOs and tries to put views for achieving SDGs in the country.

We have been able to produce this report in this form with continuous supports from different organizations and individuals, who are the part of Nepal SDGs Forum including Blue Diamond Society, DNF, BBC Nepal, NGO FOININ, FECOFUN, GOGO Foundation, Transparency International Nepal, AATWIN, ACORAB, AYON, Consortium Nepal, RECPHEC, NACIFN, NAFAN, NFGF, NFIWUAN, DiMaNN, MuAN, NAVIN, ADDCN, NAPLHA Nepal, Human Rights Alliance, NACEUN, COCAP, CCNN, Freedom Forum, NDWA, NFDN, FEDWASUN, NCE Nepal, NFDN and NEFIN. We are very grateful to all the board members and staff of NFN who supported for undertaking this study and extended all possible supports. Special thanks goes to Ms. Shantalaxmi Shrestha, Chairperson, BBC Nepal, Mr. Milan Shrestha, Secretary General; Mr. Jitram Lama, Treasure; Central Committee Members Mr. Milan Dharel, Ms. Bhawana Bhatta, and Mr. Dillu Prasad Ghimire of NFN.

Further, we are thankful to Mr. Lal Shankar Ghimire, Joint Secretary and SDGs focal person, NPC; Mr. Basudev Guha Khashobis; SDGs focal person

1. Introduction

1.1 Context - SDGs and civil society report

The 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development (SDGs), adopted by the member states of the United Nations in September 2015 are new universal set of goals, targets and indicators to frame national agenda, development plans and programmes by members states over the next 15 years till 2030. These goals are built and expanded on achievements and learning of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that the world leaders adopted at the Millennium Summit in 2000 for a period till 2015 (Government of Nepal, 2016). While MDGs aimed at reducing poverty and inequality, SDGs expand these and other international commitments on ending poverty and achieving equality everywhere, leaving no one behind. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is integrated, indivisible and balance of three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental, and poverty eradication is stated as the overarching goal. The goals are integrated and indivisible, global in nature hence universally applicable.

Effective implementation of SDGs and achieving results require a good preparation in different aspects ranging from awareness and ownership, policy coherence, localization to integration into development plans, resource mobilization and establishing system for monitoring. The past two years have witnessed number of initiatives from Government of Nepal (GoN) towards preparation and implementation of SDGs. The most notable efforts have been in the areas of raising awareness, establishing high level institutional mechanisms for strategic guidance, coordination and monitoring, nationalizing goals and indicators, strengthening systems and integrating SDGs into national level plans and budgets. These efforts are led by the National Planning Commission (NPC) - an apex body of the government working as SDGs focal organization which is responsible for policy making, multi-sectoral coordination, planning and monitoring.

Implementation of SDGs envisages meaningful participation of all state and non-state actors – governments, civil society groups, cooperatives, INGOs, IDPs, UN, IFIs, private sectors, media and community groups – requiring working together in partnership. It requires localization of goals and targets, and strong multi-stakeholder structures in place to plan, implement, monitor

and review. It helps promoting ownership of the goals and responsibility of all actors for sustainable development at all levels, as states alone may not be in a position to materialize the SDGs. This is particularly important for a diverse and developing country like Nepal that is undergoing rapid political and social changes, and building sense of ownership of all stakeholders and people of different economic and social groups in the processes and results of development efforts.

Nepal is home for vibrant Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) that are active in different fronts and wide ranging areas. CSOs have made significant contributions to Nepal's socio-political and economic development and hence are important vehicles to implement and achieve SDGs. In this context, CSOs in Nepal have proactively formed a common platform - "Nepal SDGs Forum" - to engage collectively in SDGs processes. The objective of the forum is to exchange learning and foster collective action among CSOs in Nepal on SDGs implementation.

The United Nations provides opportunity to all member states for regular follow-up and review of progress on preparation and implementation of SDGs through Voluntary National Reports (VNR) presented in High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) convened annually. As part of its follow-up and review mechanisms, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 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" *(2030 Agenda, paragraph 79)*. The HLPF is an important platform not only for sharing the progress but also for cross learning and leveraging. The Government of Nepal is also planning to present its voluntary review report on SDGs at HLPF 2017 in New York.

Box 1: National facts and figure
- Human Development Index is 0.558 (ranked 144)
- 1 in 4 people live on less than $ 1 a day
- Per capita income is US$ 850
- 36 percent people intake less than the minimum daily requirement of calories needed for a healthy life
- Life expectancy at birth (years) is 70
- Only 48 percent students complete secondary education
- Female literacy rate is 57.4%
- Gender Inequality Index is 108
- Ranked 4th high risk country in terms of impact of climate change
- Only 45 out of 100 married women participate in major decision of their life
- More than half the population don't use the piped water supply
- 75 percent of households use fire wood as the primary fuel for cooking
- 1 in 5 youth are fully unemployed
- Tarai Dalits are the most marginalized group in terms of social and economic status

Though the VNR is state-led, it theoretically provides space for participation by all key actors; including civil society in the national review processes. The Nepal SDGs Forum, coordinated by NGO Federation of Nepal (NFN) aims to complement the VNR process by making independent assessment of Nepal's progress on SDGs from civil society perspective. The objective is to acknowledge the efforts from different corners towards implementation of SDGs in Nepal; identify strengths and challenges in the process; and suggest way forward for collective actions for improvement.

1.2 Nepal's socio-political context in relation to SDGs

Nepal, a small and diverse developing country with a largely agrarian economy, is among the poorest in South Asia, with per capita income of about US$ 850 *(MOF 2017)*. Since past few decades, the country is undergoing through rapid and significant political, economic and social changes. Despite prolonged political transition, increased environmental degradation and stagnant economic growth, the country has made significant achievements in areas of poverty reduction and human development. Considerable progress is made in infrastructure development, access to education, health and non-farm employment opportunities. The country has witnessed dramatic progress in poverty reduction. Absolute poverty has declined from 42 percent in 1996 to 31 percent in 2004 and 21.6 percent in 2017 *(NPC/GoN 2017)*. However, the distribution of the benefits from poverty reduction and human development has remained unequal and unjust. Still different sections of society are deprived of their fundamental rights even though the new constitution has guaranteed them. The country still suffers from mass poverty inequality, inadequate and disproportionate development of physical infrastructures, unemployment, subsistence agrarian economy, economic dependency on foreign countries, inability to harness the potentiality of natural resources, among many others.

Poverty continues to be a rural phenomenon and has been an emerging issue for the urban setting as well. Substantial disparities exist across ecological zones and social identity groups such as castes, ethnicities, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age and disability. For example, the incidence of income poverty is most pronounced in the mountains, hill districts in mid and far-west followed by the terai and the hills. Majority of Dalits (former untouchable groups affected by caste-based discriminations) and indigenous ethnic minority groups lack access to productive resources and other opportunities hence are forced to remain in poverty. Poverty in Nepal is considered to be

due to the underlying structural causes of systematic discrimination, marginalization and exclusion at all fronts. Gender based disparities and violence against women, girls and children are continued. Non recognition of informal sector workers and inadequate efforts for promoting decent work opportunities for both domestic and migrant workers is further deepening poverty. Persons Living with Disability (PLWD) lack access to basic health and livelihoods opportunities and are among the poorest and disadvantaged across all economic and social groups. Such differentiation and inequality between different economic and social groups is one of the major reasons for creating and perpetuating poverty in Nepal. Occurance of natural disasters has been directly affecting lives of the people. Foreign trade imbalance, youth migration, rampant corrucption, poor governmance and weak capacity of public institutions are unsettled challanges in the country.

Child marriage and harmful practices are burning issues of Nepal. Furthermore, lack of access to sexual and reproductive health information and services for adolescents, especially adolescent girls, is a major source of disenfranchisement for them and links closely to their ability to have a voice and make informed choices about their own bodies and relationships in Nepal which has been also prioritized by SDG 5.

In the midst of struggles for democracy, human rights and equality, Nepal has promulgated new constitution in 2015 that safeguards basic rights and welfare of all citizens. The constitution provides additional set of enabling rights specific to women and marginalized groups by way of positive discrimination in state governance, education, health, employment and social security. The constitution has also abolished discriminatory policies and has widened space for participation and inclusion of all segments of society including those so far marginalized on the basis of gender, caste, ethnicity, age, disability and so on. SDGs could be a vehicle/framework also to take forward commitments made in the Constitution.

SDGs are coherent with this changed socio-political and development dynamics of Nepal. The country through SDGs, envisions a world where people overcome poverty and enjoy decent work without harming the earth's essential ecosystems and resources; where people stay healthy and get the food and water they need; where everyone enjoys access to clean energy that doesn't contribute to climate change and where women and girls are assured of equal rights and equal opportunities. While government takes the lead and is responsible to provide enabling environment for CSOs, private sector, IDPs, INGOs, civil society and people at large play important role towards

implementation of SDGs and achieve the goals.

Like in many other developing countries, CSOs in Nepal have been actively contributing in promoting prosperity and reducing poverty, promoting growth and social inclusion that complement government's initiatives to achieve the SDGs. CSOs mobilize increasing amounts of resources from diverse sources for development programmes. Often, CSOs play dual and complementary role in development - as partners delivering development for wider and deeper coverage and as pressure group for inclusive and equitable outcomes. They employ professional development experts and develop innovative development solutions that are key for SDGs implementation. More importantly, CSOs have been active in making aware and organizing the most poor and disadvantaged people, building their voices and advocating for their empowerment and inclusion that is critically important to ensure that SDGs' leaves no one behind. Therefore, proactive engagement and participation of CSOs in SDGs preparedness and implementation is important for effective and sustainable outcomes of SDGs.

1.3 Objectives, methods and limitations of preparing the report

The Civil Society Report aims to gather and document CSOs views on the status of SDGs implementation in Nepal, both in terms of processes and outputs; and provides suggestions for way forward for all stakeholders including the state, CSOs and private sector. The report focuses on the status of preparedness and implementation of SDGs in Nepal including institutional and financial arrangements. It is developed following a participatory approach where all major stakeholders including relevant policy makers, development partners and CSOs at different levels participated and shared their experiences. The report serves as a guiding document for CSOs to shape voices and actions towards fostering partnership and accelerating the implementation of the SDGs effectively in Nepal.

The specific objectives of the report include:

- To assess the situation of SDGs implementation in Nepal in terms of the processes and outputs of the institutional and financial arrangements

- To provide suggestions for the future course of actions to be adopted by all groups of the stakeholders, primarily the state, private sector and CSOs

The assessment took a qualitative approach of investigation. It involved desk review of relevant documents followed by semi-structured interviews with

key stakeholders, series of consultations including province level consultations and focused group discussions with thematic teams and interest groups at the center, province, and local levels. The report also draws upon the Voluntary National Review (VNR) and baseline reports recently produced by the National Planning Commission (NPC) and the thematic progress assessment made by different thematic teams operating under the Nepal SDGs forum. The assessment has focused exploring on three major aspects - preparedness and integration of SDGs; inclusion, participation and ownership; and issues and challenges. The report has come up with recommendations and suggestions that will be useful instrument for self-reflection, to inform other actors as well as for advocacy. The report is expected to provide general guidance on CSOs activities for SDGs for the next few years.

The process of consultation, however, was delimited to certain selected groups of stakeholders as we could not reach out to all constituencies, thematic groups, government ministries, international non-government organizations (INGOs) and international financial institutions (IFIs) owing to time and resource constraints. Still, we were able to have consultations at all seven provinces of the country, and with major groups of stakeholders as identified by Nepal SDGs Forum.

1.4 Framework for analysis: preparedness, participation and reflections

SDGs involve a set of 17 universal goals to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all. Each goal has specific targets and there are a total of 169 global targets and 230 global indicators to be achieved by 2030. The assessment is centered on three interrelated aspects.

i) Assessment of progress on preparedness and integration of SDGs in Nepal

Box 2: Implementation guidance areas for mainstreaming SDGs and tailoring SDGs into national context

1. Raising public awarness
2. Applying multi-stakeholder approaches
3. Tailoring SDGs to national, sub-national and local contexts
4. Creating horizontal policy coherence (breaking the silos)
5. Creating vertical policy coherence (glocalizing the agenda)
6. Budgeting for the future.
7. Monitoring, reporting and accontability
8. Assessing risks and fostering adaptability.

Source: United Nations Development Group (2015)

ii) Assessment of inclusion, participation and ownership of CSOs in SDGs preparedness and implementation

iii) Discussing reflections on inclusion, participation and ownership of current SDGs processes and future doubts of some concerned interest groups

The first aspect, state of preparedness of SDGs includes range of activities from raising awareness to nationalizing the indicators and setting up implementation mechanism, revising and aligning the policies to create enabling environment, integration of SDGs targets into national plans and programmes to financial allocation and establishing partnership for implementation, monitoring and assurance of accountability (see Box 1, for general implementation guidance).

CSOs in Nepal are operating in a complex and dynamic socio-political context that the country is undergoing. CSOs often represent the voice and concerns of the most poor and marginalized sections of communities and empower them to claim rights. This is particularly important to ensure the principle of 'leave no one behind'. There is growing recognition that SDGs cannot be achieved without active participation of CSOs and this realization exists across all actors. The question is how far CSOs have been participating in preparedness and implementation of SDGs? Is the role clear to all actors? What opportunities and challenges exist to ensure effective participation of CSOs?

Therefore, the second aspect reflects on state of inclusion, participation and ownership of CSOs in the whole process of preparedness and implementation. This includes assessment of representation and participation of CSOs in the structures and institutional mechanisms created for SDGs, availability of space for voice and influence, clarity of roles of different actors, provisions for financial and technical assistance for CSOs and equitable access.

The third aspect deals with the reflections on inclusion, participation and ownership of current SDGs processes and future doubts of some concerned interest groups. We have assessed goal specific implementation status of the goals (i.e., SDGs 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 14 and 17) being reviewed at 2017 HLPF, but we realized it may be too early to locate actual progress on SDGs at a time when the state is still in preparations. It is perhaps not justified to mention that the state restructuring and political changes are causing delays and there isn't effective coordination. Maybe for next year's civil society report, it would be good to review status of specific goals relevant for HLPF 2018 and new initiatives to achieve the results.

2. Preparedness and Integration

As said, state is the leading organization for SDGs preparedness and integration that provides an enabling environment for other stakeholders and communities to participate effectively and to benefit. Apart from the government, other actors such as private sector, cooperatives, civil society, IDPs, INGOs and UN itself have taken several initiatives targeted on SDGs in Nepal. Based on the literature review, interactions with the key informants representing different constituencies and civil society consultations at provinces, FGDs and thematic group levels, a general inference is drawn which is discussed in the following sections.

2.1 Creating an enabling environment and early initiatives

Box 3: Sectoral plans and strategies that were reviewed in order to align with SDGs

- Agriculture Development Strategy of Nepal–ADS, 2015-2035
- School Sector Development Plan-SSDP, 2016-2023
- Nepal Health Sector Strategy –NHSS, 2015-2020
- Zero Hunger Challenge (ZHC) Action Plan of Nepal, 2016-2025
- Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Broadband Master Plan of Nepal, 2016-2020
- Forest Sector Strategy (FSS) of Nepal, 2015-2015
- Nature Conservation National Strategic Framework for Sustainable Development, 2015-2030
- Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene Sector Development Plan of Nepal, 2016-2030
- 20 Years Road Plan, 2001-2020 and Five Years Road Sector Strategy of Nepal, 2016-2020
- National Urban Development Strategy of Nepal
- Nepal's National Tourism Strategic Plan, 2015-2025
- National Energy Strategy of Nepal, 2013-2030 and Nepal's' Energy Sector Vision 2050, 2013-2050
- National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA) to Climate Change 2010, Climate Change Policy of Nepal, 2011 and Local Adaptation Program of Action (LAPA), 2011

Source: NPC/GoN 2017

2.1.1 State initiatives

Although the SDGs are the responsibilities of various actors, the major responsibility lies with the state. There have been some preparations in the part of state that could be linked with the preparatory works for creating enabling environment. The new constitution of Nepal promulgated in 2015 has entailed several provisions towards creating enabling environment for successful implementation of SDGs vis-a-vis achieving prosperity leading to socialism. National report taking stock of MDGs and other national development agenda was prepared with preliminary indicators soon the SDGs were declared in 2015 (GON, 2015 and 2016). The government has also taken initiative to review different existing sectoral plans, strategies, targets and priorities in order to align them with the SDGs (NPC/GoN 2017).

The preparation of national (preliminary) report 2015 and review and suggestions to revise sectoral plans and strategies in accordance with the SDGs is seen as facilitating different government agencies to align the plans with the SDGs. At the federal level, the state also mainstreamed SDGs in the 14th three year periodic plan (2016/17-2018/19) and annual budget starting mid July 2016 *(NPC/GoN 2017)*. They have also initiated SDGs budget audit through SDGs coding of budget line items including developing an M&E framework. High level SDGs steering committee at the central level under the chairpersonship of the Prime Minister and members from different stakeholders (except CS representation) is constituted recently. This committee is to provide oversight and political direction. Similarly, SDGs implementation and coordination committee (or working committee) chaired by the Vice Chairperson of NPC and nine thematic working groups chaired by each member of NPC are also formed recently. The implementation and coordination committee is responsible for managing overall inter-sectoral and inter-agency coordination, implementation and monitoring the progress. These committees are called as multi-stakeholder structures.

In addition to the above processes, the government is preparing to share its Voluntary National Review (VNR) report at the upcoming High Level Political Forum (HLPF) being convened on 10-19 July 2017 in New York. Although the draft VNR report is not free from rhetoric, it shows state's readiness and commitment to global SDGs process. Instead of introducing new initiatives and information, the report is largely based on previous sources. The government is also in the process of drafting SDGs national strategy in-

cluding implementation, costing and financing procedures and mechanisms. Nepal has already prepared SDGs wise indicators, counting 414 in number. Given the complexity of SDGs, it could be hard to handle such a huge number compared to 230+ identified globally.

Table 1: Summary of SDGs, targets, global and national indicators

SDGs	No. of global targets	No. of global indicators	No. of indicators set by Nepal
1. End poverty in all its forms every-where	7	12	20
2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	8	14	30
3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	13	26	59
4. Ensure inclusive and equitable qual-ity education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	10	11	36
5. Achieve gender equality and em-power all women and girls	9	14	29
6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	8	11	24
7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	5	6	14
8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	12	17	22
9. Build resilient infrastructure, pro-mote inclusive and sustainable in-dustrialization and foster innovation	8	12	14

10. Reduce inequality within and among countries	10	11	21
11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	10	15	35
12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	11	13	19
13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	5	7	18
14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development	10	10	0
15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss	12	14	23
16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	12	23	33
17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development	19	25	17
Total	169	241*	414

Source: NPC/GoN, May 2017

10 indicators are repeated, so the total number of global indicators stands at 230.

2.1.2 UN Nepal initiatives

There are 19 different UN agencies currently working in Nepal. Out of 19 agencies, about 13 agencies are involved in SDGs. UN Resident Coordinator for Nepal has established a UN agency level SDGs working group

for better coordination and effective support. The objective of establishing SDGs working group is to provide one coherent support to the government by coordinating among all UN agencies. But, there is a lack of demands from government side and therefore the group is not effective to provide coherent support but engaging with agency interest. Individually, UN agencies are doing a lot, but UN as a whole is still not effective despite of establishing SDGs working group. On the other, there are limited interests from government side regarding UN support for SDGs.

Different UN agencies support different line ministries in implementation of SDGs in Nepal. Some of the initiatives taken by UN agencies supporting Nepal are:

- Raising awareness on SDGs through supporting civil society groups including NGOs and media.

- Providing technical support to NPC for preparing baseline report (will also support for updating it) and developing costing and financing strategy.

- Supporting the government for aligning national M&E system with SDGs through strengthening NPC's capacity.

Collecting SDGs relevant data (secondary source) and developing baseline of all the districts and clustering them in terms of vulnerability and resilience. Report of this study will be out soon. UN is also undertaking a study on 'rapid integrated analysis of FY 2015/2016 budget' by district to know the plan vs. expenses, which has direct bearing on the SDGs. These two studies are expected to inform the policy makers and planners on the current status and the future course of action that they may wish to take (based on personal communication).

The UN office in Nepal is also in the process of finalizing provincial profiles in line with the SDGs targets and indicators (based on personal communication). UN communication team has also developed SDGs awareness materials that demonstrate interconnectedness among the goals and need of holistic approach to address the interrelated problems collectively.

2.1.3 Civil society initiatives

CSOs play a pivotal role

Globally, NGOs are one of the major groups engaged in SDGs process. In

Nepal also, CSOs play a pivotal role for SDGs implementation. Most often, CSOs represent the needs of underrepresented communities and regions. This makes them critical partners in ensuring that SDGs strategies target the needs of all segments of society and ensuring accountability for SDGs implementation. Because of their active engagement with the target groups, CSOs also have better knowledge about local context and issues and can recommend appropriate interventions in different parts of the country. They, therefore, need to be represented in multi-stakeholder bodies and thematic working groups for public consultations on important issues for SDGs planning. In addition, roles of INGOs are significant to promote the CSOs' initiatives and they are mobilizing about 10-15 percent of international development cooperation annually.

There are more than five hundred thousand civil society organizations including NGOs. CSOs in Nepal have expressed their commitment to implement SDGs successfully adopting the five principles of redistributive justice, economic justice, social justice, environmental justice and downward accountability (to the people) *(Joint Declaration of Nepalese CSOs, 2015)*. Most of the CSOs are involved in SDGs process (mainly supplementing and complementing in implementation) at different levels. Some CSOs are engaged in global policy advocacy, while some others are engaged at national advocacy work. Large numbers of CSOs are working, as service providers to implement development activities that contribute to the achievement of SDGs. CSOs are also active in raising public awareness. In order to strengthen collective voice and agencies, CSOs in Nepal have also formed Nepal SDGs Forum that provides a collective platform for CSOs to coordinate initiatives and a platform for exchange of learning as well.

Nepal SDGs Forum

Nepalese CSOs assembled on 25 February 2016 in Kathmandu formed a common civil society platform entitled "CSOs Forum on Sustainable Development in Nepal" as a loose network of CSOs. In short, it is called "Nepal SDGs Forum". Main aim of this forum is to engage CSOs on sustainable development process in effective, accountable and systematic manner. The forum involves in information sharing, advocacy, capacity development, mobilization, knowledge management, CSOs' accountability and engages with government, local governments and other development actors at all levels. It has its Secretariat at the office of NGO Federation of Nepal. The Forum has organized four coordination meetings so far. In the meeting, it

has been practicing to invite the key persons from Government, Parliament and development partners. SDGs Youth Alliance and SDGs Action Research Initiatives are additional initiatives led by CSOs.

2.1.4 Private sector initiatives

Private sector, mostly small and medium industries and business companies provide tremendous opportunities for collaboration to achieve SDGs. They are resourceful strategic partners in terms of leveraging finances, employment generation, technology development, infrastructure development and research and innovation which is much needed for SDGs. Thus, private sector could help to achieve SDGs in a number of ways, such as i) sustainable production processes, (ii) regenerative use of natural resources, (iii) improved social protection for labor, (iv) corporate social responsibility initiatives, and (v) philanthropic donations and so on (UN, 2015). Private sector can undertake initiatives for ending violence against children, such as discouraging child labor in business sectors. However, the potential demonstrated by the private sector and business houses to contribute in SDGs is not yet fully realized in the context of Nepal. Government and other actors have not set up incentives to attract private sector to participate in the SDGs process. Some private sector organizations already see the 2030 Agenda as critical to their growth.

2.2 Raising awareness

Raising awareness on SDGs is one of the first and foremost important components that need to be undertaken as soon as SDGs are implemented in the country context. As per the Nepal VNR report, different efforts were made by the government to inform concerned stakeholders on SDGs initiatives. Besides preparing, updating and disseminating national report on SDGs, the government has also organized SDGs orientation and planning meeting within the government system and organized briefing to press and civil society as 'one time' events (NPC/GON, 2017). But, those programmes were not sufficient for mass awareness.

Consultation with CSOs at province level shows that these awareness-raising activities have limited coverage. Most often such events were organized in Kathmandu valley. On the one hand, awareness-raising events organized by the government are often targeted to GoN officials. Where it includes the CSOs, they are usually from the center who can also access to similar other opportunities organized by CSOs, bilateral and multilateral organizations.

As a result, we found majority of CSOs and private sector organizations in Kathmandu and surroundings unaware of SDGs and implications in their work. Apart from the government, CSOs themselves are also found raising awareness on SDGs especially on the areas of thematic expertise. However, as in the case of GoN initiatives, the awareness raising efforts of CSOs also found limited to relatively accessible areas, confined to Kathmandu or other district headquarters. Several of the CSOs active or stationed mainly out of Kathmandu valley have limited knowledge, if any, about the SDGs and the roles to be played by them. As gathered from the province level consultations, the CSO representatives are not aware of the SDGs and their localization processes. Moreover, much of the opinion expressed by the CSO representatives was state's inability and unwillingness to recognize the roles played by the CSO groups in development. Their dissatisfaction was with government's failure to address poverty, hunger, malnutrition, discrimination, illiteracy, violation of human rights and other forms of exploitation and marginalization despite various plans and programmes including MDGs and SDGs in implementation before and now.

Very few are aware of SDGs and GoN's commitment to address poverty and inequality as a part of wider SDGs. Similarly, local people and the local government (urban municipalities and rural municipalities) representatives are not aware of the SDGs. It indicates that despite GoN and even CSOs initiatives on raising public awareness on SDGs, the result is not adequate. Increased awareness is visible in Kathmandu and in periphery among the people who already have access networks and knowledge. Much more is needed to build public awareness outside of Kathmandu.

At national level, Nepal SDGs Forum is involving networks of different civil society groups have been in place. 19 thematic groups (e.g., education, health, WASH, etc.) and 23 constituencies (e.g., women, children, Dalits, Madhesi, indigenous peoples, workers etc.) are also delineated under this civil society forums for encouraging goal specific and/or constituency specific engagement. Though the thematic teams are proactively engaging in SDG process, they are closer to the non-government actors and are not sufficiently working with the GoN thematic team. The engagement is also limited mainly at Kathmandu level. The existence of thematic team is not visible at the province and local levels. It suggests that the thematic structure and engagement from the part of CSOs is not instrumental yet to energize local level processes of SDGs outside Kathmandu valley per se. The finding was confirmed through the provincial consultations where the civil society demanded for

organizing province level SDGs platforms, undertaking targeted efforts to eradicate poverty, hunger, inequality, discrimination, etc., need for raising awareness on all 17 SDGs and relevant targets, among others.

2.3 Tailoring SDGs to national development plans

Nepal was among the first few countries that prepared national report on SDGs in 2015. Though preliminary, with this report, GoN demonstrated Nepal's commitment to SDGs. The national report had identified the status and gaps in each goal. This national report has been a basis for further work on localizing development plan. Government has also determined national indicators to the SDGs and has set the target accordingly. Baseline is being prepared for both the global and national indicators and targets. National monitoring and evaluation system at NPC is being aligned with SDGs indicators and targets.

Nepal was also the first to introduce a separate budgetary code of SDGs in its annual plan and budget. This is the second year that Nepal is using a separate SDGs budget code. It means all development plans and budgets have been aligned to SDGs goals (except 12 and 14) while planning and budgeting *(NPC/GoN, 2016)*. In additions to the introduction of budgetary code, the government is also developing an implementation strategy for SDGs.

The 14th Three Year Development Plan (2016/017-2018/019) and the annual plans and budgets for 2016/017 and 2017/018 have also attempted to align SDGs. It means, the SDGs are being mainstreamed into the national development plans and programmes. However, these considerations are at the level of federal government and there is no clarity yet on how the same would happen for province and local governments, who should be implementing several of the SDGs. Moreover, easier said than done, how the different sectoral plans and strategies that existed before the SDGs came into being could be aligned with the new sets of SDGs, particularly at province and local level is still a question to answer appropriately.

Though, the government claims sufficient consultation was done while setting the national indicators and targets, our consultation with CSOs at different levels show lack of consultation and therefore lack of understanding and ownership of CSOs on the new sets of national indicators and targets. Some indicators suggested by CSOs are not inculded by the Government. It raises question of who will implement and monitor the results.

2.4 Applying multi-stakeholder approaches

Government has recently formed three tiers of structures as part of the preparation for SDGs implementation. They include i) a national level steering committee led by the Prime Minister, ii) an Implementation coordination and Monitoring Committee led by the Vice-Chair of NPC and iii) 9 thematic committees coordinated by members of the NPC. The objectives are to provide oversight, to coordinate and to align sectoral plans of different actors with SDGs.

Though, these committees called as multi-stakeholder structures, they are heavily dominated by government agencies. Institutional representation of CSOs is not provisioned in national steering committee. CSOs' representation (not institutional one) is limited to an 'invited member' in implementation, and coordination committee. CSOs participation is not mandatory in thematic working groups. It loosely says, 'the coordinator of the committee may invite organizations, individuals or stakeholders in the meeting as deemed necessary'. That means, CSOs participation in the thematic working groups depends on the mercy or willingness of the coordinator. The frequent change of invitees and participants means lack of institutional memory and difficulties to strengthen voice and influence. It limits the participation as observer to the committee; invitation is not regular and therefore affects effectiveness and influencing capacity of the CSOs in the SDG localization processes including integration, implementation, and coordination and monitoring processes. It is known that

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Box 4: Integration of goals

SDGs and their targets are ambitious. Most goals are interdependent, and some are foundational to achieving other goals. Therefore, attempts should be made to achieve all goals and targets in a collaborative and coordinated ways across different sectors. For example, a presentation during a thematic consultation on Goal 6 (WASH) clarified how this goal is directly link with other goals. Like, WASH is an essential component of an integrated approach to tackling poverty, hunger, health and inequality. Progress on drinking water, sanitation and hygiene is critical for the achievement of other targets, including reducing poverty and achieving universal access to basic services (1.1 and 1.2); ending all forms of malnutrition (2.2); ending preventable child deaths, combating neglected tropical diseases and waterborne diseases, and achieving universal health coverage (3.2, 3.3, 3.8 and 3.9); providing safe and inclusive learning environments (4a); ending violence against women and girls and reducing gender inequality (5.2 and 5.4); ensuring adequate, safe and affordable housing for all (11.1) and reducing deaths caused by disasters (11.5).

Global Goals toolkit, WaterAid, Safely managed drinking water - thematic report on drinking water 2017, UNICEF/WHO

no meeting has been taken place of both high level committees so far.

There is no provision for inclusive representatives from Dalits, women, people living with disability and indigenous peoples, minority groups in any of these committees. These are the groups of people that are left always at the margin hence need utmost priority for their development. If people from all different interest groups do not get space to participate in such multi-stakeholder forums, it is difficult for the state as well as non-stake actors to under-

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Box 4: Composition of SDG implementation bodies

The composition of the Central Steering Committee on SDGs is as follows:

- Prime Minister – Chairperson
- Vice chairperson of National Planning Commission
- Minster, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Minister, Ministry of Finance
- Chief Secretary of Government of Nepal
- Secretary, National Planning Commission Secretariat- Member Secretary

The SDG Implementation and Coordination Committee (working committee) is composed as follows:

- Vice Chairperson of National Planning Commission
- Member of NPC (Economic development)
- Secretary, Ministry of Finance
- Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Umbrella organizations of private sectors (FNCCI, CNI, NCC)
- Joint Secretary, Financial management section, National Planning Commission (Member Secretary)

Nine thematic groups, each led by the NPC member are also created. It is said that these thematic groups comprise of members from concerned ministries, private sector, civil society and senior officials of the National Planning Commission Secretariat. CSOs can attend the meeting by invitation only.

stand the specific issues these people are facing. Without knowing the reality and issues, the objective of 'leave no behind' in SDGs cannot be met.

2.5 Promoting horizontal and vertical policy coherence

Some efforts are already initiated to promote horizontal policy coherence by aligning different sectoral plans and strategies with that of SDGs, in one hand, and including senior level government officers from different ministries in the steering as well as coordination committee to that would help easing promotion of horizontal policy coherence. Promotion of vertical policy coherence has not started yet as the provincial and local level governments are yet to come in.

2.6 Monitoring, reporting and accountability

The central steering committee is supposed to monitor the SDGs implementation and provide guidance in its entirety; it has yet not started its work as a result of it being newly constituted and recent reshuffle of government leadership. Maybe the implementation and coordination committee is taking on the role of monitoring for the time being. There is a need to have parliamentary committee to monitor the performance of the government.

The state is also assuming its accountability to UN systems, so has become one of the early nations to prepare and submit national report and the VNR report on SDGs, on one hand, and mainstreaming the SDGs into national plans and programmes, on the other.

2.7 Need for means of SDGs implementation focusing on financing needs and capacities

Nepal is one of the least developed countries, which has a plan to graduate from LDC group by 2022. Being an LDC, it has severe financing and capacity deficits. In view of nearly one-third short of finances for implementing MDGs, the implementation of SDGs is an uphill task from the perspective of managing financial resources on its own. Initial estimates at global level show that Nepal will need at least USD 1.5 trillion additional amounts per annum for the implementation of SDGs *(World Business Council, 2017, cited in Government of Nepal, National Planning Commission, May 2017)*. However, no estimates are available nationally on how much finance the country will need to implement SDGs over a period of 15 years. But, there is a stark reality that we will need huge amount and for that we need to promote

and strengthen partnership at global, national and local levels as SDGs are the shared responsibilities of all actors – international and national.

The flow of official development assistance (ODA) in Nepal including the grant, loan and technical assistance has increased by more than three times from that of 1999/2000 to 2014/2015 (Table 2). It means, the volume of ODA increased during MDGs implementation, but it has declined in proportionate terms, e.g., from 4.8 percent of GDP in 1999/2000 to 2.6 percent in 2014/2015 (Table 2). Similarly, the share of ODA in total government expenditure has declined gradually from 68.8 percent in 1999/2000 to 62.5 percent in 2014/2015, with an exception of 2004/2005 in respect of development expenditure.

The ODA disbursement as proportion of donors' commitment is also declining gradually over the years. The ODA disbursement was 85.7 percent in 1999/2000, which declined to 55.4 percent in 2014/2015 (Table 2). If the current level of ODA is maintained, it will not meet the development expenditure requirement of Nepal for SDGs implementation.

Table 2: Flow of official development assistance in Nepal

Particulars	Review dates			
	1999/2000	2004/2005	2009/2010	2014/2015
Total actual foreign assistance (NRs Billion)	17.5	23.7	49.8	55.4
Share of ODA in GDP (%)	4.8	4.2	4.2	2.6
Share of foreign aid of total government expenditures (%)	26.4	23.1	19.2	12.9
Share of foreign assistance in development expenditure (%)	68.8	86.5	55.1	62.5
ODA disbursement as proportion of commitment (%)	85.7	62.0	51.5	55.4

Source: NPC/GoN, 2016.

The channeling of ODA is an issue that needs to be resolved. For example, of the total ODA received in 2015/16 FY, only 63 percent was disbursed through on budget projects while 37 percent was through off budget projects. Last FY, this ratio was 65 percent and 35 percent, respectively *(MoF, March 2017).* Of the 63 percent on budget projects, 26 percent was spent through direct payments (on budget but off treasury), further increasing the bulk of off budget amount. More assistance through off budget projects means the development partners are still reluctant to respect the country system and country process in line with Paris Principles of Aid Effectiveness and its subsequent outcomes.

In the context of SDGs, there is a wider range of development partners – internationally and nationally. The international development partners are either the traditional donors from north or the new set of partners emerging even within south. Irrespective of their origin, their support is crucial for achieving SDGs through strengthened global partnerships in terms of availing necessary finances and useful technologies or developing capacity and promoting fair trade. They must prompt to give 0.7 percent (to developing countries) and 0.15-0.20 percent (to LDCs) of their commitment which is overdue already. Moreover, the rich industrialized countries must give additional finances to LDCs to address the problems triggered as a result of climate change.

In country development partners should come together in the multi-stakeholder forums and support SDGs implementation through collective planning, implementation and monitoring. State has to create enabling environment so that all the partners join hands together.

To summarize, Nepal has made some halting progress on preparation of SDGs implementation, especially by creating institutional mechanism to oversight SDGs implementation, setting national indicators and targets, creating specific budgetary line for resource allocation and tracking, establishing indicator wise baseline and aligning the monitoring and evaluation system with SDGs indicators and targets. These are important benchmarks for smart start and effective implementation of the SDGs. These preparatory works are expected to guide the government as well as other actors to work effectively in a coordinated way towards SDGs implementation in Nepal. However, the effectiveness of these preparatory works depends on continuity of the efforts, participation of other actors in the process and ownership of the outputs and systems. The section below provides a reflection on state of

3. Reflections on inclusion, participa tion and ownership

As outlined in the context, Nepal is diverse, not only geographically but also socially and culturally. Economic, social and cultural variables characterize Nepali society and their conditions in many different ways. The country is home for at least 125 caste and ethnic groups, 123 language groups and 10 religious groups. Social constructs such as gender, age, disability, sexual orientation, etc. further cross cut social identity based on caste, ethnicity and religion. Such diversity has important implications on individuals and groups' ability to access to livelihood assets and services, to voice and influence and challenge the injustices and discrimination. Recognition of the diversity, potentials and barriers to inclusion of different economic and social groups is a prerequisite for any development interventions for equitable and inclusive outcomes. This also applies to SDGs preparedness and implementation. As indicated above, current state of preparedness and implementation of SDGs in Nepal has limited reflection and understanding of social groups' specific potentials and barriers to inclusion.

Consultations with different social groups indicate that the process lacks inclusion of different social groups, and therefore, long pending issues are not responded in preparedness and early implementation of SDGs. It raises concerns whether the SDGs outcomes would be equitable and inclusive. Based on consultations with different constituency groups, this section outlines some of the major concerns of Dalits, Indigenous People, Persons with Disability and LGBTIQ community and prospects and barriers for inclusion. This would provide a basis for reflection of current process and areas for improvement in future.

3.1 Issues specific to minority and disadvantaged groups

Dalits

According to the 2011 population and housing census, Dalits constitute 13.6 percent of the total population (i.e. nearly 3.6 million people) in Nepal. Researchers and Dalits organizations assess that this number could be above 20 percent (i.e. as many as five million population). While according to national average, 21.6 percent of total population in Nepal is under absolute poverty,

absolute poverty is more than 43 percent for Dalits. The group also suffers from relatively higher rate of malnutrition and child/maternal mortality. Access to education and basic health service and land resources is less than average among the group. It indicates large concentration of poverty and marginalization among Dalits population.

Government of Nepal has made some specific and targeted interventions to reduce poverty and improve human development situation of Dalits. Establishment of National Dalits Commission (NDC) and formulation of guideline and implementation of elimination of caste based discrimination and promotion of Dalits rights are examples of policy interventions. Similarly, targeted multi-sectoral development interventions such as provisions for child benefits and scholarship for access to education, reservation and quotas on access to employment, social security provisions, health benefit and reservation on civil service and political participation have resulted some positive outcomes since past few years. However, though abolished in law, the ill practice of untouchability still exists severely, especially in rural areas. Social stigma and cultural/religious taboos and norms associated with caste-based identity continue creating barriers among Dalits population to participate and benefit equitably from development interventions and SDGs is not immune to the situation. Consultation among Dalits identified following issues on Dalits and SDGs.

Awareness and ownership among Dalits: Less than 1 percent of Dalits and their organizations are aware of SDGS, need of participation and potential benefits. Dalits are rarely invited in SDGs focused program organized by the Government as well as CSOs and lack of information and means to participate are key barriers for awareness and ownership. Dalits NGO Federation has recognized the gap in awareness and ownership of SDGs among Dalits communities but due to lack of financial resources, it could not expand coverage to the center and local levels.

Representation and participation of Dalits in SDGs multi-stakeholder structure: The high level steering committee and the committees for implementation, coordinating and monitoring formed by the government does not envision representation and participation of Dalits. There is a central untouchability and caste based discrimination vigilance committee formed to support the government to enforce end of caste-based discrimination. Though the committee is chaired by the Prime Minister, this not functional. Similar structures are formed by Government at local levels, but none are active.

Integration of Dalits issues in policies, plans and budgets: The lack of voice also means loss of opportunity for integration of Dalits issues in policies, plans and budgets. For example, though constitution has abolished caste based discrimination and has addressed some of the barriers Dalits face to claim their rights, the follow up plans and policies lack effective implementation. Periodic plans of the government identifies Dalits as one of the disadvantaged groups that require targeted interventions but these are not reflected in the local level and sectoral plans and budgets. Despite of the fact that there is high concentration of poverty among Dalits, Poverty Alleviation Fund does not have space for Dalits representation that demonstrates huge gap in policies and implementation to empower Dalits.

Dalits and SDGs preparedness: Lack of awareness, lack of representation in multi stakeholder structures and limited integration of Dalits issues in development plans and budget indicates that SDGs implementation might also suffer from exclusion. In the past two years' or so, there are no interventions designed to ensure participation and empowerment of Dalits in SDGs process. SDGs implementation also suffers lack of disaggregated data on Dalits, based on which targeted interventions could be designed, implemented and monitored. Gathering disaggregated data, raising public awareness and ownership of Dalits in SDGs through specific interventions and providing space for consultation and participation in decision making would be prerequisite for an inclusive preparedness for SDG implementation which will be a solid foundation for inclusive outcomes.

Indigenous Peoples (Adivasi Janajati)

Indigenous peoples (IPs) consists of ethnic groups and communities who have their own mother tongue and traditional customs, different cultural identity, distinct social structure and written or oral history" (GoN, 2002:170). They comprise 35.8 percent of the total population represented by 59 groups commonly referred as Adivasi Janajati. Poverty in Nepal has caste and ethnic dimensions. Poverty and livelihood conditions vary not only between IPs and other caste ethnic groups but also within IPs between different groups. While nearly one-fourth (24.6%) of IPs are living below the poverty line, some of them such as Chepangs, Raute, Majhi and Kusunda live in highly marginalized land and suffer from severe and multiple form of poverty and exclusion. IPs follows their own traditional occupations that are often threatened due to increasing modernization and environmental concerns. Some of the economic issues common among IPs are limited access to and con-

trol over productive resources, displacement from traditional occupation and lack of alternative livelihood options and lack of access to basic livelihood services such as education, drinking water, health, sanitation and markets due to remoteness and isolation. As a result, IPs often suffers from food crisis and hunger. SDGs related to poverty reduction, zero hunger and improving access to basic health and services cannot be met without active participation of IPs and improving the existing situation of isolation, deprivation and exclusion. Government of Nepal has established National Foundation for Development of Indigenous Nationalities (NFDIN) in 2002 with an objective to ensure the overall welfare of the different indigenous nationalities who lives across the country. The foundation runs several programmes including social protection, scholarship for education, reservation and quota in employment targeted to IPs. However, the foundation's work in isolation is less effective as addressing IPs issues need a more holistic approach. NEFIN, NIDA, NIWF, LAHURNIP and NGO FONIN also works as an umbrella organizations on IPs issues especially in advocacy towards protecting rights of IPs.

Awareness and ownership of SDGs among IPs: Consultation with IPs showed complete lack of awareness about SDGs, their roles and possible benefits. While some of the IPs networks operating in Kathmandu have some level of awareness about SDGs, there is complete lack of knowledge and lack of access to information about country's preparedness on SDGs. Umbrella organizations of IPS are supposed to protect rights of IPs and negotiate space for their participation in decision making also seems not aware of SDGs and how it impacts to IPs. The awareness raising activities neither recognize the IPs specific issues nor specify the ways of ensuring their participation in decisions and in access to benefits. Therefore IPs has limited ownership to the SDGs process outlined in the VNR 2017.

Representation and participation of IPs in multi-stakeholder structure: There is complete lack of representation of IPs in national structures and mechanisms developed by the government for SDGs implementation. However, Nepal SDG forum that is composed of different civil society groups have specific thematic team to address IPs related issues and for advocacy for inclusion of IPs in SDG implementation. Though the GoN has accepted ILO 169 with a provision of free, prior and informed consent, this is not fully translated into practice. This applies at every level from national, province as well as local.

Integration of IPs issues in policies, plans, budgets: Though the14[th] periodic plan has acknowledged SDGs and indigenous nationalities have been one

of the target groups of the government for affirmative action and empowerment, issues faced by IPs are not reflected in the periodic plan. The annual plans and budgets in general suffer from complete lack acknowledgement of specific barriers of IPs to participate and benefit from development interventions. For example, most of IPs makes their living through traditional occupation, which is threatened due to increasing environmental concerns, or market interventions. Lack of space and enabling environment to continue traditional livelihood measures or providing alternative livelihood options would be important to protect IPs from hunger, malnutrition and poverty. However, the issue is neither recognized nor addressed in GoN plans and budget. Though this is a generic issue and not specific to SDGs, it affects country's ability to achieve goals of ending poverty and hunger and leave no one behind. SDGs should not be seen in isolation of other important national international commitment related to protection of rights of IPs. It is therefore important to enforce these commitments that complements to the achievement of SDGs.

IPs and SDGs preparedness: At current stage, SDGs preparedness and implementation lack sensitivity on potentials and barriers for IPs to participate effectively in SDGs implementation. Lack of disaggregated data further constrains government's ability to plan and monitor achievement specific to IPs. There are number of networks and federations of IPs self-motivated to engage in SDGs process by organizing sensitization workshops and advocacy with the GoN for inclusion. Some of them are also active in data generation. But, because of the lack of dialogues and consultation between the parties, the activities and achievement of IPs towards SDGs implementation is not recognized and documented. Consultation with IPs and their networks suggest that plans and programmes related to SDGs would be responsive to the needs and priorities of IPs if free, prior and informed consent is brought in practice. Similarly, IPs specific barriers to participate and benefit from SDG process need to be identified and integrated into action plans. SDGs implementation needs to respect for diversity and promote intersectional approach. (note on consultation with IPs, 2017).

Persons Living with Disability (PLWD)

Population and Housing Census (2011) shows nearly 2 percent population i.e. more than half million in Nepal are Persons Living With Disability (PLWD). The Earthquake in April 2015 has added additional people in this category. Though there are different forms of disabilities, the majorities are physically challenged followed those with vision and hearing problem. The

GoN has already initiated number of targeted interventions including social protection (grant and subsidy on access to basic services), reservation for persons with disabilities to education, training and for employment. These initiatives have demonstrated good results towards protection of rights of PLWD and their dignity. However, majority of people living with disability are poor and live in a situation of isolation, marginalization and lack of dignity. Lack of disable friendly infrastructure is one of the most critical problems in Nepal leading to poverty, isolation and marginalization of PLWD. SDGs aim for inclusive outcomes and require member states to empower PLWDs to participate and benefit from SDGs.

Awareness and ownership of SDGs among PLWD: Consultation with PLWD and their networks show that there is lack of awareness on SDGs especially at local levels. PLWDs are either unaware of such events, not invited or sometimes constrained to participate due to the lack of disable friendly infrastructure and instruction methods.

Representation and participation of PLWD: Consultation with PLWD shows this group does not have designated space to represent and participate in GoN established structures for SDGs implementation and therefore lacks ownership of the process. Though National Federation of Disabled in Nepal is active in raising awareness, empowering the people living with disabilities and for advocacy, the federation too, is not prepared and does not have separate committees or structure in place to support or participate in SDG process.

Integration of disability issues in policies, plans and budgets: The constitution protects rights of PLWD as an issue of social justice. Right of people with disability Act is being drafted to translate the constitutional provisions into practice. However, lack of disable friendly infrastructure has remained the most important challenge for PLWDs and the GoN policy for making all public infrastructure disable friendly is not yet in practice. Similarly GoN plans and programmes till now focus on welfare of the persons living with disability and provides social security. While social protection is important to protect basic livelihood security, it is equally important to empower persons living with disability with education, skills and credit facilities to make them self-dependent and to enable them live with dignity. Such right based approach and focusing on capitalizing potentials of persons living with disability needs to be mainstreamed throughout in GoN plans and programmes including that of SDGs.

Disability and SDGs preparedness: Consultation with PLWDs reveals that current efforts of the GoN to inclusion are not sufficient to address access and related barriers faced by people with disability. Among the barriers, lack of disable friendly infrastructure, gender based violence in the family and communities because of stigma associated with disability, lack of opportunities for disable friendly education, health facilities, lack of proper psychosocial counseling facilities for the newly disabled people, limited skills development and employment opportunities, cultural and religious taboos related to disability are some that directly affects ability of PLWDs to participate and benefit from SDGs implementation. Lack of disaggregated data further constrains ability of the GoN to make specific plan and to monitor achievement from disability perspective. SDGs preparedness and implementation should be responsive to these barriers. There is a need of specific plans and programmes backed up with adequate resource to facilitate participation of persons living with disability in SDGs preparedness and implementation.

Consultation with PLWDs and their organizations indicated number of ways to create enabling environment for PLWDs to own and participate in SDG implementation. Some of them include sensitization targeted to PLWDs, creating space for representation and participation in multi-stakeholder structures, increasing involvement of PLWDs in development planning, allocation of specific fund and reservation in employment, media sensitization and advocacy on disability issues, arrangement for free counseling to PLWD and their families and establishment of high level multi-stakeholder institutions for disability audit and monitoring of responsiveness at the center and local levels.

Sexual Minorities and LGBTIQ

Sexual minority groups in Nepal include Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersexual and Questioning (LGBTIQ). Nepal is the 3rd country in the world that has recognized issues of sexual minority at the highest level, the constitution. Constitution guarantees rights to identity and protection of basic human rights of sexual minorities. However, these rights are not fully translated into practice. Consultation with sexual minorities reveals that social stigma related to sexual orientation is the main issue that results into violence in the families and in communities. Risk of HIV/AIDS is largest among the group. 2020 vision of HIV AIDS and strategic plan does recognize vulnerability and focus on preventing this group from the vulnerability. Lack of skills, credit and employment opportunity as well as lack of adequate level

of health facilities and sensitization among health officials are some of the barriers that inhibits participation of sexual minority group to participate and to benefit from development interventions.

Consultations reveal that sexual minority groups are less aware of SDGs and the process of how plans at local level will be aligned to SDGs and whether issues of sexual minorities will be responded at local level. Sexual minority groups recognize lack of adequately sensitized public health system and services, lack of properly designated infrastructure especially toilets in public places, lack of employment opportunity and stigma related to sexual identity as inclusion barriers. There is lack of awareness of HLPF process and where and how to advocate ensuring that their concerns are recognized and addressed. The focused group discussion during the study identified number of ways to make SDGs inclusive and responsive to the issues of sexual minority groups. Some of them include- sensitization and capacity building not only on SDGs but in all sectors that touches everyday life of LGBTIQ community; empowerment, legal counseling and protection from violence and access to justice; livelihood and access to basic services and space for participation and voice to express needs and priorities of the community.

3.2 Assessment of inclusiveness, participation and ownership of CSOs

Raising public awareness on SDGs is a critical initial and ongoing step in successful implementation. Awareness of stakeholders and people on SDGs-especially their relevance to the national, sub-national and local context and benefits of aligning plans and policies to the global goals not only build ownership but more importantly encourage people, including the marginalized to participate effectively in the process and provides the foundation for inclusive outcome. As discussed above, the government has organized series of introductory workshops. In additions, CSOs also have organized series of workshops and also consultation and focused group discussions reveal the following issues.

The efforts of building awareness are fragmented, insufficient and are limited to more accessible areas with more accessible and reachable population. The 'one time event' is not sufficient for proactive engagement and building capacity of staffs to contribute personally and professionally.

The awareness building is yet to reach province and local government structures where actual implementation of SDGs takes place. The newly held election of local government provides ample opportunity to organize public

awareness campaign to communicate the SDGs to both the locally elected officials as well as the public including the women, children, youths and other marginalized groups for public support.

Implementation of SDGs requires both political commitment and public support. Assessment of current level of understanding among the policy makers reveals lack of knowledge among the political actors, parliamentarians and key decision makers the SDGs, its relevance and requirements.

Awareness building initiatives from CSOs also suffers from exclusion for some and duplication for others. In some locations and among some audience especially those visible organizations found the most benefitted while small organizations and networks, or federation of marginalized group have been excluded. This has affected the level of ownership and commitment at every level.

Reaching to the marginalized section of population or their networks/organization such as networks of minority ethnic groups, persons with disability or sexual minorities might require separate approach for awareness as well as building ownership to the process.

As explained earlier, CSOs thematic structure under Nepal SDG forum is a good model for wider level of engagement of different types of actors. But, these groups are also confined to the relatively accessible areas, mostly in and around Kathmandu. It is important that these structures are replicated at the local level and equipped with skills and resources for better coverage.

3.3 Representation and participation of CSOs in high level state structures

The SDGs implementation requires governments to create spaces and mechanisms for engagement of different stakeholders including the networks of civil society, academia, think tank, private sector as well as human rights organizations, not only as a way to strengthen people's basic political rights but also because it helps to create better policies and generate better development outcomes. Multi-stakeholder approaches encourage and facilitate partnerships between government and all these non-government actors. Representation and participation of CSOs in high level government structure is also important because CSOs often represent the voice of the most marginalized and minority groups and contribute to make the decisions more responsive to these groups.

However as said earlier, GoN has formed two high level committees and nine thematic working groups to roll out and implement SDGs by 2030.

These structures are responsible to provide oversight and political direction, implementation and coordination of SDGs related works and aligning SDGs into GoN plans, policies and budgets and consolidating outcomes respectively.

Though the structures are called multi-stakeholders, they are heavily dominated by government with very limited spaces to CSOs and other stakeholders. If there are also spaces for CSOs that are legitimate for raising concerns of women, Dalits, marginalized IPs, persons living with disabilities, senior citizens, persons living with HIV and AIDS, LGBTIQ community etc. Participation of CSOs is not provisioned in national steering committees. It is limited to 'invited member' in implementation, coordination and monitoring committed. CSOs participation is not mandatory for thematic working group. It loosely says, 'the coordinator of the committee may invite organizations, individuals or stakeholders in the meeting as deemed necessary'. That means, CSOs participation in the thematic working group depends on willingness of the coordinator. The frequent change of invitees and participants means lack of institutional memory and difficulties to build voice and influence. It limits the participation as observer to the committee; invitation is not regular and therefore affects effectiveness and influencing capacity of the CSOs in the SDG localization processes including integration, implementation, coordination and monitoring processes. The exclusion of CSOs from state led structures tends to limit their ability to represent issues of the marginalized and minority groups and build their voice that is critical to ensure inclusive process and outcome of SDGs.

Nonetheless, the government has several mechanisms and they can create spaces to some extent for receiving the inputs from CSOs and different corners on the process and documentation. However, our discussion with interest groups shows that the open space for consultation is limited mainly in accessible areas and the people and CSOs outside of Kathmandu has limited space and opportunity to participate in consultation and to provide feedback.

3.4 Clarity of roles and building synergy among the actors

SDGs offers roles to everyone be it central and local government, NGOs, academia, private sectors, community groups and people at large. Each of these groups, with specific set of skills, mandate and constituencies can complement each other for effective outcome of SDGs. Constructive dialogues among different actors help to define the roles and to outline the action plan.

It also builds a common understanding among the actors on where to engage, whom to contact and work together *(For e.g. Goal 6 of water and sanitation is highly linked with Goal 1.4 end poverty, Goal 3.2, 3.3, 3.8, 3.9 healthy lives, Goal 4.1, 4.5, 4.7 quality educations, Goal 5.4 Gender equality, Goal 9.1, and 9.4 resilient infrastructure)*.

Though the GoN has made public about existence of different structures and their roles, this is not yet clear and communicated how these structures facilitate as well as consolidate the work of non-government and private sectors. Clarity in the roles and dialogue with relevant actors would help to establish sharing and learning mechanisms and would make synergy for better result.

3.5 Provisions for financial and technical assistance for CSOs

One of the issues related to SDGs preparedness that have attracted considerable attention in developing countries is a need for assessment of financial and technical assistance for the implementation of SDGs. A careful analysis of need is not yet done in Nepal. Government is in process to make such assessment. But simultaneously, it is equally important to analyze need of financial and technical assistance to be mobilized by CSOs. Among the CSOs, capacity and constituencies differ. Therefore, it is equally important to ensure equitable distribution of technical and financial resources among the constituencies and actors.

4. Key Issues, Challenges and Way Forward

4.1 Key issues and challenges

- **Frequent changes in government leadership**: NPC is the lead agency of the Government for SDGs implementation, and Prime Minister is the Chair of it. Frequent changes in leadership and senior officials in the government are challenges for overall progress including the preparedness, ownership and for coordination. There is limited buy-in from NPC to the works that were done by earlier team(s). This has been further destabilizes with political instability (frequent changes on government), delayed in implementation of constitution and election of local governments, state legislature and new federal legislature.

- **Absence of high level multi-stakeholder institutional mechanism**: Government formed three high level committees namely National Steering Committee, Implementation Coordination and Monitoring Committee, and nine Thematic Working Groups to rollout and implement the SDGs. But, all these committees do not contain any provision for ensuring institutional representation of CSOs and other stakeholders. Government of Nepal does not demonstrate any reliable basis for inclusion of diverse social groups who remained outside of the development mainstream for long; among the leading CSOs of other class and communities, in line with the spirit of "leave no one behind" as enshrined in the 2030 Agenda. Provision of representing from three umbrella organizations of business sector demonstrates that the Government's focus is much more on private sector engagement.

- **Absence of mechanism at local and province level**: Though national level structures are created at three tiers, it is not yet clear how it is links with sub-national government structures and how it ensures implementation of SDGs at local levels. The current elected local government leaders are not well trained and educated on the SDGs and their role for the implementation as the local authority.

- **Lack of disaggregated data**: Usually the data we received from GoN and other stakeholders show what Nepal has achieved so far is not enough. The principle of 'Leave no one behind' requires disaggregated

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data for every level and if number of indicators is expanding, it becomes almost impossible to generate data for each and every indicator.

- **Absence of national implementation SDGs strategy**: There is urgent need preparing SDGs based long term national development strategy and periodic plans. But, for this strong coordination with and among ministries and key development actors should be effective. Implementation approach should be inclusive, participatory, Human Rights based and integrated.

- **Localization of SDGs**: There is urgent need to localize SDGs – from international to national and from Federal to Provincial and Local Levels. Targets and indicators to be localized at Provincial and Local Levels - as many SDGs are to be implemented at Provincial and Local Levels. In the localization process, targets and indicators have to be matched. There are 40 women related targets and 50 indicators.

- **SDGs implementation guidelines**: Provide clear pathways for integrating SDGs into development plans and annual budgets. As the provincial and local governments do not have periodic plans, implementation rigor, or capacity to implement.

- **Enabling environment**: Creating adequate enabling environment and role for all developing and developed countries, national and international agencies, domestic stakeholders such as CSOs, cooperatives and private sector. It is concluded that the civic space has been shrinking in last few years and operating environment for NGOs has been degrading to som extent.

- **Balance among the Goals**: SDGs and their targets are ambitious. Most goals are interdependent, and some are foundational to achieving other goals. Not everything can be done at once, neither all are equally relevant and important for Nepal. But, need to keep in mind, SDGs are integrated, indivisible and balance of three dimensions of sustainable development. Gender equality and Goal 17 are cross-cutting agendas. But, peace, access to justice, good governance, human rights, democratic and inclusive institutions and decisions proposed by Goal 16 are equally relevant to the other goals. Prioritizing the targets within each goal is needed in such a way that all stakeholders agree in the process and outcome of prioritization and all contribute to achieve the goals and targets

selected. Therefore, attempts should be made to achieve all goals and targets in a collaborative and coordinated ways across different sectors.

- **Managing resources**: Resource mobilization by all stakeholders– financial, human, technological & managerial is crucial issue. Seek commitment for higher level of development cooperation from development partners. Mobilization of diverse domestic resources and promotion of South-South, triangular and regional cooperation is essential rather depending merely on traditional North-South mode of cooperation. While Nepal is short of means of implementation (finance, technology, capacity building and trade) for effective implementation of SDGs from global perspective, the same is applicable in federal government and province and local governments as these are being constituted recently and may have several limitations to implement SDGs. So, the federal government has to support the sub-national government and other stakeholders in leveraging means of implementation.

- **Motivating private sector**: SDGs focusing on infrastructure require huge investment as already shown by various studies. So, there is a big role of innovative financing mechanism and financial markets in the private sector.

- **Inter government agency coordination and synergy**: some of the ministries and departments are not working in harmony in terms of implementing SDGs, so there is a need to have strong coordination and synergistic relationships.

- **Data gaps**: There is no nationally owned survey after 2011, so planning is to be based on the old data, including setting SDGs indicators. In absence of reliable data, some of the data in the indicator table may remain unfilled.

- **Question of ownership**: Though the NPC of the GoN is seen as a focal agency to coordinate and ensure implementation of SDGs in Nepal, the question still remains on the degree of seriousness and level of ownership even within the government's different agencies. SDGs anticipate pro-active engagement and synergy among executive, legislative and judiciary system as well.

- **Question of multi-stakeholder coordination**: Coordination among local partner (line ministries, UN agencies, IFIs, IDPs, INGOs, CSOs, co-

operatives, media etc.) is still challenging. It is seen that line ministries are working on their own. UN agencies are engaged with respective line ministries with their own agenda. For example: UNESCO is working directly with ministry of education, UNFPA with ministry of health and so on. Donors also have their own interest and there is no single window to oversight the process of how donor's investment is consistent with SDGs and what have been the outcomes. There is also a challenge to consolidate achievements and learning from NGOs and INGOs. Thematic working groups need to be effective to coordinate the works of all public, private and CSOs and guide, monitor and consolidate. This requires strengthening system and building capacities as well as wider ownership to the process. (The key question is: As CSOs are not part of the working group, how do they own the process??)

- **Integrating SDGs in periodic plans**: 14th periodic plan is consistent with SDGs. Now the challenge is to bring this consistency throughout in annual plans, budget and monitoring mechanism not only at federal but also at province and local government levels.

- **Federalization of governance system**: With the ongoing state restructuring process, some sectors such as education and health have been devolved with full authority to the local government. Local government is being elected. There is a need to establish multi-stakeholder structures also at province and local levels (district) consistent with the central level processes to oversight local level coordination, planning, budgeting, implementation, and monitoring.

- **M&E System**: Aligning national M&E systems with SDGs targets and indicators.

4.2 Way forward

- **End political transition**: Ending prolonged political transition is the major step to move forward the country. Enactment of provisions of constitution is required. Election of Province Assembly and Federal Parliament should be taken place on time. Increased political commitment and accountability of office bearers is prerequisite to achieving SDGs.

- **Multi-stakeholder partnership**: Setting up of inclusive multi-stakeholder mechanisms on SDGs at federal, provincial and district levels

ensuring institutional representations from all major groups including NGO federation of Nepal as the umbrella body of NGOs. Mechanisms should provide political leadership and guide implementation of SDGs. There should be effective coordination among actors horizontally as well as vertically. There should be dialogues between and among Government entities (Executive, legislative and judiciary), UN, IDPs, cooperatives, private sector, CSOs, and Media; which is crucial for ownership. We need to encourage these structures to produce annual SDGs status reports and disseminate in respective constituencies.

- **Raising awareness among all communities at all levels**: CSOs can play a proactive role in disseminating SDGs messages and localizing them among local communities. All communities should be made aware on SDGs. Adequate orientation and supports should be provided to office bearers of local governments and province governments.

- **Align in national and local planning system**: There should not be SDGs plan and other plans as two separate processes, but integrated as one plan document from the government and there should be clear guidelines for local government on how to align their development plan in coherence to SDGs. We need to aware local and province level government representatives in order to integrate the SDGs into their respective development plans.

- **Database system**: Government should establish robust database system from local level to national level. Disaggregated, reliable and updated data should be available and there should easy access of CSOs and general public. Further, gender statistics is an area to be strengthened for baseline.

- **CSO mechanisms at local level**: Strengthening watchdog role of civil society is important at all levels. CSOs should set up inclusive coordination mechanism at provincial, district and local level for effective watchdog role and continuous advocacy and campaign on SDGs. It is suggested to form Nepal SDGs Forum in those levels as well.

- **Oversight Mechanisms**: Setting up of oversight mechanisms on SDGs within the federal and provincial parliaments. Institute parliamentary committees on SDGs. Prepare periodic (maybe every 2-3 years) civil society monitoring report on SDGs.

- **Gender Equality**: SDG is an opportunity to bring change in result and life time opportunity to bring equality. Gender equality is a key component of sustainable development – not addressing these concerns is costly for societies and undermines of sustainability. Planet 50:50 therefore a vision, Nepal should also adopt.

- **Ensure means of implementation**: The federal government and the development partners should ensure means of SDGs implementation for provincial and local governments as well. Development partners should adhere to their commitments in supporting means of implementation. Available resources should be optimally utilized.

- **Implement SDGs as campaign**: Implement SDGs in a campaign mode, leaving no one behind. All initiatives and efforts should focus on root causes of poverty and backwardness including structural causes and barriers of equitable and inclusive development.

- **Strengthen the roles of CSOs**: Some efforts have been done by CSOs in terms of affecting advocacy, lobbying, networking and campaigning on effective implementation of SDGs. But, they need to strengthen their roles and works further on SDGs in a proactive manner. Government should build enabling environment for CSOs at all levels ensuring appropriate policies, laws and access to resources. CSOs themselves should think about to pursuing funds for longer terms in line with SDGs, rather than approaching for a short term projects.

5. Conclusion

Nepal is moving fairly well in terms of preparedness, especially in establishing structures for oversight, coordination, implementation and monitoring; integration of SDGs into periodic plans and budget and strengthening monitoring and evaluation system. The new constitution's aspiration and provision of fundamental rights compliment the SDGs, thus there is a wider opportunity for Nepal to move forward to implement SDGs and to strengthen the implementation of its constitution. Despite of frequent changes in GoN leadership and the challenges associated with, Nepal is progressing well in terms of nationalizing the indicators and targets, in preparing baseline and collection and management of disaggregated data set. These are pre-requisite for effective implementation of SDGs.

But the awareness about SDGs and discussion on policies, plans and advocacy is surrounded among very few government officials, CSOs and policy makers. The agenda is not yet in public debate, especially at the province and local levels.

Institutional mechanisms established by the government are not inclusive. Keeping CSOs participation 'as invited' means they are excluded from raising voice and influencing decisions. We are also not clear whether and how this multi-stakeholders arrangement will function at province and local levels. It is also equally important to clarify roles of different stakeholders to implement SDGs.

Number of policies has been revised to align with SDGs but these revisions need to be translated in annual plans and budget. The 14th development plan provides a generic framework to implement SDGs. These need to be translated into actions, work plan with budget and time frame, and should be continued to following periodic plans.

It is important that the national indicators and targets are integrated into annual plans and budgets of governments at all levels and competent and adequate human resources are provisioned for effective implementation.

When Human Resource is concerned, it is important to build capacity of human resources at every level to analyze and to incorporate SDGs into programme cycle management.

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Annexes

Annex 1: Issues, problems, challenges and suggestions for way forward

(A Compilation of all Seven Province Level Consultations)

Major group	Issues, problems and challenges	Suggestions/ Ways to address
1. Economic Development • Poverty (Goal 1), Hunger (Goal 2) and Inequality (Goal 10) • Production and Economic Growth (Goal 2 and Goal 8) • Infrastructure Development (Goal 6, Goal 7, Goal 9, and Goal 11)	• Poor access to resources (land, water, forest and services), mainly by marginalized people and groups • No reliable information of poor (those who are remaining trapped in persistent poverty) • Widening gaps between 'have' and 'have not' • Disproportional growth between population and production • Illiteracy • Unemployment • Political instability for long • Structural poverty • Natural disasters • Lack of infrastructures supporting economic development • Lack of balanced diet impacting health and pro-	• Identification and generation of proper and systematic data of HHs and population groups living in poverty • Conduct different income generating activities massively targeting to ultra-poor and poor households and populations sections • Using multi-dimensional poverty indicators is the right way to measure poverty • We need to stop the problematic imported seeds

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- ductive capacity - Use of child labour in most sectors - Non recognition of informal sector workers - Absence of decent work standards and mechanism for informal workers. - No significant progress on poverty reduction - Inequality persists by gender, geographical region and caste/ethnicity - Many people rely on traditional agricultural practices, share of agriculture in economic growth is 4 percent and industrial sector shares 6.7% - Remittance contributed in economic growth, but what will happen if 45 lakh labor return to Nepal in near future - Foreign labour employment is not reliable source of income - Migrant workers are facing slavery and similar practices and in many cases human trafficking nexus are seen. - There is huge import and export imbalance, causing huge foreign currency loss - Country is still facing energy crisis, lack of skilled human resources, industrial sector is in	- Invest remittance in productive sectors - Need to increase investment in agricultural sector - Need to plan how to reduce total transportation cost - Connectivity should be further improved by increasing road networks - Need to increase mass transportation - Need employment-oriented policy and programmes, need to create employment within the country - Need to decrease dependence on remittance economy - Land use plan should be done by government according to land use plan - Commercialization and professionalization of agriculture is imperative for

- crisis
- Fertile land is continuously being converted into build up areas, reducing production
- Imported modern seeds are not effective
- Productive youth population is going abroad for menial jobs earning meagre remittance which is not used in productive sectors back home
- Sustainable economic growth is our challenge, even economic growth rate is predicted to be well in future
- Effective protection of fundamental rights ensured in the constitution is another challenge for the state
- Development projects are not implemented on time
- Administrative structure is ineffective
- Farmers have to give bribe for receiving services from banks
- Effective governance system is not in place
- Local needs vary from place to place, so one size fits all will not work in case of Nepal's sustainable development
- Even the construction of different high priority projects not moving ahead in satisfactory

- sustainable development
- Industrial sector should be gender friendly
- Improve irrigation facilities
- Pradesh specific, need based Pradesh level planning is important for development
- Central level projects should be effectively implemented
- Poverty alleviation programmes should be implemented for specific target groups
- Construction of different north-south road corridors is important
- There should easy access of people to infrastructures and facilities including of disable, wheel chair users and they should be usable as well
- Diverse dynamics of population should be considered

	way, what will be the fate of infrastructure programmes that need to be implemented under SDGs • Identifying a real problem is also an issue, many problems do not get solved as these are not identified well • LGBTIQ is always forgotten while talking and planning in reducing inequality • Leaving land barren and plotting of land are increasing, industrial area is encroached. Land plotting for housing in agriculture productive areas • Tax evasion • No practice of bottom up planning • Data are doubtful, and there is huge data absence or data gap • Unstable government, frequent change in leadership and bureaucracy • High potential of hydro energy, but lack of innovations	• Increase in production and equitable distribution are important • Equal opportunities to all for economic development • Guarantee market facilities • Implement insurance in agriculture • Create enabling environment for persons with disabilities and women engaging them productive activities as per their capacity and interest • Strengthen and give emphasis on cooperatives management, and access to financial institutions • Promote easy access to the financial institutions through procedural reformation

Major group	Issues, problems and challenges	Suggestions/ Ways to address
2. Social Development • Health (Goal 3) • Education (Goal 4) • Gender equality (Goal 5)	Health • No idea about the SDGs at grassroots • No clear strategy, plan and vision • Discrimination in terms of gender, race, economic status and religion • Still there are many underweight children • Province level data not available • Post natal health checkup is very erratic • Mental health is becoming a problem, but considered as health problem; government failed to work in this area. • Problem in data management under government system, tendency to finish work rather than to deliver quality works • Health service is gender and/or women friendly • People are facing language and communication problem in Madhesh • Disabled people are suffering more • Less support in mental health and chronic diseases • Public procurement act is impractical to purchase medicines at local level	Health • Community empowerment is important • Need expansion of life insurance and health insurance • Continued advocacy and pressure are required • Reform is necessary in health service institutions • Health education is necessary in schools Education • Infrastructure development • Qualified teachers and availability of text books • Education for inculcating desirable changes in behaviors is necessary • Moral education is necessary even in colleges • CSOs should work for be-

- havior change
- We need to produce those human resources, who can be sold in domestic and international market
- Skill generation education is important for us
- Huge demands of skilled human resources in industrial sector, tourism sector and water resource development
- Vocational and technical education is important for us
- Scholarship is necessary for third gender
- Education for the protection of vanishing language and culture

Gender
- Women commission is required in every district
- Gender focal persons in school should be women

- Medicines required for women and reproductive health problems are not supplied on time
- There is no local investment in health
- Maternal mortality among Dalits and Indigenous Nationalities is high
- Government decided to transform sub-health posts into health posts, but problem is absence of adequate physical facilities and medicines
- Caste based discrimination also affects in receiving health services
- In Madhesi community there is wrong practice just after delivery by a woman, that causes uterine prolapsed
- There is strong correlation between child marriage and poor health, which is a problem everywhere
- Abortion service is being used as family planning tool

Education
- Significant amount of budget is allocated for education in developed countries, but it is not observed in case of Nepal, hence, education for all is doubtful to be materialized

- Gap between private schools and public school is the major issue - Public education sector is neglected - Education is not able to change the behavior - Moral education is important, because level of morality is declining even inside the homes - High dropout rates is increasing the tendency for foreign employment - Local languages at the verge of disappearing fast Gender equity - Policies are good, but problem remains in implementation - Discrimination more in third gender - Women are treated as second class citizens in every aspect – political, social, economic, etc. - Women are facing violence even in police posts, Police force is not serious in case of domestic violence, police are not women friendly and victim friendly - It is very difficult to get equal justice for women - Many words and languages which are in laws and practice are not gender neutral - Frequent change of gender focal person affects access to justice	- There should be separate toilets for girls and sanitary pads should be available in female toilets - Generation of health data at local level should be improved - Need to improve procedures to procure medicines at local level by health posts/ centers - Medicines should be available 24 hours - Collective decision making at household level in terms of health matters - We should be result oriented rather to move around in process - Women should be prepared for completion, rather to limit in reservations - Change should be started from home

• Girls can not go to schools for 36 days in a year due to social stigma attached to menstruation cycle • Women are compelled to work outside only after completing all works in their homes • Child marriage and early marriage cause negative implication in reproductive health • There is no provision of maternity leave in private business • Severe malnutrition in girls exists, but does not get reported • SDGs do not speak about third gender issues. Violence against people with third gender is overlooked, while talking on gender based violence • Abortion by sex selection (killing of female zygote) is becoming a serious issue. Violence against women starts from there. New form of GBV. • Access of disabled persons to health is not yet guaranteed • Violence against Dalit women is very high in addition to rampant untouchability practices • There is difference between hill Dalits and Terai	• Special focus on marginalized and vulnerable group, particularly living in remote area. • Strengthen policy advocacy and campaign • Make right to information law known to all • Strengthen CS organisatons and networks • Create pressure to respect the constitution of Nepal (right to assembly and association) and strengthen CS voices in all sectors • Implementation of equal wage rate policy for women • Develop women's leadership for economic development, provide grants and invest in capacity building • Formulate and implement provisions for equal access and partnership of women

- over household assets and resources
- Ensure 50% participation of women at all levels of the state mechanisms

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Dalits. Tarai Dalits women have no adequate access to reproductive health services. Out of schools children among Terai Dalit, especially girls, is high.

- Third gender is facing violence and misbehaves in schools, even by their teachers. They are compelled to drop school
- There is negative correlation between patriarchy and health of women
- Unsafe abortion is happening, even small ill-equipped medicals are practicing this.
- Religious belief and dowry practice are the reasons for child marriage in south Terai areas
- Shrinking space for civil society, in general, and for human rights and social development activities, in particular
- Evil chhaupadi system still in practice
- Unequal wage rates between men and women
- Unpaid domestic works of women

Major group	Issues, problems and challenges	Suggestions/ Ways to address
3. Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resource Management • Environment and climate change (Goal 12 and Goal 13) • Natural resource management (Goal 15)	• Implementation of projects without carrying out EIA and IEE • Every sector is affected by the impacts of climate change • Lack of sustainable management of water, forest , land , national parks, and other sectors • Air pollution , industrial pollution, lack of infrastructure, lack of technology and skilled human power • Growth of haphazard human settlements and unplanned 'urbanization' • Uncontrolled and haphazard exploitation of natural resources. For example, mining of resources • Use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides, etc. without considering environmental and health hazards • Improper solid waste management • Lack of awareness	• Effective EIA and IEE should be made mandatorily before implementing the projects • President Chure programme either should be qualitatively improved or dismissed • Priority should be given to local and domestic products • Climate change adaptation should be intensified in all sectors • Monitoring of government programmes is necessary • Promote green behavior, green governance • Climate friendly framework is needed in energy, water resource and economy • New technology should be introduced/developed to combat the challenges

posed by climate change
- Formulate and endorse appropriate policies and acts that ensure and enhance rights, ownership and participation of local communities in the use and protection of natural resources – that is, community based management of natural resources
- Devise and execute environ-

ment-friendly development policies
- Manage waste products by segregating types, nature and possibility of utilization
- Conduct public awareness raising activities at local levels

Major group	Issues, problems and challenges	Suggestions/ Ways to address
4. Cross-cutting agendas (Means of Implementation, Governance, Strong institutions, human rights) • Justice, governance and service delivery (Goal16) • MOI and Partnership (Goal 17)	• Partnership between CSOs and private sector is not effective • Human rights violation is increasing due to impunity • Access to court/justice is felt very difficult by ordinary people • Freeze of development budget is due to ineffective and unaccountable governance • Capacity of government agencies is weak • Corruption is rampant everywhere as a result of political protection and undue favoritism • Victims of conflicts have not received justice yet, transitional justice system is not working • Frequent transfer of government officials affects in service delivery • Lack of coordination between different development actors • Absence of people's representatives at local government bodies for long	• Effective enforcement of anti corruption laws • Improve access to judiciary system of general public • Need to end prolonged political transition • Improve coordination among the agencies including NGOs • Ensure equal opportunity at all levels of state structures • Women empowering activities should be enhanced • Good governance should be promoted • Ensure equal and proportional representation at all levels of governance • Provide free legal aid services to poor and needy groups at local level • Make sure that legal treatment mechanisms are effectively implemented at local levels • Execute juvenile justice

- system, including criminal code of conduct effectively
- Establish and functionalize Commission of Investigation on Enforced Disappeared Persons; and Truth and Reconciliation Commission at local levels
- Enhance access to justice for children. Make sure that justice to children is provided in the fast track; and implement effective judgment system on child issues in the courts
- Promote good governance (transparency, participation, accountability, rule of law)
- Revisit policies and laws to make them appropriate in the changed context
- Implementation of zero tolerance policy and approach against all forms of violence

Annex II : Some related photos of activities

Consultation on SDGs in Province no. 1 (Biratnagar) 12 June 2017

Consultation on SDGs in Province no. 2 (Janakpur) 26 June 2017

Consultation on SDGs in Province no. 3 (Kathmandu)
30 June 2017

Consultation on SDGs in Province no. 4 (Pokhara)
18 June 2017

Consultation on SDGs in Province no. 5 (Butwal)
15 June 2017

Consultation on SDGs in Province no. 6 (Surkhet)
27 June 2017

Consultation on SDGs in Province no. 7 (Dhangadi)
13 June 2017

High Level National Dialogue
22 September 2016

National Workshop on SDGs
25-26 January 2017

Review of Goal 16
8 June 2017

Discussion on Draft National Report of Government
19 June 2017

Progress review on WASH
28 June 2017

Annex III: Constituencies and Thematic Areas identified by CSOs

Constituencies:

1. Children (Major Group)
2. Women (Major Group) and Girls
3. Dalits
4. Madhesi
5. Indigenous people (Major Group)
6. Persons with Disabilities
7. Farmers (Major Group)
8. Rural Poor
9. Urban Poor
10. Disadvantage area
11. LGBTIQ
12. Local authorities (Major Group)
13. Migrants
14. Senior citizens
15. Peopling Living with HIV and affected by AIDS
16. Micro-entrepreneurs
17. Non-Governmental Organizations (Major Group)
18. Business and Industry
19. Scientific and technology community (Major Group)
20. Workers and Trade Unions (Major Groups)
21. Cooperatives
22. Media
23. Youth (Major Group) and Adolescents

Major Thematic Areas

1. Education
2. Health
3. Environment and climate
4. Agriculture, Food Sovereignty and Nutrition
5. WASH

6. Energy
7. Sustainable cities
8. Forestry
9. Water Resources
10. Land Resources
11. Disaster Management
12. Governance
13. Anti-corruption
14. Access to Justice
15. Human Rights
16. Peace building
17. Development Financing
18. Consumer protection
19. Women and Gender justice

Annex IV: List of consultations, FGDs and meetings

S.N.	Event	Date and Place		No. of Participants			
1.	**Province Level Consulta-tion**	**Date**	**Venue**	**Male**	**Female**	**Oth-ers**	**Total**
	Province 1	12 June 2017	Biratnagar	21	6	0	27
	Province 2	26 June 2017	Hotel Rama, Janakpur	38	12	0	50
	Province 3	30 June 2017	Hotel Ary-al, Kath-mandu	42	20	0	62
	Province 4	18 June 2017	New Era, Pokhara	51	15	0	66
	Province 5	15 June 2017	Hotal Marigold, Butwal	39	37	2	78
	Province6	27 June 2017	Hotel Man-sarobar Surkhet	49	18	0	67
	Province7	13 June 2017	Dhangadi	23	4	0	27

2.	**Focus Group Discussion**						
	Dalit NGO Federation (DNF)	26 June 2017	NGO Federation of Nepal	6	1	0	7
	National Federation of Disable Nepal	27 June 2017	NGO Federation of Nepal	4	1	0	5
	National Indigenous Women Federation (NIWF)	29 June 2017	NIWF Office	6	4	0	10
	Blue Diamond Society (BDS)	29 June 2017	BDS Office	1	2	3	6
	FNCCI	3 July 2017	FNCCI	6	0	0	6

3.	Meet-ings and Events						
	Review of Goal 16	8 June 2017	Alfa House, Bud-dhanagar	48	29	0	77
	WASH	28 June 2017	Alfa House, Bud-dhanagar	36	13	0	49
	Discussion on draft national report on VNR	19 June 2017	Hotel Ary-al, Banesh-wor	47	23	0	70
	Sharing of CSOs draft report	3 July 2017	NGO Fed-eration of Nepal	19	16	1	36
			Total	**436**	**201**	**6**	**643**

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