

**Report on**  
**Nepal's Foreign Affairs**  
**(2018-2019)**

**Government of Nepal**  
**Ministry of Foreign Affairs**



**GOVERNMENT OF NEPAL**  
**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**(17 July 2018-16 July 2019)**

**Kathmandu, Nepal**

**August 2019**

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## **Nepal: Factsheet**

Geographical location:

Latitude: 26° 22' North to 30° 27' North

Longitude: 80° 04' East to 88° 12' East

Area: 147,181 sq. km

Border: East, West and South-India; North-People's Republic of China

Capital: Kathmandu

Population: 29,609,623 (Projected, CBS Nepal 2019)

Name of Country: Nepal

Governance Structure: Three-tier-Federal, Provincial and Local levels  
(Seven Provinces, 753 Local Levels)

Head of State: President

Head of Government: Prime Minister

Parliament: Bicameral (House of Representatives, National Assembly)

National Day: 20 September

Official Language: Nepali

Literacy (5 years above): 65.9 % (Census, 2011)

Life Expectancy at Birth: 66.6 years (Census, 2011)

GDP Per Capita: US \$ 1034 (Economic Survey 2018/19)

Monetary Unit: 1 Nepali Rupee (= 100 paisa)

GDP: 3464 Billion NPR (US\$ 31 billion)



**Pradeep Kumar Gyawali**  
Minister for Foreign Affairs

## **Message**

Nepal's diplomacy became more proactive, dynamic and result-oriented in the year 2018-2019. Within the broad parameters of Nepal's foreign policy, as defined by the Constitution of Nepal, the country's external relations were directed towards elevating Nepal's stature in the world and creating a supportive external environment for rapid socio-economic transformation based on the principles of sovereign equality, mutual respect and benefit. Nepal continued to pursue an independent and balanced foreign policy to promote national interest on the basis of the charter of the UN, non-alignment, Panchasheel, international law, and norms of world peace.

Nepal has taken a number of initiatives on the foreign policy front since the formation of the present government in February 2018. A balanced approach in external dealings, substantial growth in bilateral engagements and expansion of diplomatic relations have not only earned Nepal tremendous goodwill, support and cooperation from the neighbours and international community but also yielded positive outcomes in several important areas of common interests. I believe, these initiatives will make substantive contribution to our national resolve for graduating from an LDC status at an early date, becoming a middle-income country by 2030, and ultimately realizing the national aspiration of *Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali*.

The age-old and multi-dimensional friendly relations between Nepal and India have further deepened and widened. Bilateral engagements at various levels, including at the level of top leadership, helped foster mutual trust and understanding, and

partnership for shared benefit. The Prime Ministers of Nepal and India held three meetings since the present Government came to power.

Similarly, Nepal's relations with China have grown through advancement of co-operation in multiple areas based on goodwill, trust, understanding, appreciation of each other's aspirations and sensitivities. The year also witnessed steady momentum in the exchange of high-level visits, bilateral meetings and consultations. The President of Nepal paid a historic state visit to China, the first of its kind after the country became republic.

We achieved substantial progress in further expanding and strengthening bilateral cooperation with countries in the extended neighbourhood, major powers of the world, development partners, destination countries for overseas employment, and other friendly countries.

Exchange of high-level visits and increased interactions with international community enhanced Nepal's image and promoted her interest. The Ministry was deeply engaged in arranging high-level visits, both outgoing and incoming, which proved to be beneficial and productive.

Nepal continued playing an active role in regional forums. As the Chair of both SAARC and BIMSTEC, Nepal engaged constructively for making these regional forums effective in achieving their objectives. Nepal successfully hosted the 4<sup>th</sup> BIMSTEC Summit in Kathmandu on 30-31 August 2018 and handed over the chairmanship to Sri Lanka. We also mobilized diplomatic capital towards reviving the stalled SAARC Summit, including through the informal meeting of SAARC Foreign/External Affairs Ministers.

Nepal stood firm for regional and international peace and security, protection and promotion of human rights, and achievement of sustainable development. We continued advocating for upholding multilateralism and rules-based international order for a peaceful, stable and prosperous world order where all nations, big or small, enjoy equal rights and fulfil their respective obligations in good faith. Nepal's flagship contribution to UN peacekeeping operations continued with our standing as the fifth largest troops contributing country. We played constructive, impartial, and objective role in the UN Human Rights Council. We shared our experiences of

home-grown and nationally-led peace process with other countries of world undergoing similar type of conflicts.

The Ministry established a Brain Gain Centre to encourage Nepali diaspora to contribute to the development of the country through their knowledge, skills, resources and technology.

We decided to establish a permanent biennial dialogue forum, *Sagarmatha Sambaad*, a flagship programme of its own kind, with a view to bringing together global leaders, policy makers, business entrepreneurs, civil society, academia, women and youth from around the world for a free, frank and interactive dialogue on burning global issues, such as climate change, migration, social development, among others. The Ministry and Missions abroad are working to make the *Visit Nepal Year, 2020* a success.

We organized a National Dialogue on Foreign Policy to develop common understanding on Nepal's foreign policy. The broader participation and substantive deliberations have contributed to forge consensus among the major political parties and stakeholders, thereby enriching the substance of our foreign policy in the changed context.

Our continued contribution to global norms setting has earned us trust and confidence of the international community. Nepal's articulation of its views on diverse issues confronting the world at large at forums like the UN General Assembly or the World Economic Forum has been well-recognized.

In short, Nepal's foreign relations remained effective and instrumental in promoting overall national interest and enhancing the country's international image.



**Shanker Das Bairagi**

Foreign Secretary

## **Foreword**

I am pleased to present the Annual Report of the Ministry for the year 2018-19.

The year witnessed remarkable growth in Nepal's foreign relations. Building on the political stability, Nepal took concrete steps to diversify and strengthen relations with countries across the world. Nepal's bilateral engagements and its role in regional and multilateral forums significantly increased.

We continued to accord topmost priority to our relations with immediate neighbours -India and China- and have achieved notable progress. With India, Cross-border Motihari-Amlekhgunj Petroleum Pipeline Project was inaugurated while with China, Protocol to Transit Transport Agreement was signed. Various bilateral mechanisms with both the neighbours remained active in promoting bilateral cooperation.

We had fruitful engagements with our extended neighborhood, development partners and labour destination countries. The relations with them were further advanced through exchange of high-level visits and regular meetings of various mechanisms.

We successfully hosted the Fourth BIMSTEC Summit in Kathmandu on 30-31 August 2018. Similarly, our efforts continued towards realizing the SAARC objectives including holding the stalled SAARC Summit. Nepal chaired an informal session of the SAARC Council of Ministers on the sideline of the 73<sup>rd</sup> UNGA. We actively participated in the 16<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting of Asia Cooperation Dialogue held in Doha.



We maintained firm commitment to multilateralism in line with the principles and purposes of the UN Charter. Nepal participated in major UN and other multilateral forums at the level of President in COP24 in Katowice, Vice President in Climate Action Summit in Vienna, Prime Minister in the 73<sup>rd</sup> UNGA in New York, and Foreign Minister in the 40<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva. We remained proactive in promoting interests of the LDCs and LLDCs.

The Ministry internalized the national aspiration of *Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali* in annual action plan to realize it through effective diplomacy. We prepared Country-Specific Strategies for economic diplomacy. Nepali missions abroad remained active in promoting Nepal's export trade, attracting foreign investment and publicizing Nepal as a preferred tourist destination, particularly in the context of *Visit Nepal Year, 2020*.

The Ministry took initiatives for making a clear, consistent and credible foreign policy. National Dialogue on Foreign Policy was held; the Directives for the Appointment of Nepali Ambassadors and the Directives on the Procedures for Contacting Foreign Governments, Missions, Representatives and International Organizations by Provincial and Local Governments were introduced.

Initiatives have been taken to improve records and archives system. The Ministry also mobilized diplomatic missions to acquire property, especially land and buildings, for chancery and residential purposes. We also dedicated our efforts towards enhancing capacity of the Foreign Service cadres by organizing specialized negotiations and language related training courses.

The Ministry, Departments and Missions continued maintaining quality service delivery in a timely manner.

In a nutshell, Nepal's foreign policy and diplomacy remained effective to strengthen the country's relations with outside world and to promote the national interest.

I would like to thank the editorial team for bringing out this Annual Report. I believe, this report will be a good reflection, reference and record of major works of the Ministry.

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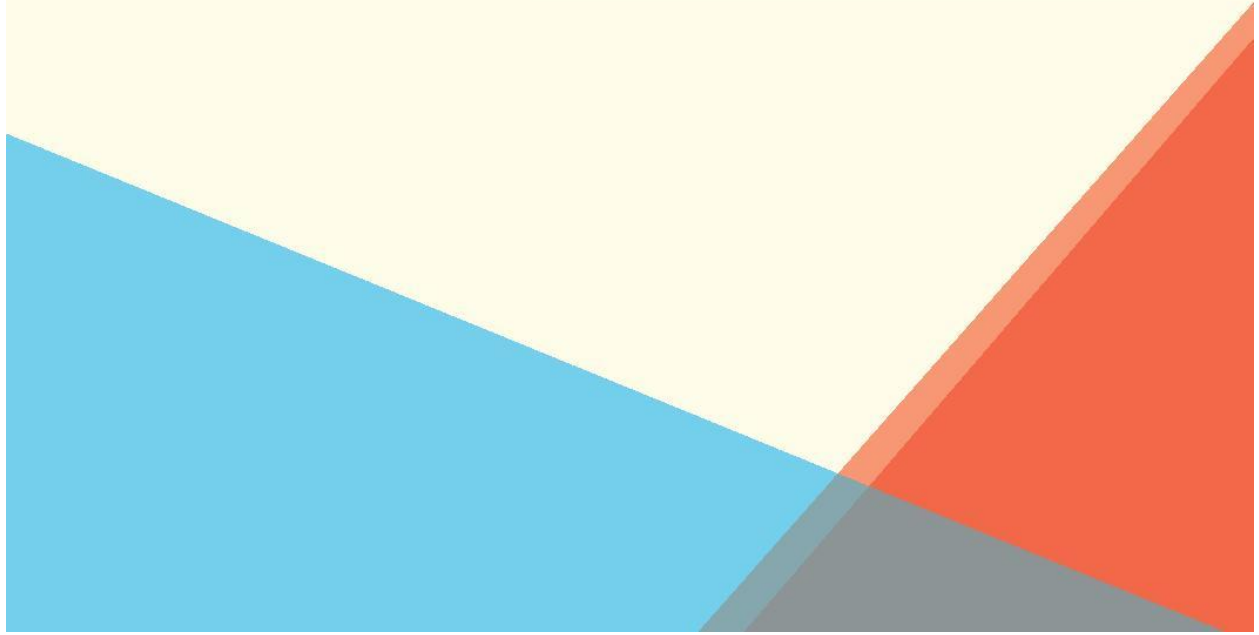


**Highlights**

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**of the Year**

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# Our Organization

Ministry

Ten Divisions

Departments

Department of Passports

Department of Consular Services

Liaison Office, Birgunj

Nepali Missions Overseas

30 Embassies

3 Permanent Missions

6 Consulates General

71 Honorary Consulates



## Objectives and Guiding Principles of Nepal's Foreign Policy

- Protection and promotion of national interest
- Contributing to realization of the national aspiration of *Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali*
- Promoting the values of Nepali civilization, culture and identity
- Ensuring safety, security and dignity of Nepali people abroad
- Amity with all, enmity with none
- Panchasheel, Non-alignment, UN Charter, International Law and norms of World Peace



## Foreign Policy Context

- Immediate neighbourhood
- Extended neighbourhood
- Development partners and major powers
- Destination countries for overseas employment and other friendly countries
- Regional and multilateral cooperation
- Economic Diplomacy
- Service Delivery

## Outgoing Visits



*President Bidya Devi Bhandari  
with Chinese President Xi  
Jinping, Beijing, 29 April 2019*

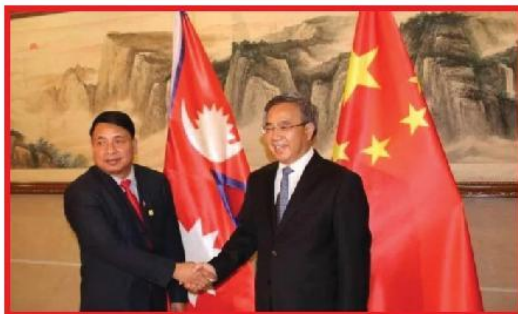
*President Bidya Devi Bhandari  
with the Amir of the State of Qatar  
Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad  
Al Thani, Doha  
30 October 2018*



*President Bidya Devi Bhandari  
with Polish President Andrzej  
Duda, Katowice  
4 December 2018*

*President Bidya Devi Bhandari  
with UN Secretary-General  
António Guterres  
12 March 2019*





*Vice President Nanda Bahadur Pun with Vice Premier of China Hu Chunhua, Chengdu, China  
19 September 2018*

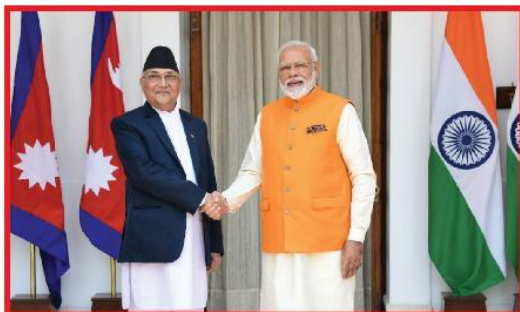
*Vice President and Mrs. Pun with the Federal President and Mrs. Van der Bellen, Vienna, 28 May 2019*



*Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, New York  
24 September 2018*

*Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli with Costa Rican President Carlos Alvarado Quesada, San Jose  
1 October 2018*





*Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli with  
Indian Prime Minister Narendra  
Modi, New Delhi, 31 May 2019*



*Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli with  
British Prime Minister Theresa May,  
London, 11 June 2019*



*Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar  
Gyawali with Vice President of the  
European Commission and High  
Representative of the European  
Union for Foreign Affairs and  
Security Policy Federica Mogherini,  
Brussels  
18 September 2018*

*Foreign Minister Pradeep  
Kumar Gyawali with Deputy  
Prime Minister and Minister  
for Work, Economic Affairs and  
Foreign Trade of Belgium  
Kris Peeterse,  
Brussels, 19 September 2018*







*Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali with Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo, Washington DC  
18 December 2019*

*Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali with Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono  
Tokyo, 9 January 2019*



*Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali with Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi, Beijing  
3 July 2019*

*Foreign Secretary Shanker Das Bairagi with State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi, Beijing  
13 December 2018*



## Incoming Visits



*Leaders at Fourth BIMSTEC Summit, Kathmandu, 30-31 August 2018*



*President Bidya Devi Bhandari  
with Sri Lankan President  
Maithripala Sirisena  
Kathmandu, 1 September 2018*

*Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli  
with Cambodian Prime Minister  
Hun Sen  
Kathmandu, 29 November 2018*





*Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli  
with Bangladeshi Prime Minister  
Sheikh Hasina  
Kathmandu, 30 August 2018*

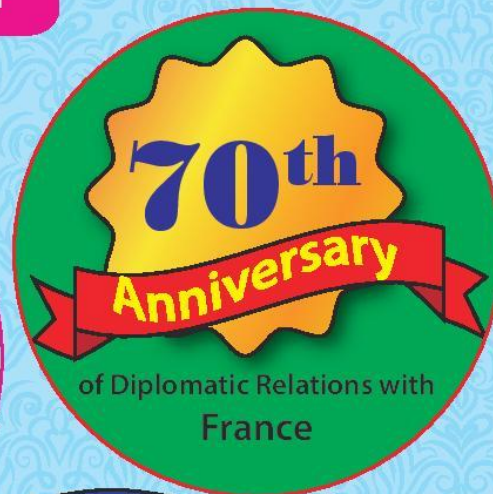
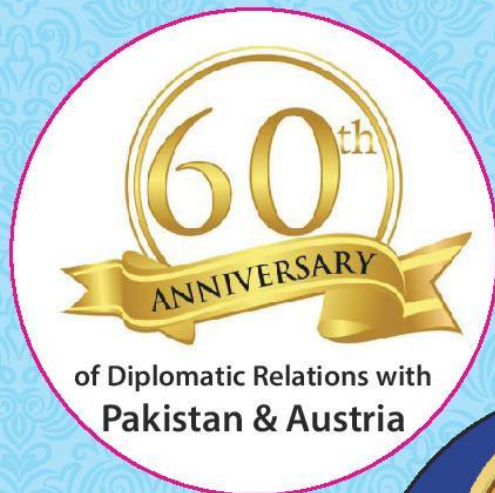


*Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli  
with Sri Lankan President  
Maithripala Sirisena  
Kathmandu, 1 September 2018*



*Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli  
with State Counselor of Myanmar  
Daw Aung San Suu Kyi  
Kathmandu, 29 November 2018*

## We Celebrated



### Diplomatic Outreach

- Diplomatic relations with additional 6 countries- Rwanda, Madagascar, Suriname, Togo, Equatorial Guinea, and Eswatini
- Total number of countries with diplomatic relations -166
- Establishment of BCMS with additional 6 countries- Canada, Finland, Japan, Myanmar, Portugal and Viet Nam



# Public Diplomacy



*Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli delivering public lecture on 'Peace, Democracy and Development' at Asia Society, New York 25 September 2018*

*Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli addressing the special session on 'Shaping the Future of Democracy' at the WEF, Davos, Switzerland 22 January 2019*



**Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali at 4<sup>th</sup> edition of Raisina Dialogue, New Delhi 11 January 2019**



*Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali addressing the session on 'Geopolitical Shifts' at World Economic Forum, Dalian, China 2 July 2019*

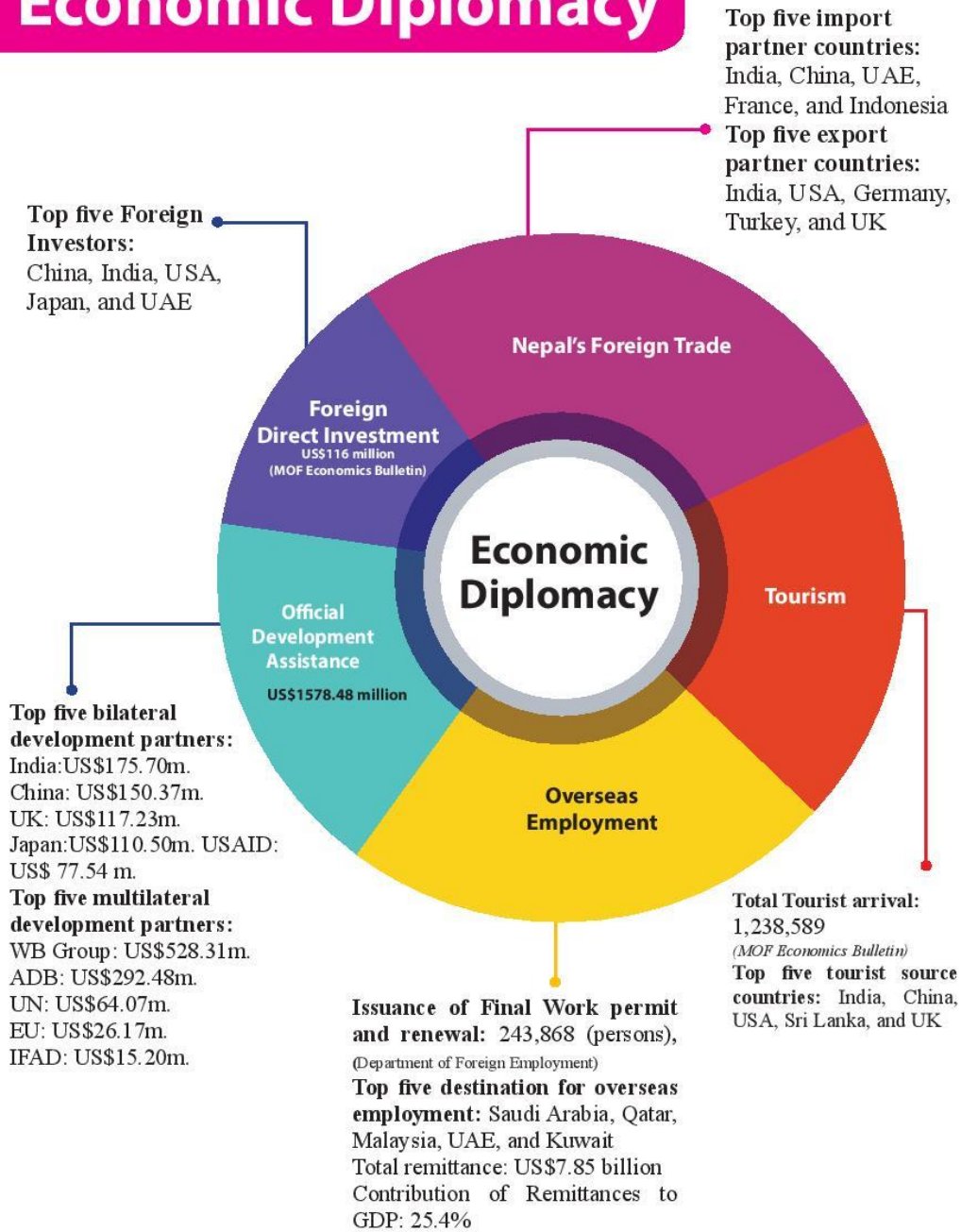




## Achievements

- Exchange of High level visits.
- Successful hosting of the 4<sup>th</sup> BIMSTEC Summit.
- Deeper engagement with partner countries and institutions.
- Active participation in multilateral bodies, such as UN, NAM, G77, WTO and regional organizations like SAARC, BIMSTEC, ACD, etc.
- 5<sup>th</sup> largest troops contributing country for the promotion of global peace and security with peacekeepers in 14 UN peace missions.
- Protection and promotion of universal human rights as a Member of the UN Human Rights Council
- Chairmanship of the Regional Consultative Process on the management of overseas employment and contractual labour for countries of origins in Asia (Colombo Process)
- Member of Peace Building Commission (PBC) for the term 2018-2020
- Deputy Member of Governing Board of ILO for the term 2017-2020
- Member of the Executive Board of the UN-WOMEN for the term 2019-2022

# Economic Diplomacy





### Passports personalized

- Total Passports: 515,146
- Ordinary Passports: 513,038
- Official Passports: 1,235
- Diplomatic Passports: 741
- Travel Documents: 132

### Consular Services

- Documents Attested: 263,754
- Visa recommendations letters issued: 1,800
- Diplomatic exemption works: 3,861
- Gratis visas issued: 3,305
- Rescue and repatriation services: 5,782 persons
- Compensation amount handed over to beneficiaries: 4 Million USD
- Repatriation of dead bodies: 620



# New/Major Initiatives

## Foreign Policy Matters

- National Dialogue on Foreign Policy
- *Sagarmatha Sambaad*
- Brain Gain Center
- Directives on the Procedures for Contacting Foreign Governments, Missions, Representatives and International Organizations by Provincial and Local Governments, 2019
- Nepal Promotion Programme for Honorary Consuls of Nepal

## Institutional Strengthening & Capacity Building

- Property Procurement/Construction for Ministry, Departments and Missions
- Performance Contract
- UNITAR Workshop on Negotiation, International law and Drafting
- Foreign Language Trainings: Chinese, Arabic, French

## Overview

This Annual Report, which is the fourth in its series since its publication was resumed in 2015, covers major activities carried out and their outcomes on the foreign policy front in the past one year. Nepal's foreign relations remained effective, productive and result-oriented during the period under review. The country's external relations saw a robust growth in multiple sectors. Important initiatives were taken and notable achievements made.

Protection and promotion of national interest remained at the core of the conduct of our foreign relations. Nepal's relations with the outside world were based on the principles of sovereign equality, independence, mutual respect and benefit. The UN Charter, non-alignment, the *Panchasheel*, international law, and norms of world peace remained the basis of our foreign policy. The country pursued an independent and balanced foreign policy and conducted its external dealings guided by fairness, merit and justice.

Socio-economic transformation was placed at the centre of our engagements at bilateral, regional and multilateral arena in line with the national aspiration of *Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali*. A

host of programmes and activities were carried out for promotion of Nepal's image as a nature's paradise, a melting pot of civilizations, a nation with rich culture, an attractive destination for foreign investment, an entrepôt between two big economies with over two and a half billion population, and an inclusive society underpinned by equality and justice. The very premise of *amity with all and enmity with none* served well to fulfill our foreign policy objectives.

The neighborhood received top priority in our external relations. We made substantial efforts to enhance our relations with the immediate neighbours, India and China.

President Bidya Devi Bhandari paid a State visit to China and held delegation level talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping. The visit contributed to further strengthen Nepal-China friendship and cooperation. Likewise, Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli paid an official visit to India on the occasion of the swearing-in-ceremony of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and held bilateral talks which contributed to deepen the age-old friendly ties.

Our engagements with the countries in the extended neighborhood continued to

grow, both at bilateral and regional levels. Regional cooperation frameworks, such as SAARC, BIMSTEC, SCO and ACD provided opportunities to foster partnership and collaboration.

Nepal's relations further grew with development partners and major powers, labour receiving countries and other friendly countries, including LLDCs and LDCs. Nepal's role in the multilateral platforms also got accentuated in many key areas, such as international peace and security, disarmament, human rights, SDGs, climate change and migration.

Nepal's relations with the major powers witnessed further growth and expansion. The visit of Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli to the United Kingdom in June 2019, soon after the bi-centennial celebrations, helped further consolidate our historical ties. Likewise, the Prime Minister's visit to France on the occasion of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations contributed to strengthen Nepal-France relations.

On the regional front, Nepal successfully hosted the fourth BIMSTEC Summit in Kathmandu on 30-31 August 2018. Convened under the theme *Towards a Peaceful, Prosperous and Sustainable Bay of Bengal Region*

the Summit agreed to strengthen cooperation in the priority areas, including energy, connectivity, trade, agriculture and institutional capacity building.

At the multilateral level, Prime Minister Oli represented Nepal in the 73<sup>rd</sup> Session of the UNGA and reaffirmed Nepal's profound commitment to multilateralism and rules-based international order. He shed light on Nepal's historic political transformation, successful conclusion of the peace process and the priorities for socioeconomic transformation. Likewise, President Bidya Devi Bhandari's participation in the COP24 reinforced Nepal's highest level of political commitment to climate change agenda and implementation of the Paris Climate Accord. The international community recognized Nepal's sterling performance in the field of gender equality and women empowerment when President Bidya Devi Bhandari was invited to share Nepal's experiences in the high-level event on 'Women in Power' convened by the President of the General Assembly in New York in March 2019.

We effectively utilized our membership of the UN Human Rights Council in articulating our commitment to human

rights and fundamental freedoms, highlighting our efforts and achievements and defending our core values, including right to life, among others. Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali represented Nepal in the 40<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council.

The ILO celebrated its hundred years of its founding. Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli was invited to address the Centenary Celebration of ILO in recognition of Nepal's landmark initiatives to ensure social justice, workers' rights and social security.

In the midst of growing uncertainties in multilateral trading system, Nepal continued to advocate for a fair, just and rule-based trading arrangements as represented by WTO.

## **A Glimpse of Major Activities and Outcomes**

### **Neighborhood**

Nepal-India relations continued to grow and expand. Exchange of high-level visits helped foster goodwill, understanding and trust between two countries and widened areas of cooperation.

India continued to be Nepal's largest trading partner, the second largest investor, the largest source of tourists,

and a major development partner. Economic partnership and connectivity featured prominently in our engagement with India.

Both countries agreed to implement the agreements and understanding reached in the past, including the new areas of cooperation.

Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli held a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in May 2019 during his visit to India to attend the swearing-in-ceremony of the latter.

Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali's participation in the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of Raisina Dialogue on 11 January 2019, Former Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda's address at the 31<sup>st</sup> Sapru House Lecture on 7 September 2018 and Foreign Secretary Shanker Das Bairagi's meeting with his Indian counterpart Vijaya Gokhale on 28 March 2019 were some of the major activities undertaken to promote bilateral relations.

Notable progress was made in the execution of some of the major bilateral projects, such as Amalekhgunj-Motihari petroleum pipeline, the first cross-border pipeline in South Asia, and Integrated Check-Post at Birgunj.

Foreign Secretary Shanker Das Bairagi held five rounds of video-conferences with his Indian counterpart. The sixth and seventh rounds of Nepal-India Oversight mechanism were held in Kathmandu led by the Foreign Secretary and Ambassador of India Manjeev Singh Puri. These meetings were held to expedite the implementation of India-aided projects.

Likewise, over a dozen meetings of bilateral mechanisms between Nepal and India were held, covering the areas of boundary, agriculture, cross-border railways, inland waterways connectivity, trade, customs, water resources, civil aviation, and security, among others.

China remained a major development partner, the largest source of foreign investment, and the second largest source of tourists and a major trading partner. Cooperation in building cross-border connectivity remained our topmost priority in our engagement with China.

Nepal-China relations witnessed continued momentum of friendly exchanges and cooperation during the given year. Exchange of high-level visits, meetings, consultations and increasing people-to-people relations helped expand the bilateral relations.

President Bidya Devi Bhandari's State Visit to China in April 2019, her participation in the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation followed by the delegation level talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping remained historic. The signing of the Protocol to the Transit Transport Agreement opened up Nepal's access to the three inland ports and four sea ports of China.

Vice President Nanda Bahadur Pun, Deputy Prime Minister Ishwar Pokhrel, Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, other ministers and senior government officials visited China on various occasions.

From the Chinese side, Minister of Culture Luo Shugang visited Nepal to attend the 8<sup>th</sup> China Festival in Kathmandu. Similarly, Governor of Gansu Province of China Tang Renjian, Vice Governor and Director General of the Public Security Department of Sichuan Province of China Ye Hanbing and other high ranking officials visited Nepal.

Meetings of various bilateral mechanisms between Nepal and China were held. They included the meetings of Bilateral Consultation Mechanism, Railways cooperation, Border security Cooperation, Nepal-China's Tibet Trade

Facilitation Committee, and the first meeting of the newly established Mechanism for the Implementation of Nepal-China Cooperation Programs and Projects.

### **South Asia**

Nepal's engagement with its South Asian neighbours remained cordial and friendly. Afghan High Peace Council's Deputy Chairman Dr. Habiba Sarabi visited Nepal in September 2018 to learn from Nepal's home-grown peace process. During the visit, she met with the Vice President, Home Minister, Foreign Minister and Energy Minister.

Nepal-Bangladesh relations saw steady progress. Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina held bilateral talks on the sidelines of the 4<sup>th</sup> BIMSTEC Summit. The two countries signed an MOU in the field of Power Sector in August 2018.

This year witnessed the first ever visit to Nepal by Bhutan's Queen Mother Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck in January 2019.

The year marked the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Nepal and Pakistan. Foreign Minister Gyawali met with his Pakistani

counterpart in New York in September on the sidelines of the 73<sup>rd</sup> UNGA.

The Official visit by President of Sri Lanka Maithripala Sirisena to Nepal on 1-2 September 2018 contributed to promote the bilateral relations. Over seventy thousand Sri Lankan nationals, including Buddhist pilgrims, visited Nepal in 2018, making Sri Lanka the 4<sup>th</sup> largest source country of tourists to Nepal.

### **North East Asia**

Nepal-Japan relations advanced further this year. Japan remained one of the largest development partners supporting Nepal in various areas of development. It is also one of the principal contributors to the post-earthquake reconstruction works. Over ninety thousand Nepali nationals are living in Japan, further enriching people-to-people relations. Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali visited Japan in November 2018 and received his Japanese counterpart Taro Kono in Kathmandu on a return visit in January 2019. Foreign Secretary Shanker Das Bairagi and Japanese Ambassador to Nepal Masamichi Saigo signed an MOU on the establishment of bilateral consultations on 9 January 2019. Important bilateral instruments were signed in the areas of civil aviation and

employment for Nepali citizens in Japan.

The relationship between Nepal and the Republic of Korea (ROK) further augmented during the given year. There are around 40,000 Nepali workers employed in ROK under EPS model.

Nepal and Mongolia held a meeting of the Bilateral Consultation Mechanism between the Foreign Ministries of the two countries in Kathmandu on 1 October 2018.

### **South East Asia and Pacific**

South East Asia represents an emerging market, innovation hub and thriving tourism destination. It is also a destination of employment and education for Nepali youths. The Pacific region with Australia and New Zealand at the center has been an obvious choice of Nepali youths for education and work. Nepal's engagement with the South East Asia and Pacific region got renewed momentum this year.

Nepal and Malaysia held rounds of meetings to make the employment of Nepali workers in Malaysia safe, orderly and regular. Over 350,000 Nepali workers are employed in various sectors in Malaysia. Malaysian Minister for Human Resources M. Kula Segaran

visited Nepal in October 2018. An MOU on the Recruitment, Employment and Repatriation for Nepali workers was signed during the visit.

Nepal and Myanmar enjoyed close relationship based on historical and socio-cultural linkages. Over 200,000 people of Nepali origin live in Myanmar. President of the Union of Myanmar U Win Myint visited Nepal in August 2018. He also attended the 4<sup>th</sup> BIMSTEC Summit. During the visit, he held bilateral talks with President Bidya Devi Bhandari and Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli. He also visited Lumbini during his stay in Nepal.

Nepal and Thailand saw a renewed momentum in their bilateral relations. Thai Prime Minister General Prayut Chan-o-cha visited Nepal in August 2018 to attend the 4<sup>th</sup> BIMSTEC Summit. The Thai Prime Minister also held delegation level talks with Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli.

Nepal-Vietnam came closer bilaterally through expansion of their relationship. Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli's visit to Vietnam in May 2019 remained remarkable. A number of agreements were signed during the visit. The two Prime Ministers had earlier met in Davos on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum.

Nepal-Cambodia relations were further consolidated. Prime Minister Oli visited Cambodia in May 2019 and held discussion with Prime Minister Hun Sen on various matters of mutual interest. Prime Minister Hun Sen visited Nepal in November-December 2018 and held bilateral talks with Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli.

Australia remained an important development partner of Nepal and a preferred destination for Nepali students. Nepal and Australia held the first meeting of the bilateral consultation mechanism in August 2018 in Kathmandu. The number of Nepali diaspora in Australia has grown significantly in recent years. The number of tourist from Australia is also growing steadily.

### **Central Asia, West Asia and Africa**

Nepal's relations with the countries of Central Asia, West Asia and Africa remained friendly and cordial. The countries of the Gulf region—Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the UAE, Kuwait, Bahrain and Oman—have been the important destination of overseas employment for over 1.1 million Nepali workers.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia remains an important friend of Nepal. Around 400,000 Nepali nationals were in employment in Saudi Arabia during the reporting period. The Saudi Government provided Rs. 3.33 billion from the Saudi Development Fund for Nepal's reconstruction. Nearly 1,500 Nepali Muslim hajjis visit Mecca every year.

Nepal-Qatar relations saw further growth marked by the high-level visit. President Bidya Devi Bhandari visited the State of Qatar in October 2018 and held bilateral talks with Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Amir of the State of Qatar. Three important bilateral instruments were signed during the visit.

This year saw important development in bilateral relations between Nepal and the UAE. The two countries signed a MOU in the Recruitment, Employment and Repatriation of Workers on 14 June 2019 in Geneva.

### **Europe and Americas**

Europe and Americas continued to remain important regions for Nepal in terms of bilateral partnership and multilateral cooperation. During the review period, President Bidya Devi Bhandari visited Poland, held bilateral meeting with her Polish counterpart and attended high-level session of COP24 in



Katowice. Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli visited UK, Switzerland, France and Costa Rica. Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali visited Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Luxembourg, Portugal, the US, and the EU headquarters. The Foreign Minister of Austria visited Nepal. Likewise, Foreign Secretary Shanker Das Bairagi was engaged in dialogue with the partner countries of this region, both at home and abroad.

### **Regional Cooperation**

Regional cooperation features in our foreign policy priority. In this spirit, Nepal continued to play an active role for the promotion of regional cooperation in South Asia under SAARC. We, as the current chair, made efforts to revive the stalled SAARC summit, including through convening of the informal meeting of the SAARC Council of Ministers. We also actively participated in the activities of ACD and remained associated with SCO as a dialogue partner.

Nepal successfully hosted the 4<sup>th</sup> BIMSTEC Summit in Kathmandu on 30-31 August 2018. This was the first time that Nepal welcomed the Heads of State and Governments from the BIMSTEC Member countries in its capital after becoming the Member of

this regional grouping. The BIMSTEC leaders held friendly discussions towards achieving socio-economic development of the region and issued Kathmandu Declaration. With Nepal's initiative, the proposal to frame a charter of the BIMSTEC was incorporated in the Declaration which aims at deepening and widening regional cooperation through rationalization of activities and building institutional capacity.

### **Multilateral Affairs**

Nepal strongly believes in multilateralism with the United Nations at the centre. The UN Charter constitutes one of the fundamental pillars of our foreign policy. During the review period, Nepal actively engaged in promoting national interest through multilateral platforms while contributing to strengthening multilateral norms-setting process for the collective benefit of humanity. Implementing the 2030 agenda for sustainable development, fighting against the adverse impacts of climate change, advocating for more favourable international support measures, including technology transfer to developing countries and upholding the principles of peaceful coexistence, mutual respect, sovereign equality, non-interference, peaceful settlement of

disputes and cooperation among nations. We continued contributing to the international peace and security through active participation in the UN peace operations, playing constructive and objective role at the UN Human Rights Council, contributing to the policy process of ILO, IOM, UNCTAD, UN Funds and Boards, Peace Building Commission, Commission on Science and Technology, and in the inter-governmental negotiation process on migration, biodiversity, among others.

### **Policy, Planning, Development Diplomacy and Nepali Diaspora**

With a view to forging broad consensus among the key stakeholders on the fundamentals of Nepal's foreign Policy, the Ministry organized a day-long National Dialogue on Foreign Policy in May 2019. Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli addressed the opening session of the Dialogue and shed light in the important achievements made on foreign policy front since the formation of the government under his leadership and called for greater understanding among the political parties on the basics of foreign policy. The Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali presented a policy paper for discussion. The Dialogue was well received by the general public.

In order to tap the intellectual resources of Nepali diaspora, a Brain Gain Center (BGC) was established at the Ministry.

In an effort to continue promoting Nepal in international arena, the Ministry organized a Conference of Nepal's Honorary Consuls overseas in Kathmandu in June 2019.

The Ministry, in collaboration with UNITAR, organized a workshop in November 2018 on multilateral negotiations and conference diplomacy for enhancing capacity of its human resources.

Interaction of the Provincial and Local authorities with foreign governments and missions has been streamlined and managed with the adoption of the Directives.

The Government of Nepal established *Sagarmatha Sambaad* as a permanent dialogue forum to deliberate on issues of national, regional and global significance. A Steering Committee and an Organizing Committee were constituted to advance the preparatory work for hosting the first edition of the dialogue in 2020.

To make economic diplomacy result-oriented and provide diplomatic missions overseas with clear guidelines,

country-specific strategies were finalized.

### **Protocol Matters**

Altogether, twenty-seven high-level visits, twenty outgoing and seven incoming, took place under the review period. Nepal established diplomatic relations with six more countries, namely Rwanda, Madagascar, Suriname, Togo, Equatorial Guinea and Eswatini. With this expansion, Nepal's diplomatic relations reached 166 countries.

### **Consular Services**

The Department of Consular Services complied with its commitment of providing *Service Delivery within half an hour on submission of the documents*. It introduced online verification system in order to ensure and authenticate the documents attested. In addition, the Department launched Mobile App

named *Nepal Consular* in February 2019 to make the consular legal services easy and accessible. It also improved the process of verifying the Power of Attorney issued from Nepali Missions abroad.

### **Passport Services**

The Department of Passports, the first NS/ISO 9001:2015 certified government agency in Nepal, effectively delivered services. Working with the motto *Transparent, Accountable and Citizen-Friendly Service*, it personalized a total of 515,146 MRTDs, including 513,038 ordinary passports, 1,235 official passports, 741 diplomatic passports, and 132 Travel Documents.

# Review of Nepal's Foreign Relations

## 1. Neighbourhood

Nepal's neighbours, India and China, received global attention and focus in the review period, as both countries continued registering achievements in economic, technological, social, and other spheres.

In India, after Bharatiya Janata Party's victory in Lok Sabha elections held in April and May 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi took office for the second term. The Government of India announced that it would continue the 'Neighbourhood First' policy.

Similarly, significant developments took place in the People's Republic of China. It continued to be the leading exporter and the second largest economy of the world. China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) attracted global attention.

Nepal attached high importance to its relations with both India and China. Sovereign equality, mutual trust and benefits were the hallmarks of our bilateral relations. Nepal's relations with both of its neighbours further expanded and deepened during the period under review.

Nepal maintained its policy of not allowing its territory to be used against its neighbours and expects the same from them. Understanding of each other's concerns and sensitivity was also one of the elements of Nepal's policy towards neighbours.

Nepal engaged extensively with India and China in various areas of cooperation. As a result, bilateral relationship with both the neighbours remained productive and mutually beneficial. The exchange of high-level visits and meetings of bilateral mechanisms at various levels contributed to further enhancing the bilateral ties.

### **India**

Nepal-India relations were marked by positive developments in several fronts. Enhanced engagements at the level of Prime Minister helped foster greater degree of mutual trust and confidence in the relationship.

The Lok Sabha elections were held in India in April-May 2019. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was re-elected

to the office for the second term with strong majority in Lok Sabha.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government reiterated *Neighbourhood First* policy. Neighbourhood is Nepal's policy priority too. Based on policy consonance and strong leadership on both sides, bilateral partnership was further advanced.

In line with the understanding reached between the two Prime Ministers, all the bilateral mechanisms remained active during this period. As a result, significant progress took place in a number of areas, particularly cross border connectivity, infrastructure, energy, trade, transit, agriculture, and security, among others. The first ever cross border petroleum pipeline project between Amlekhgunj (Nepal) and Motihari (India) was inaugurated. The Integrated Check Post at Birgunj (Nepal)-Raxaul (India) was completed and brought into operation. The major portion of the Integrated Check Post at Biratnagar (Nepal)-Jogbani (India) was also completed.

Likewise, Janakpur-Jaynagar cross border railway project was completed; its further extension up to Bardibas is underway. Construction of Biratnagar-Jogbani cross border railway progressed well. Feasibility study of the flagship

project of Raxaul-Kathmandu Railway was completed as agreed during the State Visit of the Prime Minister of Nepal to India last year. Necessary study and preparations were done on developing inland waterways connectivity.

Construction works of some segments of the Postal Roads were completed under the Government of India's assistance. Progress was also registered in several projects under the Indian Exim Bank's various Lines of Credit.

Both countries enhanced cooperation in power sector. Arun III hydropower project undertaken by India's public enterprise Satlaj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) witnessed satisfactory progress. Bilateral negotiations were held on energy banking and development of cross-border transmission lines and power trade between the two countries.

The Eminent Persons' Group (EPG) on Nepal-India relations accomplished its work and is waiting for submitting its consensus report.

### **Exchange of High-Level Visits**

A number of high-level visits between Nepal and India took place during the review period. Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli visited India on 30-31 May



*Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, New Delhi, 31 May 2019*

2019 in order to attend the swearing-in ceremony of Narendra Modi.

During the visit, the Prime Minister met with his Indian counterpart on 31 May 2019. The two leaders had a fruitful talk that maintained good momentum in bilateral relations. The Prime Minister also extended invitation to the Prime Minister of India to pay a visit to Nepal.

Earlier, a meeting between the Prime Ministers of Nepal and India was held on 31 August 2018 on the sidelines of the Fourth BIMSTEC Summit held in Kathmandu. The two Prime Ministers

witnessed the exchange of MOU regarding Preliminary Engineering-cum-Traffic Survey of the Broad Gauge Line between Raxaul and Kathmandu. They also jointly inaugurated Nepal Bharat Maitri Pashupati Dharmashala at Tilganga, Kathmandu.

Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali visited India on 10-11 January 2019 to participate in the fourth edition of Raisina Dialogue. He addressed the Dialogue focusing on Nepal's perspectives on changing world order, neighbourhood, the region, and Nepal's

harmonious relations with its neighbours.



*Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali at Raisina Dialogue, New Delhi  
11 January 2019*

During the visit, the Foreign Minister also held a meeting with the External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj in New Delhi on 10 January 2019. The two Foreign Ministers exchanged views on further deepening the bilateral relations.

Foreign Minister Gyawali also visited India on 17-18 August 2018 to attend the funeral ceremony of Former Prime Minister of India Atal Bihari Bajpayee. The Minister conveyed the message of condolences from the Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli addressed to the Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi.

Former Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' visited India on 6-9 September 2018 and addressed the 31<sup>st</sup> Sapru House Lecture on 'Recent Developments in Nepal and Advancing Nepal-India Relations' on 7 September 2018.



*Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali at the funeral ceremony of former Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Bajpayee, New Delhi  
18 August 2018*

Deputy Prime Minister Upendra Yadav, Federal Affairs Minister Lalbabu Pandit, Energy Minister Barshaman Pun, Transport Minister Raghbir Mahaseth, Agriculture Minister Chakrapani Khanal, Drinking Water Minister Bina Magar, Industry Minister Matrika Prasad Yadav, and Tourism Minister Rabindra Prasad Adhikari visited India to participate in various programmes. During their visits, they held bilateral discussion with their Indian counterparts on matters of mutual interest of the two countries.

At the invitation of Foreign Secretary Shanker Das Bairagi, Indian Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale visited Nepal on 28 March 2019. The two Foreign Secretaries held a bilateral meeting and reviewed the status of implementation of various projects pertaining to energy,

connectivity, railways, waterways, and agriculture, among others.



*Foreign Secretary Shanker Das Bairagi with Indian Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale, Kathmandu, 28 March 2019*

### **Meetings of Bilateral Mechanisms**

Foreign Secretary Shanker Das Bairagi held five rounds of meetings through video conference with Indian Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale on different dates to review the status of implementation of the decisions agreed during the exchange of high-level visits in 2018, including bilateral projects.



*7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Nepal-India Oversight Mechanism, Kathmandu, 7 July 2019*

The Sixth and Seventh meetings of Nepal-India Oversight Mechanism were held in Kathmandu on 18 July 2018 and 7 July 2019 to review the progress made in the implementation of bilateral projects, such as Amlekhgunj - Motihari cross border petroleum pipeline, integrated check posts in Biratnagar, Terai Roads, Arun III hydroelectric project, post-earthquake reconstruction projects, among others.

During the meeting, both sides expressed their commitment to ensure smooth execution of the projects within the specified timeframe and agreed to address the problems faced by the implementing agencies. The meeting was co-chaired by Foreign Secretary Shanker Das Bairagi and Indian Ambassador to Nepal Manjeev Singh Puri.

The Ninth Meeting of the India-Nepal Survey Officials' Committee (SOC) held in Dehradun, India on 11-13 October 2018 finalized the detailed work plan and schedule for field season in 2018-2019 for the remaining boundary works. The Committee directed the respective field teams to jointly inspect riverine (Small River) pillars constructed during the field season 2017-2018 and prepare a report on the present condition and stability of



these pillars. Likewise, the Tenth Meeting of SOC held in Kathmandu on 26-28 June 2019 discussed various technical issues on boundary related works.

The Fifth Meeting of Nepal-India Boundary Working Group (BWG) held in Kathmandu on 19-21 September 2018 discussed various matters relating to ongoing Nepal-India boundary works. The meeting agreed to finalize the work schedule for the remaining field seasons. It was also agreed to explore the possibility of using high resolution satellite images in boundary survey work in addition to the technologies currently being used. The meeting also agreed to continue the task of mapping No Man's Land encroachment and cross-border occupation. It was decided to maintain the status quo in the cultivation of land until a mutually acceptable solution is reached between the two countries.

The Seventh Meeting of the Joint Agriculture Working Group (JAWG) was held in Kathmandu on 16-17 August 2018. The Meeting stressed on the need to take steps for furthering bilateral cooperation in the agriculture sector in line with Nepal-India New Partnership in Agriculture.

The Joint Secretary-level Meeting of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock of Nepal and India was held in Kathmandu on 14-15 January 2019 to finalize the MOU between the two countries on supply of chemical fertilizer.

The Second Meeting on Inland waterways connectivity between Nepal and India was held in Kathmandu on 7-8 March 2019. It reviewed the outcome of the first and second Technical Scoping Missions and discussed matters relating to technical and economic feasibility of inland waterways development, its process and modalities, and inland waterways for transit transport diversification.

The Third Comprehensive Review Meeting of Nepal-India Rail Services Agreement held in New Delhi on 6-7 June 2019 agreed to make necessary amendments in the Rail Services Agreement. It was also agreed that Nepal would share a draft Letter of Exchange (LoE) with India for that purpose. Indian side agreed, in principle, to permit the Nepal Railway Company to operate in Kolkata/Haldia up to/from Birgunj and Biratnagar.

The Seventh Nepal-India Line of Credit (LOC) Review Meeting was held in New Delhi on 3 June 2019 which examined the status of projects under

Indian Exim Bank's Lines of Credit for road, hydro-electricity, irrigation, and cross border transmission lines. The meeting also deliberated on ways of utilizing the LOC IV of USD 750 million that was announced as a part of the Government of India's cooperation for post-earthquake reconstruction projects.

The First Meeting of the Comprehensive Review of Nepal-India Treaty of Trade held in New Delhi on 9 August 2018 agreed to examine the provisions requiring amendments in the treaty internally and discuss in the next meeting. The second round of discussions held in Pokhara, Nepal on 07-08 February 2019 agreed that both sides would prepare and share a concept note on each specific proposal regarding modification of the treaty along with the draft text for such modification.

The 19<sup>th</sup> Director General Level Talks on Customs Co-operation between Nepal and India was held in Kathmandu on 19-20 November 2018. Matters related to optimum use of ICT for better coordination, mutual efforts for controlling cross-border illegal trade, and new infrastructure development and up-gradation of existing facilities were discussed in the meeting.

The Sixth Meeting of Nepal-India Joint Steering Committee (JSC)/Joint Working Group (JWG) on Power Trade and Cooperation was held in Pokhara, Nepal on 23-24 January 2019. The meeting discussed power trade through existing transmission lines-Muzaffarpur-Dhalkebar 400 KV line (operated at 220 KV) and other 132 KV and below transmission lines. Other matters discussed were under-construction interconnections, future transmission interconnections, progress of generation and transmission system of Arun-III and other hydropower projects in Nepal, exchange of power through energy banking, and the progress regarding Guidelines/Regulations of India for import/export of electricity.

The Third Meeting of the Team of Experts/Officials (TOE) from the Government of Nepal and the Government of India for resolving the issues related to the draft Detailed Project Report (DPR) of Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project was held in Kathmandu on 27-28 February 2019. The meeting agreed to finalize the work done by the technical sub-groups in the second TOE meeting. It also discussed the remaining sections of the DPR, namely, benefit assessment and project optimization, cost estimation and

phasing of expenditure, and economic and financial evaluation of the project so as to complete the task assigned by the Pancheshwar Development Authority.

The Second Meeting of Joint Technical Team (JTT) of the Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal and the Airports Authority of India held in New Delhi on 11-12 October 2019 reviewed the progress made on the understanding reached during the first JTT meeting held in Kathmandu on 15-16 June 2018. Earlier, the First meeting between Civil Aviation Authorities of Nepal and India held on 14-16 June 2018 in Kathmandu had agreed to provide additional air entry routes to Nepal.

The First Meeting of the Joint Project Monitoring Committee (JPMC) was held on 11 March 2019 in Kathmandu to review and monitor the project activities under the Government of India's post-earthquake reconstruction grant assistance, particularly in the housing sector. Discussion was also held on other three sectors namely, education, health and cultural heritage.

The Second Meeting of the JPMC on Strengthening of Road Infrastructure in Terai areas of Nepal was held in Kathmandu on 06 May 2019. The Meeting agreed to move ahead with expeditious implementation of fourteen

road projects as per agreed timelines. It also recommended the release of the fund on the basis of physical progress of the Terai Road Project.

The Third Nepal-India Coordination Meeting between the Inspector General, Armed Police Force of Nepal, and the Director General, Sashastra Seema Bal of India held in New Delhi on 7-10 August 2018 agreed to further strengthen mutual coordination and cooperation on matters relating to border security.

The Thirteenth meeting of Nepal-India Bilateral Consultative Group on Security Issues was held in Kathmandu on 14 December 2018. The Meeting discussed matters related to capacity building, conducting joint exercises and joint expeditions/ adventure/sports activities, among others.

The Embassy of Nepal in New Delhi facilitated high-level visits and meetings between the two countries. It also pursued economic diplomacy and extended consular services to Nepali nationals in India, including rescue and repatriation of those in distress. The Consulate General of Nepal in Kolkata remained effortful in promoting Nepal's trade, tourism and commercial interests.

## People's Republic of China

The year under review witnessed a significant growth in Nepal-China relations with the exchange of high-level visits, meetings and consultations under various bilateral mechanisms, growing people-to-people contacts, and conclusion of important agreements.

China has remained Nepal's one of the major development partners, the largest source-country for foreign direct investment, the second largest trade partner and the second largest source country of tourists. Nepal-China multifaceted relations continued to develop on the basis of goodwill, trust, understanding, and appreciation of each other's aspirations and sensitivity.

## Exchange of High-Level Visits

President Bidya Devi Bhandari paid a State Visit to China on 24 April-1 May 2019 and held delegation level talks with the President of China Xi Jinping. The two leaders exchanged views on further strengthening and consolidating the cooperative friendship and mutually beneficial partnership between the two countries. A total of seven bilateral



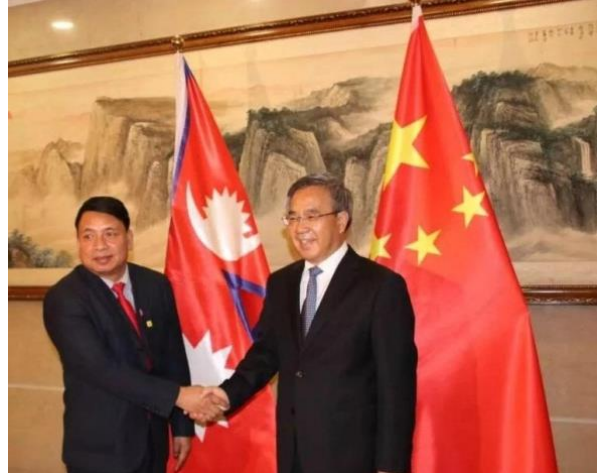
*President Bidya Devi Bhandari and Chinese President Xi Jinping, Beijing, 28 April 2018*

agreements, including the Protocol to the Agreement on Transit Transport were signed during the visit.

She attended the Opening Ceremony and addressed the High-Level Meeting and Leaders' Roundtable of the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Co-operation. Nepal-China Trans-Himalayan Multi-Dimensional Connectivity Network, including Nepal-China Cross-Border Railway, was incorporated in the Joint Communiqué of the Leaders' Roundtable of the Forum.

The President also attended the International Horticultural Expo in Beijing on 28 April, visited Shaanxi Province and the Tibet Autonomous Region of China and met with provincial leaders there.

Vice-President Nanda Bahadur Pun visited the People's Republic of China on 19-24 September 2018 to attend the 17<sup>th</sup> Western China International Fair held in Chengdu City of Sichuan Province. He met with Vice-Premier of the People's Republic of China Hu Chunhua in Chengdu on 19 September and exchanged views on further promoting cooperation in the areas of building infrastructure, agricultural development, technology transfer, and human resource development.



*Vice-President Nanda Bahadur Pun with Chinese Vice-Premier Hu Chunhua, Chengdu, 19 September 2018*

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defense Ishwar Pokhrel visited China on 25-30 October 2018 to attend the 8<sup>th</sup> Xiangshan Forum. On the occasion, the Deputy Prime Minister held a meeting with State Councilor and Minister for National Defense Wei Fenghe on 27 October 2018. During the meeting, the two sides emphasized the importance of military co-operation in the areas of military training, hardware in humanitarian and disaster management, medical equipment, and peace-keeping operations. They also underlined the need of deepening bilateral relations.



*DPM Ishwar Pokhrel with Chinese State Councilor and Defense Minister, Wei Fenghe, Beijing, 27 October 2018*

Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali visited China on 30 June-5 July 2019. During his visit, Minister Gyawali held a meeting with Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Beijing on 3 July. The two Ministers exchanged views on high-level visits between the two countries and also discussed the ways of further consolidating bilateral ties, deepening



*Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali with Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi, Beijing, 3 July 2019*

partnership in the areas of trade, transit, cross-border connectivity and energy.

Earlier, the Foreign Minister had participated in the 13<sup>th</sup> World Economic Forum Annual Meeting of the New Champions in Dalian on 1-2 July.

Minister for Education, Science and Technology Giriraj Mani Pokhrel visited Beijing on 16-18 May 2019 to attend the International Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Education. Minister for Industry, Commerce and Supplies Matrika Prasad Yadav participated in the First China International Import Expo in Shanghai in November 2018 and in the Thematic Session of the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Co-operation held in Beijing on 25 April 2019. Women, Children and Senior Citizens Minister Tham Maya Thapa and Physical Infrastructure and Transport Minister Raghur Mahaseth visited Beijing to attend the Thematic Session of Second Belt and Road Forum for International Co-operation in April 2019. Federal Affairs and General Administration Minister Lalbabu Pandit visited Chengdu to attend China-South Asia Business Roundtable held on 17-20 September 2018. Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation Minister Barshaman Pun visited Beijing to attend

*Nepal-China Economic Co-operation: Prospects of Investment in Nepal's Energy Sector* held on 16 October 2018.

Chief of Army Staff Gen. Purna Chandra Thapa paid a visit to China on 16–22 June 2019 and met with Gen. Wei Fenghe, State Councilor and Minister of National Defense and Gen. Li Zuocheng, Chief of Joint Staff Department and Member of Central Military Commission.

From China, Minister of Culture Luo Shugang visited Nepal to attend the 8<sup>th</sup> China Festival in Kathmandu. In addition, Governor of Gansu Province Tang Renjian, Vice Governor and Director General of the Public Security Department of Sichuan Province Ye Hanbing, Vice Minister of Emergency Management Zheng Guoguang, and Vice Minister of International Department, Central Committee of Communist Party of China Wang Yajun visited Nepal.

### **Bilateral Meetings**

The 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of Nepal-China Bilateral Consultation Mechanism was held on 13 December 2018 in Beijing. Foreign Secretary Shanker Das Bairagi and Vice-Foreign Minister Kong Xuanyou reviewed the status of bilateral co-operation and agreed to move

forward bilateral partnership in the areas of transit, trade, energy, connectivity, agriculture, education, human resource development and the exchange of high-level visits.

During this visit, Foreign Secretary Shanker Das Bairagi met with the State Councilor and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China Wang Yi at the Diaoyutai Guest House on 13 December.



*Foreign Secretary Shanker Das Bairagi with State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi, Beijing, 13 December 2018*

The First meeting of the Mechanism for Facilitation on the Implementation of China-Nepal Cooperation Programmes and Projects in Nepal was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Kathmandu on 3 December 2018. The meeting, co-chaired by the Foreign Secretary Shanker Das Bairagi and

Chinese Ambassador Yu Hong, made a comprehensive review of the implementation status of bilateral programmes and projects in various fields and agreed to take appropriate measures to ensure their smooth and timely implementation through joint efforts.

The Fourth Nepal-China Railway Co-operation Meeting held in Beijing on 20 June 2019 agreed to intensify cooperation in the field of cross-border railway project. The Nepali delegation was led by Secretary of the Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transport Debendra Karki and the Chinese delegation by Vice-Administrator of National Railway Administration An Lusheng.

The Third bilateral meeting on Border Law Enforcement Cooperation between the Ministry of Home Affairs of Nepal and the Public Security Department of Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) of China was held in Kathmandu on 13 December 2018. Home Secretary Prem Kumar Rai and Director-General of Public Security Department of TAR Zhang Hong Bo led their respective delegations to the meeting.

The First Joint Implementation Mechanism Meeting on Nepal-China Cooperation on Energy Sector was held

in Kathmandu on 28 September 2018. Nepali and Chinese sides made presentations on their power systems, power markets and future plans. Both sides also deliberated on the future cooperation plan in energy sector between Nepal and China.

Nepal-China's Tibet Trade Facilitation Committee meeting was held in Lhasa on 2-3 July 2019. During the meeting, both sides shared views on various aspects of Nepal-China's Tibet Trade and Economic cooperation and agreed to engage in practical cooperation through participation in trade, tourism and cultural fairs to be organized in both countries.

### **Trade, Tourism, Investment**

China remained Nepal's second largest trade partner. The burgeoning trade deficit is a matter of concern for Nepal. The Ministry, including through the Embassy of Nepal in Beijing, continued its efforts to facilitate trade and promote exports from Nepal to China. Yet, structural constraints in areas of supply capacity and physical infrastructure that includes quality certification mechanism remained major bottlenecks for expanding exports to China.



The number of Chinese tourists visiting Nepal grew by 37% and reached 167,541 during the review period.

During the State Visit of President Bidya Devi Bhandari to China, the Embassy of Nepal in Beijing organized Nepal-China Economic and Trade Forum in co-operation with Economic Joint Committee of China Commercial Stock Enterprises. The President, while addressing the gathering of businessmen, entrepreneurs and investors, highlighted the government's agenda of economic transformation and called on Chinese investors to tap the investment opportunities available in Nepal. During the visit, three separate MOUs on promoting cooperation between Nepali and Chinese organizations, including between Investment Board of Nepal and China Overseas Development Association, were signed. On the same occasion, Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali unveiled the Embassy's publication *Nepal: A Land of Abundant Opportunities*.

Similarly, a forum on *Nepal-China Economic Co-operation: Prospects of Investment in Nepal's Energy Sector* was organized in Beijing on 16 October 2018 by the Embassy of Nepal in collaboration with China Association

for International Economic Co-operation. Minister for Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation of Nepal Barshaman Pun attended the forum as the Chief Guest.

Nepal participated in the first China International Import Expo held in



*Nepali Stall at CIIE, Shanghai, 5-10 November 2018*

Shanghai on 5-10 November 2018. The Nepali pavilion was branded on the theme of *Visit Nepal Year 2020*, attracting many visitors, particularly for products like jewelry, tea and herbal products. On the sidelines of the Expo, the Embassy of Nepal in Beijing and Honorary Consulate of Nepal in Shanghai, with the support of China Association for International Economic Cooperation, jointly organized a Seminar in Shanghai on 7 November 2018 on Prospects of Chinese Investment in Nepal.

A promotional program titled *Nepal: Beauty beyond Infinity* was hosted by the Embassy on 9 May 2019 in collaboration with China World Peace Foundation. A presentation was made on Nepal's culture, tourism, and investment, followed by a cultural performance by Nepali and Chinese students. The programme also featured Nepali photo, craft exhibition and Nepali cuisine. The Embassy also organized *Pre-Summit Conference on Nepal Investment Summit 2019* in Beijing on 25 February 2019. A presentation on investment opportunities in Nepal was made by the Investment Board Nepal during the conference.

### **Social, Cultural and Promotional Events**

On the occasion of the 63<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Nepal and the People's Republic of China, the Embassy of Nepal, Beijing organized a two-week Nepali Food Festival 2018 in Beijing with the support of Nepal Tourism Board and Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries with a view to promoting the *Visit Nepal Year 2020*.

The 2,563<sup>rd</sup> Buddha Jayanti was observed amid a function at the Embassy

of Nepal on 18 May 2019. On the same day, *International Sagarmatha Day* was also celebrated in the Embassy. On the occasion, six Chinese Sagarmatha summiteers were felicitated.

On 3 July 2019, the Embassy organized an interaction event between Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali and China-based Nepali scholars, academics and litterateurs.

Consulates General of Nepal in Lhasa, Hong Kong and Guangzhou carried out their respective consular functions and facilitated major Nepal promotion activities. Consulate General in Lhasa coordinated and facilitated the visit of the President of Nepal Bidya Devi Bhandari and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Nepal Krishna Bahadur Mahara to Lhasa.

## 2. South Asia

Nepal's relations with the countries of South Asia continued to grow during the reporting period. We remained engaged with the countries of this region through different bilateral as well as regional mechanisms.

President of Sri Lanka Maithripala Sirisena paid an official visit to Nepal on 1-2 September 2018, following his participation in the 4<sup>th</sup> BIMSTEC Summit, met with President Bidya Devi Bhandari, and held bilateral talks with Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli on 1 September 2018.

Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina paid an official visit to Nepal and held bilateral meeting with Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli on 30 August 2018, following her participation in the 4<sup>th</sup> BIMSTEC Summit.

This year, Nepal celebrated the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations with Pakistan.

Nepal enjoyed friendly relations with Afghanistan, Bhutan and the Maldives.

### **Afghanistan**

Nepal and Afghanistan continued enjoying friendly relations. The two countries shared their common views, as LDCs and LLDCs, on international and regional forums.

An Afghani delegation led by Senior Politician and Deputy to the Chairman of Afghanistan High Peace Council Dr. Habiba Sarabi visited Nepal in September 2018 to learn from Nepal's home-grown peace process. The delegation had interactions with Vice President Nanda Bahadur Pun, Home Minister Ram Bahadur Thapa, Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, and Energy Minister Barsha Man Pun.

During an interaction with the Afghan delegation, Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali highlighted the nature and background of the decade-long armed conflict in Nepal, the mechanisms that were created for the settlement of this problem, major achievements made through the peace process, and the lessons learnt.



*Foreign Minister with Afghan Delegation led by Dr. Habiba Sarabi, Kathmandu  
September 2018*

## Bangladesh

Nepal-Bangladesh relations remained cordial and friendly. Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli met with Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina on 30 August 2018 on the side-lines of the 4<sup>th</sup> BIMSTEC Summit. The two Prime Ministers exchanged views on further strengthening relations in the areas of trade, transit, connectivity, and energy, among others.



*Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli with  
Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina,  
Kathmandu, 30 August 2018*

Minister for Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation Barsha Man Pun and State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources of Bangladesh Nasrul Hamid held a bilateral meeting in Kathmandu on 10 August 2018. An MOU on Cooperation in the Field of Power Sector between Nepal and Bangladesh was signed. The MOU aims to increase collaboration in electricity generation, grid connectivity and energy efficiency.

During the meeting, Nepal and Bangladesh agreed to promote partnership between public and private sectors of the two countries in the areas of power generation, transmission and distribution. The two sides also discussed the prospects of joint ventures in the development of hydropower projects in Nepal.



*Energy Minister Barsha Man Pun with  
Bangladesh Power Minister Nasrul Hamid,  
Kathmandu, 10 August 2018*

Energy Minister Barsha Man Pun visited Bangladesh to attend the Power and Energy Week held in Dhaka on 6-8 September 2018. He delivered Keynote speech at a seminar on "Future Prospects of Regional Connectivity" on 6 September.

The First Meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG) on Nepal-Bangladesh Cooperation in the Field of Power Sector was held in Kathmandu on 3 December 2018.

The First Meeting of the Joint Steering Committee (JSC) on Nepal-Bangladesh Cooperation in the Field of Power Sector was also held in Kathmandu on 4 December 2018. During the meeting, both sides discussed matters relating to power trade, investment in hydropower development in Nepal, cooperation on renewable energy, and cross border transmission line between Nepal and Bangladesh.

Likewise, the First Meeting of Nepal-Bangladesh Joint Group of Customs Officials was held in Kathmandu on 12-13 December 2018. The two sides discussed various issues relating to priority on clearance of Nepal bound export/import cargo, modalities of exchange of information between the customs administrations of the two countries, easy access of Nepali agricultural products and export of acrylic yarn from Nepal to Bangladesh through Banglabandha Land Customs Station (LCS). The two sides also deliberated on the issues of online verification of certificate of origin/SAFTA certificate, on-arrival visa for Nepali nationals at both land and air entry points, creation of co-operative customs environment to promote trade, and establishment of hotline between Banglabandha LCS and Mechi Customs Office.

Nepal and Bangladesh signed an Agreement on Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income on 5 March 2019.

Trade volume between the two countries has been continuously increasing in recent years. Nepal exported lentils, oil cake, retha, chirata, ginger, padamchal and pashmina, among others, to Bangladesh this year.

Embassy of Nepal in Dhaka remained active in promoting Nepal in Bangladesh. Around twenty-six thousand nationals from Bangladesh visited Nepal in the reporting year.

### **Bhutan**

Nepal and Bhutan continued to have friendly relations. Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli and Chief Justice and Chief Advisor of the Interim Government of Bhutan Lynpo Tshering Wangchuk met in Kathmandu on 29 August 2018 on the sidelines of the Fourth BIMSTEC Summit. During the meeting, matters relating to bilateral and regional cooperation were discussed.

Queen Mother of Bhutan Her Majesty Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck visited Nepal from 21 January to 1 February 2019. The Royal entourage visited

various Buddhist pilgrimage sites in Nepal.

Nepal's export to Bhutan in the reporting year was worth NPR 75.87 million while Nepal's import from Bhutan was worth NPR 1.64 billion with a trade deficit of NPR 1.56 billion.

### **Maldives**

Nepal and the Maldives enjoyed cordial relations this year. They shared similar views in regional forums on matters of common interests.

Both countries worked for promoting cooperation in the areas of trade, tourism, education and employment. Over seven thousand Nepali nationals are employed in the Maldives, mostly in the hospitality industry. Some Maldivian students have been pursuing medical studies in Nepal.

### **Pakistan**

The relations between Nepal and Pakistan continued to grow in the review period. This year marked the 60<sup>th</sup> year of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Nepal Academy Chancellor Dr. Ganga Prasad Uprety visited Pakistan on 16-19 January 2019. National Reconstruction Authority Nepal Chief Executive Officer Sushil Gyawali also visited Pakistan on 5-9 February 2019 to learn

from the experience of Pakistan in disaster management.

Export trade from Nepal to Pakistan was to the tune of NPR. 53.66 million and import trade from Pakistan NPR. 696.63 million.

Under the Pakistan Technical Assistance Programme (PTAP), the Government of Pakistan provided 25 scholarships to Nepali students for higher education in medical, engineering and pharmaceutical fields. Pakistan also offered training programmes to the mid-career and junior diplomats of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as Nepal Army officials.

Around 200 Nepali nationals, mostly students, are living in different cities of Pakistan. A total number of 4,956 Pakistani tourists visited Nepal in 2018.

### **Sri Lanka**

Nepal and Sri Lanka enjoyed friendly relations during the review period. President of Sri Lanka Maithripala Sirisena paid an official visit to Nepal on 1-2 September 2018, following his participation in the 4<sup>th</sup> BIMSTEC Summit.



*President Bidya Devi Bhandari with President of Sri Lanka Maithripala Sirisena, Kathmandu, 1 September 2018*

Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli met with President of Sri Lanka Maithripala Sirisena in Kathmandu on 1 September 2018, following the BIMSTEC Summit.



*Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli with President of Sri Lanka Maithripala Sirisena, Kathmandu, 1 September 2018*

During the visit, MOU on youth development and MOU between the Institute of Foreign Affairs of Nepal (IFA) and Bandaranaike International Diplomatic Training Institute (BDTI) were signed on 1 September 2018.

Former Prime Minister and Member of Parliament Jhalanath Khanal visited Colombo on 5-7 April 2019 to participate in the Asia-Europe Political Forum (AEPF) and International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP).

Trade between Nepal and Sri Lanka continued to grow. Nepal's export to Sri Lanka in 2018 was worth NPR 8.17 million and import from Sri Lanka worth NPR. 275.52 million with a trade deficit of NPR. 267.35 million. Major exports from Nepal to Sri Lanka included carpets, textile articles, raw hides and skins, tanning and dyeing extracts, whereas major items of imports from Sri Lanka to Nepal were electric machinery, ceramic products, lead, rubber, precious and semi-precious stones and mineral fuels.

The number of tourists from Sri Lanka to Nepal increased, mainly for the visit to Lumbini-the birth place of Lord Buddha. About 70,000 Sri Lankans visited Nepal in 2018. More than two hundred Sri Lankan students continued their study in medical science in various medical colleges in Nepal, including under SAARC scholarships schemes. Around 200 Nepali students are studying Buddhist philosophy in various universities in Sri Lanka. In addition,

some students from Nepal visited Sri Lank to pursue higher studies on scholarships schemes.



### 3. North East Asia

North East Asia continued to be an important region for Nepal's diplomatic engagements. Cooperative and friendly relations of Nepal with the countries of North East Asia witnessed continuity and growth. Nepal reiterated its principled position for peace and stability in Korean Peninsula. The US-DPRK Summit talks generated new hope for peace and stability in the region.

Nepal-Japan relations were marked by exchange of visits of Foreign Ministers, conclusion of Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) on recruitment of Specified Skilled Workers of Nepal to Japan, revision of Air Services Agreement, resumption of direct air services between Kathmandu and Osaka and continued support of Japan to Nepal's socio-economic development.

Nepal's relations with the Republic of Korea continued to advance. The fourth meeting of Bilateral Consultation Mechanism between Nepal and the Republic of Korea was held during the same period.

The year marked the 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Nepal and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Relations between Nepal and Mongolia remained cordial and cooperative.

#### Japan

The reporting year witnessed a visible growth in Nepal-Japan relations. At the invitation of Foreign Minister Taro Kono, Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali paid an official visit to Japan on 17-21 November 2018. The two Foreign Ministers witnessed the signing of Exchange of Notes for a grant assistance of 350 million Yen to the Government of Nepal for food assistance programme in Nepal.



*Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali with Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono, Tokyo, 19 November 2018*

During the visit, Foreign Minister Gyawali held meetings with the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan Takamori Yoshikawa, President of Nepal-Japan Parliamentary Friendship League and Secretary

General of Liberal Democratic Party Toshihiro Nikai and President of JICA Dr. Shinichi Kitaoka.

Likewise, at the invitation of Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono paid an official visit to Nepal on 9- 10 January 2019. The two Foreign Ministers held delegation level talks and discussed all aspects of Nepal-Japan bilateral relations as well as regional and global issues of common interests in Kathmandu on 9 January 2019.



*Foreign Ministers of Nepal and Japan holding delegation level talks, Kathmandu, 9 January, 2019*

Following the talks, the two Foreign Ministers signed the Exchange of Notes on revising the Attachment of Air Service Agreement between Nepal and Japan and witnessed the signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nepal and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of

Japan on Conducting Bilateral Consultations.

Japan's support for socio-economic development of Nepal continued in the year 2018-2019. Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) remained one of the top ten donor agencies for Nepal. Japan's assistance to Nepal covered the areas of reconstruction, infrastructure development, poverty alleviation and governance, among others. Japan continued to assist Nepal for human resources development by providing a number of scholarships in various fields to the officials of the Government of Nepal.

The Embassy of Nepal in Japan remained effortful in further enhancing bilateral ties. The Embassy organized "Nepal Investment Seminar" in coordination with Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) and UNIDO on 20 November 2018. The Embassy also carried out various promotional activities in Japan.

### **Republic of Korea (RoK)**

Nepal and the Republic of Korea (RoK) enjoyed excellent bilateral relations. Exchange of visits at various levels, cooperation at regional and international forums, growing people-to-people relations and continued development

support of the Republic of Korea to Nepal helped further strengthen the bilateral ties. More than 40,000 Nepalis are in employment in the RoK. Nepal remained one of the core partner countries in Asia for Korean government's official development assistance.

Communication Minister Gokul Prasad Baskota visited the Republic of Korea on 12 September 2018 to participate in the ICT Ministerial Meeting of Asia Pacific Region. Similarly, Education Minister Giriraj Mani Pokhrel visited the RoK on 14-18 November 2018 to participate in 2018 Global ICT Leadership Forum organized in Seoul.

The fourth meeting of Bilateral Consultation Mechanism between Nepal and the Republic of Korea was held in Seoul on 23 July 2018. The meeting reviewed a wide array of bilateral issues and matters of common interests, including exchange of high-level visits, enhancing economic cooperation and official development assistance, encouraging Korean investors to invest in Nepal, promotion of bilateral trade and tourism, and consular and labour matters.



*Meeting of Bilateral Consultation Mechanism between the Foreign Ministries of Nepal and the RoK, Seoul, 23 July 2018*

MOUs were signed in the areas of academic exchanges, knowledge sharing and promotion of Nepal's culture, tourism, trade and investment; cooperation in legal fields; and inter-city cooperation.

The Embassy of Nepal in Seoul remained active in promoting Nepal's trade, tourism and culture in the Republic of Korea. It made best efforts to ensure safe, secure, dignified and productive stay of Nepali workers in the RoK.

### **Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)**

Nepal and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea enjoyed cordial relations during the review period. The year 2019 marks the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Nepal and the Democratic

People's Republic of Korea. Ambassador Jo Yong Man of the DPRK presented his Letters of Credence to the President Bidya Devi Bhandari on 7 January 2019.

## **Mongolia**

Nepal's relationship with Mongolia remained friendly during the year 2018-2019. Both being landlocked countries, they shared common views in international forums in order to advance the cause of the LLDCs. Shared faith in Buddhism added to the promotion of cultural relations between the two countries.

Following the spirit of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Establishment of Bilateral Consultation Mechanism between the Foreign Ministries signed during the visit of Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali to Mongolia in June 2018, the First Meeting of the Mechanism was held in Kathmandu on 31 October 2018.



*First meeting of the Bilateral Consultation Mechanism between the Foreign Ministries of Nepal and Mongolia, Kathmandu, 31 October 2018*

## 4. South East Asia and the Pacific

South East Asia and the Pacific region, with over 672 million population and 4 trillion dollars of combined economy (2018), is an important region for promoting Nepal's trade, investment, tourism, employment and cultural cooperation. The bilateral relations between Nepal and the countries of this region remained cordial and friendly during the period under review. The region remained peaceful and stable.

The shared cultural and philosophical bond of Buddhism brings the people of Nepal closer to the people of this region. Buddhism has been a common thread that connects Nepal with Buddhist population in Thailand, Myanmar, Lao PDR, Viet Nam and Cambodia. Common culture, tourism and people-to-people contacts further deepened the bilateral bonds. Nepal witnessed significant increase of tourist arrival from these countries this year.

Malaysia continued to host nearly 350,000 Nepali migrant workers. The remittances earned by these workers contributed to the socio-economic development of Nepal. Australia remained an important development partner of Nepal. Australia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand continued

supporting Nepal for human resource development through trainings and scholarships.

Visits of the Heads of State and Government of Myanmar, Thailand and Cambodia to Nepal further strengthened the bilateral relations. Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli paid an official visit to Viet Nam and Cambodia in May 2019 which elevated the bilateral relations between Nepal and these countries.

During the period, high level visits to Nepal also took place from some other countries of the Pacific region, namely Tuvalu, Samoa and Nauru.

Nepal and Malaysia signed bilateral labour agreement in Kathmandu in October 2018. The signing of separate Agreements on visa waiver for Diplomatic and Official Passport holders with Myanmar, Cambodia and Viet Nam, separate MOUs on the Establishment of Bilateral Consultation Mechanism with Myanmar, Cambodia and Viet Nam added to the importance of bilateral engagements with these countries. Nepal also signed Air Services Agreement, MOU on Cultural Cooperation, and Agreement on Trade and Economic Cooperation with Cambodia. Nepal and Thailand revised

the existing bilateral Air Services Agreement. Nepal also signed separate Trade and Investment cooperation Agreement with Myanmar and Viet Nam. These agreements and MOUs are significant frameworks to further expand and deepen Nepal's bilateral cooperation with the countries of the region.

## Malaysia

Nepal and Malaysia enjoyed warm and friendly relations based on mutual trust, cooperation and understanding. Malaysia has been an important employment destination for Nepali workers. Around 350,000 Nepali nationals are employed in Malaysia.

Malaysia's Minister for Human Resources M. Kula Segaran visited Nepal in October 2018. Nepal and Malaysia signed the Memorandum of Understanding on the Recruitment, Employment and Repatriation of Workers in Kathmandu on 29 October 2018. After signing it, the First Joint Working Group (JWG) Meeting was held in Kathmandu to discuss the implementation of the MOU.



*Labour Minister Gokarna Raj Bista with Malaysian Human Resource Minister M. Kula Segaran, Kathmandu, 29 October 2018*

Economic cooperation between Nepal and Malaysia gained momentum in the review period. The bilateral trade increased nearly by 34 percent. Malaysia's business houses have invested in telecommunication, tourism, education, training, trading and services sectors of Nepal. Malaysia has been one of the major FDI sources to Nepal. Kathmandu-Kuala Lumpur direct flights contributed to people-to-people contact and promotion of tourism. In 2018, over 23,000 Malaysian nationals visited Nepal.

Embassy of Nepal in Kuala Lumpur remained active in promoting and protecting the interest of Nepali workers. It organized a number of labour awareness and consular orientation programmes, and other activities of economic diplomacy in Malaysia.

## Indonesia

Relations between Nepal and Indonesia remained friendly and cooperative during the period under review. Home Minister Ram Bahadur Thapa 'Badal' visited Indonesia to participate in the Seventh Ministerial Conference of the Bali Process on *Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crimes* on 6-8 August 2018.

Nepal also figured as a popular tourist destination among the Indonesian nationals. Over 7,000 Indonesians visited Nepal in 2018.

## Myanmar

Nepal and Myanmar continued to enjoy close, cordial and friendly relations. The relationship between the two countries was further consolidated by the visit of President U Win Myint of Myanmar to Nepal on 29 August 2018. This was the first visit by the elected Head of State from Myanmar in 58 years' of diplomatic relations between the two countries. The President also visited Lumbini, the birthplace of Lord Buddha.

At the invitation of Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli, State Counsellor of Myanmar Daw Aung San Suu Kyi paid an official visit to Nepal on 29 November 2018.



*Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli with State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi of Myanmar at a delegation level talk, Kathmandu, 29 November 2018*

The State Counsellor held bilateral meeting with the Prime Minister and called on President Bidya Devi Bhandari.

With a view to learning from Nepal's home-grown peace process, a fifteen-member high-level delegation from Myanmar led by Lt. General Yar Pyae, Chairperson, and Head of the Myanmar Joint Monitoring Committee Union Level on Ceasefire (JMC-U) visited Nepal on 1-6 October 2018. The delegation called on Vice-President Nanda Bahadur Pun and had a meeting with Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali.

Nepal and Myanmar held the first meeting of the Bilateral Consultation Mechanism between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs in Kathmandu on 30 July 2018, which discussed the entire gamut of issues of bilateral relations.

A Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Thaung Tun participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Nepal Investment Summit held in Kathmandu on 30-31 March 2019. During the summit, an MOU was signed between the Association of Contractors of Nepal and Myanmar for mutual cooperation in the construction sector.

The Embassy of Nepal in Yangon remained effortful for promotion of Nepal's tourism in Myanmar. The Embassy organized 'Tourism Promotion Roadshow- *Visit Nepal Year 2020*' in Yangon. Nepal gained additional popularity as a cultural and Buddhist pilgrimage destination among the people of Myanmar. Over 40,000 Myanmar nationals visited Nepal, during the review period.

### **The Philippines**

Nepal's cooperative relationship with the Philippines continued in various areas of common interests, including migration, climate change, human rights etc. Around 300 Nepali citizens are studying in the Philippines. Vice President Maria Leonor Gerona Robredo of the Philippines visited Nepal on 29 November 2018 and held a bilateral meeting with Vice President Nanda Bahadur Pun.

### **Thailand**

The high-level visits, economic interactions and the bond of Buddhism contributed to further enhance Nepal-Thailand relations.

Prime Minister General Prayut Chan-o-Cha of Thailand visited Nepal to participate in the Fourth BIMSTEC Summit in August 2018 and held a bilateral talks with Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli.

The Embassy of Nepal in Bangkok coordinated the activities relating to the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP). The Embassy remained active in promoting Nepal in Thailand and the concurrently accredited countries. It organized various promotional activities, showcasing Nepal's touristic and cultural attractions and publicizing *Visit Nepal Year 2020* and made efforts to bring in Thai investment and technology in priority sectors of Nepal.

Nepal receives a good number of Thai tourists every year. Kathmandu-Bangkok air connectivity has facilitated the movement of tourists, pilgrims and business people. The Air Services Agreement between Nepal and Thailand was reviewed on 2 November 2018. The



number of tourist arrival from Thailand increased during the review period. Over 52,000 Thai nationals visited Nepal in 2018. Around 100 Nepali students are pursuing higher studies in the Asian Institute of Technology.

## Viet Nam

Nepal and Viet Nam continued maintaining friendly, cordial and cooperative relations in the review period. Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli paid an official visit to Viet Nam from 9 to 13 May 2019 and held bilateral meeting with the Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc of Viet Nam. It was the first ever official visit of the Prime Minister of Nepal to Viet Nam.



*Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli with the Prime Minister Nguyễn Xuân Phúc of Viet Nam, Hanoi, May 2019*

Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli attended the Opening Session of the 16<sup>th</sup> UN Vaisakh Day celebration organized in the Tam Chuc Pagoda in Ha Nam, Viet

Nam on 12 May 2019. The Prime Minister addressed the opening session of Vaisakh Day. The Prime Minister underscored the importance of Lumbini as the birthplace of Buddha and the fountain of World Peace.



*Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli addressing the 16<sup>th</sup> UN Vaisakh Day, Hanoi, May 2019*

The Prime Minister also attended Nepal Business Forum at the Ho Chi Minh Academy of Politics, launched the book *Nepal, Peace is at Hand* and shared his thoughts on Nepal's peace process.

Nepal and Viet Nam signed three bilateral agreements and MOUs on 11 May 2019: (i) Agreement on Exemption of Visa Requirements for Holders of Diplomatic and Official Passports; (ii) Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of Bilateral Consultation Mechanism; and (iii) The Framework Agreement on Trade and Investment. A joint statement was issued at the end of the visit.

## **Cambodia**

Nepal and the Kingdom of Cambodia enjoyed excellent bilateral relations this year. Exchange of high-level visits and regular interactions at regional and multilateral platforms brought the two countries even closer.

Prime Minister Hun Sen paid an official visit to Nepal from 29 November to 2 December 2018 and had a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli. The two Prime Ministers also witnessed the signing of the bilateral agreements: (i) Agreement on Exemption of Visa Requirements for Holders of Diplomatic and Official Passports; (ii) MOU on the Establishment of Bilateral Consultation Mechanism; (iii) MOU on Cultural Cooperation; and (iv) Air Services Agreement.

Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli paid an official visit to Cambodia from 13 to 15 May 2019. The two Prime Ministers held delegation level talks and agreed to work together to expand and deepen bilateral relations. They also witnessed the signing of an Agreement on Trade and Economic Cooperation and an MOU between Nepal Chamber of Commerce and Cambodian Chamber of Commerce.



*Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli and spouse with Cambodian Prime Minister HUN SEN and spouse, Phnom Penh, 13 May 2019*

Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli called on the Cambodian President of the Senate Say Chhum and met with the President of the National Assembly Heng Samarin. The Prime Minister also addressed Nepal Business Forum and a program organized by NRNA. A joint statement was issued at the end of the visit and an Agreement on Trade and Economic Cooperation signed on 13 May 2019.

## **Australia**

Australia is an important development partner of Nepal. Australian support to Nepal includes the areas of social, economic and human development.

The first meeting of Bilateral Consultation Mechanism between the Foreign Ministries was held in Kathmandu on 16 August 2018.

Supreme Court Justices Sapana Malla Pradhan and Hari Krishna Karki visited Australia from 26 November to 05 December 2018. The Justices met with the Chief Justice of Supreme Court of Australian Capital Territory and Chief Justice of New South Wales.

Australia remained the major destination for Nepali students for higher studies. Around 50,000 Nepali students are currently studying in Australia. In the review period, Nepali students accounted to be the third largest foreign student group in Australia.

Australia earmarked an amount of \$22.5 million ODA to Nepal for the period 2019-2020 which includes an estimated \$9.1 million in bilateral funding managed by DFAT. This development cooperation is focused on the areas of livelihood, income generation, resource management, small entrepreneur development and local development.

The Embassy of Nepal in Canberra carried out Nepal promotion activities in the areas of trade, tourism, investment and culture.

Australian business houses continued investing in tourism, hotel and communication business in Nepal. Nepal continued to remain one of the popular tourist destinations for

Australian people. Around 38,000 Australian nationals visited Nepal in 2018.

### **New Zealand**

The relations between Nepal and New Zealand remained friendly during the review period. Former Prime Minister Helen Clark of New Zealand visited Nepal in May 2019. The Government of New Zealand has been supporting the Himalayan Trust, established by Sir Edmund Hillary, through annual contribution and supporting other development projects in Nepal. Around 5,300 New Zealanders visited Nepal in 2018.

### **Nepal's engagements with other countries of the Pacific Region**

President Baron Waqa of Nauru, Head of State Vaaletō'a Sualauvi II Tuimalealiifano of Samoa, and Governor-General Sir Iakoba Taeia Italeli of Tuvalu visited Nepal to participate in the Asia Pacific Summit held in Kathmandu from 30 November to 03 December 2018.

## 5. Central Asia, West Asia and Africa

The relations between Nepal and the countries in the Central Asia, West Asia and Africa region continued to remain cordial and friendly during the reporting period. Nepal maintained regular engagements with many countries of these regions to further enhance the bilateral relations and promote cooperation.

Areas such as employment, trade, tourism, investment, agriculture, and energy occupied prominent place in Nepal's dealings with the countries of the region. Nepal also had constructive engagement and cooperation with these countries at regional and multilateral forums.

The countries in the Gulf region host over a million Nepali migrant workers. The Ministry placed top priority to safety, security and welfare of the Nepali workers.

The decision of the Government of Nepal regarding the compulsory attestation of demand letters by diplomatic missions for recruitment of Nepali workers was effectively implemented.

Nepal established diplomatic relations with Rwanda, Madagascar, Togo, Equatorial Guinea and Eswatini

(Swaziland) from this region during the reporting period.

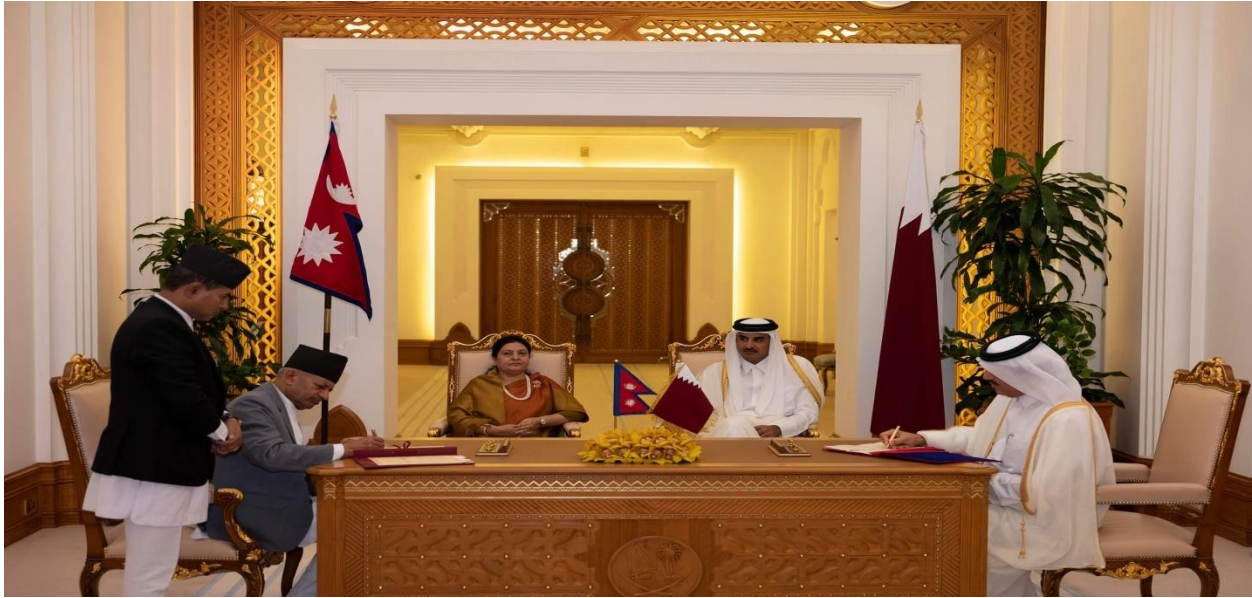
### Qatar

The relations between Nepal and the State of Qatar witnessed the highest level of engagements during the review period. President Bidya Devi Bhandari paid an official visit to the State of Qatar from 29 October to 1 November 2018 at the invitation of the Amir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani.

The President held bilateral talks with the Amir of the State of Qatar and discussed various aspects of bilateral relations, including promotion of investment, trade, tourism, infrastructure development, agriculture and the matters pertaining to migrant Nepali workers.



*President Bidya Devi Bhandari with Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Doha, October 2018*



*President Bidya Devi Bhandari and Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani witness the signing of the Agreements, Doha, October 2018*

During the visit, the President and the Amir witnessed the signing of two agreements on: (i) Abolishing Visa Requirements for the Holders of Diplomatic, Special and Official Passports, and (ii) Cooperation in the Field of Agriculture and Food Security. A Letter of Intent on Security Cooperation between the General Directorate of Public Security of the State of Qatar and Nepal Police was also signed during the visit.

The President also had a meeting with Sheikha Moza Bint Nasser, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development, and discussed areas of potential collaboration in education and research sectors.

While in Qatar, the President addressed a programme entitled 'Business and Investment Opportunities in Nepal' and called upon the Qatari businesspersons and investors to invest in Nepal.

On the sidelines of the President's visit, Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali held a separate meeting with the Administrative Development and Labour Minister of Qatar Dr. Issa Al Jafali Al Nuaimi and discussed the matters relating to employment of Nepali migrant workers.

The Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Federal Parliament Krishna Bahadur Mahara visited Doha to participate in the 140<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union on 6-10 April 2019. He held a

bilateral meeting with the Speaker of the Shura Council of the State of Qatar Ahmed bin Abdullah bin Zaid Al Mahmoud and discussed promoting exchanges of Parliamentary delegations. The Speaker also had a meeting with the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Qatar and shared views on further strengthening relations between the two countries.

Deputy Prime Minister and Health Minister Upendra Yadav visited Doha to attend the World Innovation Summit for Health on 11-15 November 2018. He also held a meeting with the Public Health Minister of Qatar Dr. Hanan Mohamed Al Kuwari and discussed ways of promoting cooperation in the health sector.

Qatar currently hosts nearly 365,000 Nepali migrant workers. The Embassy of Nepal in Doha remained active in the promotion of bilateral relations and delivery of consular and labour related services to Nepali workers. Over the year, the Embassy organized a dozen *hearing and sharing* programmes targeted to Nepali migrant workers in Qatar. The Embassy attested demand letters for around 38,000 Nepali migrant workers from different Qatari companies and around 1,500 individual employment contracts during the

reporting period. The Embassy also transferred to Nepal the compensation amount equivalent to 330 million Nepali Rupees to families of the deceased workers.

The third meeting of the Joint Committee under the 2005 bilateral agreement concerning Nepali manpower employment in the State of Qatar was held on 13-14 March 2019 in Doha. The two sides held discussions on the provision of recruitment, supply, safety, security and welfare of Nepali migrant workers. The meeting agreed to amend the existing agreement or conclude a new one.

The year also witnessed some new initiatives in promoting economic engagements between Nepal and Qatar. A technical team from the Investment Board of Nepal visited Doha on 3 February 2019 to explore potential investment in the energy sector of Nepal with Nebras Power of Qatar. Doha Bank opened its Representative Office in Kathmandu on 19 December 2018 with a view to supporting remittance, trade and investment flows between the two countries.

### **Saudi Arabia**

Nepal and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia continued to maintain cordial ties. Saudi

Arabia hosts the largest number of Nepali migrant workers in the Gulf region. Around 400,000 Nepali nationals have been working in Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Arabia has made contribution to the development endeavours of Nepal with the focus on hydropower and irrigation projects through the Saudi Fund for Development. The Saudi Government provided Rs. 3.33 billion for Nepal's post-earthquake reconstruction works.

Bilateral trade between Nepal and Saudi Arabia reached above \$100 million.

The Embassy of Nepal in Riyadh remained effortful in promoting Nepal's tourism in Saudi Arabia. The number of Saudi tourists visiting Nepal saw an increment in the period under review. Himalaya Airlines of Nepal continued operating direct flights in the Kathmandu-Dammam sector.

In addition to providing consular and labour related services, the Embassy of Nepal in Riyadh and the Consulate General of Nepal in Jeddah remained engaged in addressing the problems of Nepali migrant workers. The Embassy attested a total of 5,136 demand letters for the recruitment of 48,262 workers.

The Embassy and the Consulate General implemented the decision of the Government of Nepal concerning the basic monthly salary and allowance for Nepali migrant workers in Saudi Arabia. They organized periodic interactive meetings and awareness and orientation programs jointly with the Nepali communities in various parts of the country to make them aware of the consular services and help resolve their problems.

In the reporting period, the Embassy and the Consulate General together transferred to Nepal the compensation amount equivalent to 220 million Nepali Rupees to the families of the deceased workers.

### **United Arab Emirates**

The relations between Nepal and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) continued to be marked by regular engagement at various levels.

Federal Affairs and General Administration Minister Lal Babu Pandit visited the UAE to attend the Third Global Dialogue for Happiness and the Seventh Annual Gathering of the World Government Summit held in Dubai on 9-12 February 2019. Public Service Commission Chairman Umesh

Prasad Mainali also led a separate delegation to the programme.

Industry, Commerce and Supplies Minister Matrika Prasad Yadav led an official delegation to the Ninth edition of the Annual Investment Meeting held in Dubai on 8-10 April 2019.

A UAE delegation led by Abdullah Al Salleh, Under Secretary of the Ministry of Economy, participated in Nepal Investment Summit 2019 held in Kathmandu on 29-30 March 2019. An MOU between Sharaf Group of the UAE and Chaudhary Group of Nepal was also signed during the summit. The UAE delegation also met separately with the Ministers for Urban Development, Industry, Commerce and Supplies, Physical Infrastructure and Transport, and Finance, and discussed ways for enhancing economic cooperation between the two countries.

Nepal and the UAE signed an MOU on Recruitment, Employment and Repatriation of Workers on 14 June 2019 in Geneva. The MOU has established a framework for transparent recruitment, ethical employment and safe repatriation of Nepali migrant workers and replaced the 2007 MOU between the two countries.

About 250,000 Nepali migrant workers have been working in the UAE. The Embassy of Nepal in Abu Dhabi organized various labour awareness programs for Nepali workers. It attested demand letters for 120,504 Nepali workers during the reporting period. It also transferred to Nepal the compensation amount equivalent to 90 million Nepali Rupees to the families of the deceased workers.

The Embassy remained actively engaged in promoting Nepal's trade, tourism and investment in the UAE. It also organized an event to launch the *Visit Nepal Year 2020* campaign in association with Nepal Tourism Board and Nepal Airlines Corporation on 2 May 2019 in Dubai.

## **Kuwait**

Nepal continued to maintain friendly and cordial relations with the State of Kuwait. The Embassy of Nepal in Kuwait remained active in promoting Nepal's trade, tourism and investment opportunities.

Around 70,000 Nepali workers are employed in Kuwait. The Embassy of Nepal remained engaged in providing necessary consular and labour related services to the migrant Nepali workers. It also facilitated rescue and repatriation



of Nepali nationals in distress. It organized various awareness programmes for the Nepali workers with a view to sharing information on consular services, safety and security of jobs and local laws.

The Embassy also remained active in exploring employment opportunities for skilled and semi-skilled Nepali workers. It approved 624 demand letters for 30,888 Nepali workers. It also transferred to Nepal the compensation amount equivalent to 60 million Nepali Rupees to the families of the deceased workers.

### **Oman**

The relations between Nepal and the Sultanate of Oman continued to grow over the review period. Visits at various levels were exchanged between the two countries.

Members of Parliament Chanda Chaudhary, Aman Lal Modi and Prem Bahadur Ale Magar and Secretary of Public Account Committee Roj Nath Pandey visited Oman on 4 July 2019.

President of State General Reserve Fund of Oman Abdul Salam M. Al Murshidi visited Nepal to participate in the Nepal Investment Summit 2019. During the visit, he had meetings with the Prime

Minister, Foreign Minister, and Finance Minister. The Omani delegation expressed willingness to invest in Nepal in the areas of energy, water, infrastructure, and tourism.

A draft MOU between the two countries in the field of labour is under discussion. The MOU has been agreed upon at the technical level.

There are around 20,000 Nepali workers in Oman. The Embassy of Nepal in Muscat remained active in extending necessary consular and labour related services to Nepali workers. It organized awareness programmes and free health camp for Nepali workers during the review period. The Embassy transferred to Nepal the compensation amount equivalent to 12 million Nepali Rupees to the families of the deceased workers. It also organized trade, tourism and investment promotion events.

### **Bahrain**

Nepal and the Kingdom of Bahrain continued to maintain friendly relations. About 25,000 Nepali nationals have been working in various sectors in Bahrain. An MOU on Labour and Occupational Training has been concluded between the two countries.

The Embassy of Nepal in Manama remained active in providing consular and labour related services to Nepali migrant workers. The Embassy organized awareness programmes on occupational health and safety in cooperation with various stakeholders.

### **South Africa**

Bilateral relations between Nepal and the Republic of South Africa continued to remain cordial and friendly in the review period. A delegation led by Ambassador Sadick Jaffer from Department of Trade and Industry of South Africa participated in the Nepal Investment Summit 2019.

The Embassy of Nepal in Pretoria remained active in consolidating bilateral relations, promoting economic diplomacy and providing consular services, including in the concurrently accredited countries in Africa.

The Embassy organized awareness programmes on human trafficking and rescued 18 Nepali citizens, including 16 girls from Kenya.

The number of South African tourists visiting Nepal has increased in recent years. The Embassy continued to put its efforts for Nepal promotion activities in South Africa and other accredited

countries. The scaling of the Mount Everest by a South African citizen, Saraya Khumalo, on 16 May 2019 earned wide publicity in South Africa.

### **Mauritius**

Relations between Nepal and the Republic of Mauritius continued to remain friendly and cordial. A new dimension to the existing bilateral relations was added with the signing of the MOU on the Recruitment and Employment of Workers from Nepal by the Labour Ministers of the two countries in Geneva on 11 June 2019. The MOU is expected to facilitate and formalize the employment of Nepali migrant workers in Mauritius where employment opportunities are available mainly in construction, agriculture, fisheries and hospitality sectors.

### **Egypt**

Nepal and the Arab Republic of Egypt traditionally enjoy cordial relations characterized by mutual trust, goodwill, understanding and cooperation. Egypt is the only country from African continent to have a residential diplomatic mission in Kathmandu.

Egypt continued providing training and academic scholarships to Nepal in the field of agriculture. It also started

providing Nepal some scholarships for medical students at Master's level from the reporting year.

Chief Secretary Lok Darshan Regmi visited Egypt on 9-12 May 2019. He held bilateral meetings with Egyptian authorities and exchanged views on further expanding bilateral cooperation.

The Embassy of Nepal in Cairo continued to provide consular services to Nepali nationals staying in Egypt and other countries of accreditation. It continued its efforts for the promotion of Nepal's trade, tourism, culture and investment opportunities. Tourism advertisement focusing on *Visit Nepal Year 2020* was published in different newspapers and wide screens during the Africa Cup of Nations from 21 June to 19 July 2019 in Egypt.

The Embassy, in cooperation with IOM and UNSMIL, rescued 37 Nepali nationals from Libya who were the victims of human trafficking. The Embassy also facilitated the rescue of 15 Nepali nationals from Nigeria, 5 from Lebanon, 5 from Jordan, 2 from Syria, and 1 from Morocco.

### **Lebanon**

Nepal and Lebanon enjoyed cordial relations during the review period.

Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Ishwar Pokharel visited Lebanon from 31 August to 3 September 2018. The DPM met with Lebanese Defense Minister Yacoob Sarrafin in Beirut and discussed matters of bilateral relations, including Nepal Army's contribution to the maintenance of peace in the region. He also visited the UNIFIL in Naqura, Lebanon.

More than 12,000 Nepali migrant workers are employed in Lebanon. A draft of the MOU on the establishment of bilateral consultation mechanism between the two foreign ministries is ready for signature.

### **Jordan**

Nepal's relations with Jordan continued to remain cordial and friendly. After the signing of the bilateral labour agreement in October 2017, the flow of Nepali workers to Jordan has increased. There are more than 12,000 Nepali migrant workers in Jordan, mainly in the garment industries.

### **Israel**

The relationship between Nepal and the State of Israel continued to grow during the reporting period. Chief Secretary Lok Darshan Regmi visited Israel on 13-15 May 2019. He held a meeting with

the Agriculture Minister Uri Yehuda Ariel Ha Cohen and explored the opportunities of utilizing Israeli agricultural technologies to transform agriculture sector of Nepal. He also held meetings with the Cabinet Secretary of Prime Minister's Office as well as with the senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel.

The Embassy of Nepal in Tel Aviv continued its efforts to promote Nepal's trade, tourism and investment opportunities in Israel. In collaboration with Nepal Tourism Board, it organized a tourism promotional program 'Nepal Tourism Evening 2019' on 14 February

2019 on the sidelines of the International Mediterranean Tourism Market 2019.

Currently, around 3,000 Nepali nationals are employed in Israel. Israel's Agency of International Development Cooperation (MASHAV) has been providing short-term trainings to Nepali nationals in the sectors of agriculture, science, health, environment and education. Around 500 Nepali students have been receiving 11-month training in Israel every year as part of *Learn and Earn* programme under agricultural cooperation.

## 6. Europe and the Americas

The Europe and the Americas region continued to receive global attention this year, particularly due to ongoing developments related to trade, regional integration, climate action and migration. Eurozone remained the hotspot for politico-economic debate in the face of Brexit, while migration debate dominated the Americas region.

The US withdrawal from the Paris Climate Agreement and the Human Rights Council and its disengagement from Global Compact on Migration invited worldwide concerns. Trade tensions, migration, and climate change shaped political discourse in the region and beyond.

There was an increase in diplomatic engagements of Nepal with the region at the top level. President Bidya Devi Bhandari met with her Polish counterpart on the sidelines of the COP24 in Katowice, Poland. She also met with the Presidents of Croatia and Estonia on the sidelines of the high-level event on Women in Power held in New York in March 2019.

Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli, during his visits to Costa Rica, France, Switzerland and the UK, held meetings with respective Heads of State or

Government. He also met with the President of Switzerland, and Prime Ministers of Canada and the UK on the sidelines of the 73<sup>rd</sup> UN General Assembly in September 2018. The visits of the Head of the Government of Nepal to the UK and France took place after an interval of almost eighteen years.

Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali embarked on important official tours of various countries in the region. His visit to the US in December 2018, an official visit of a foreign minister in 17 years, was historic in itself. Other bilateral visits of the Foreign Minister included Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Luxembourg, Portugal, the UK, the US, and the EU headquarters. Similarly, Foreign Secretary Shanker Das Bairagi visited Belgium, Canada, France, Switzerland, the UK and the US, where he engaged in bilateral discussions with respective counterparts.

Exchanges of high level visits, signing of agreements/MOUs and holding of the meetings of bilateral mechanisms contributed to further consolidate the partnership and cooperation with the countries of Europe and the Americas.

Nepal welcomed a number of delegations from Europe and the

Americas, including Foreign Minister of Austria, Secretary-General of the Foreign Ministry of France, ministers responsible for armed forces and international cooperation of the UK, German Parliamentary delegation and a special delegation from Romania.

### **Argentina**

Nepal and Argentina enjoyed friendly relations based on goodwill and mutual understanding. Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali visited Buenos Aires on 20-22 March 2019 to attend the Second High-level UN Conference on South-South Cooperation. During the visit, he had a meeting with Vice Foreign Minister of Argentina Gustavo Zaluvinen. The two Ministers discussed the ways to further enhancing bilateral relations and promoting economic linkages.

### **Austria**

Nepal-Austria relations witnessed extensive engagements during the review period. Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali inaugurated the newly established Permanent Mission/Embassy of Nepal in Vienna on 16 September 2018. On the occasion, he highlighted foreign policy priorities of the Government of Nepal and directed the Mission/Embassy to enhance

bilateral relations with Austria and Nepal's engagements with the UN Office and International Organizations based in Vienna.



*Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali inaugurating the Permanent Mission/Embassy of Nepal in Vienna, 16 September 2018*

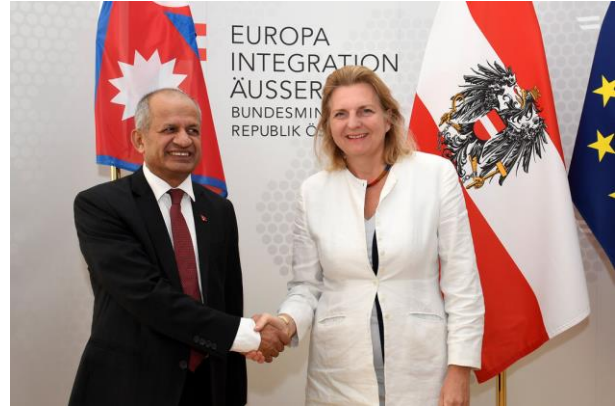
Vice President Nanda Bahadur Pun paid a visit to Austria on 26-31 May 2019 to attend the R20-Austrian World Summit on Climate Change and Agenda 2030. He met with the Federal President Alexander Van der Bellen of Austria and discussed matters relating to hydropower development, technology transfer, renewable energy and climate action.



*Vice President and Mrs. Pun with the Federal President and Mrs. Van der Bellen at the Hofburg Palace, Vienna, May 2019*

The Vice President attended International Mount Everest Day organized by the Embassy of Nepal in Innsbruck on 29 May as the chief guest. Among the participants were Wolfgang Nairz and Peter Habeler, the Austrian Everest Summiteers.

Foreign Minister Gyawali visited Austria on 16-17 September 2019 to participate in the 62<sup>nd</sup> Session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency. He had a meeting with Austrian Federal Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs Karin Kneissl on 17 September 2018.



*Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali with Austrian Federal Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs Karin Kneissl, Vienna, 17 September 2018*

The two Foreign Ministers reviewed the status of bilateral cooperation and deliberated on the ways of enhancing partnership in areas of trade, investment, tourism, heritage conservation, water resource management as well as people-to-people contacts. They agreed on the need to intensify bilateral contacts as the two countries would observe 2019 as the 60<sup>th</sup> year of the establishment of bilateral relations. As land-locked and mountainous countries, Nepal and Austria continued to work together for the promotion of interests of LLDCs at various international forums.

Federal Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs of Austria Karin Kneissl paid an official visit to Nepal on 21-23 February 2019. During the visit the Austrian Foreign Minister had delegation-level talks with Foreign Minister Gyawali. The Foreign

Ministers agreed to work closely in the areas of trade, investment, technology transfer, sustainable development, environmental protection, clean energy, and counter terrorism.

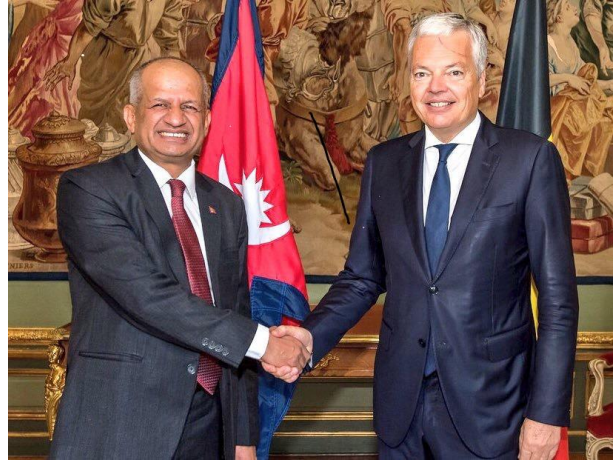


*Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali holding talks with Austrian Foreign Minister Karin Kneissl, Kathmandu, 22 February 2019*

## **Belgium**

A new dynamism was added to the Nepal-Belgium bilateral relations during the review period.

Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali visited Belgium and had a bilateral Meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of Belgium Didier Reynderson on 26 July 2018. The two Foreign Ministers discussed matters of development cooperation, trade, investment and tourism.



*Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of Belgium Didier Reynderson, Brussels, 26 July 2018*

Foreign Minister Gyawali visited Brussels again in September 2018. He met with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Work, Economic Affairs and Foreign Trade of Belgium Kris Peeteron on 19 September. The two Ministers held discussion on promoting bilateral ties in areas of trade, tourism and cultural exchanges.



*Nepal Pavilion at Brussels Holiday Fair*



The Embassy organized *Nepal Festival* in coordination with NRNA and other Nepali community organizations based in Belgium.

## **Brazil**

Nepal-Brazil relations continued to grow this year. The bilateral Technical Cooperation Agreement between the two countries came into force. Nepal-Brazil Parliamentary Friendship Group was established in the Federal Parliament of Nepal.

At the invitation of the Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Supply of Brazil, Minister of State for Agriculture, Land Management and Cooperatives Ram Kumari Chaudhari visited Brazil to attend the *Global Agribusiness Forum* held in Sao Paulo on 23-24 July 2018. The event was an initiative of the Brazilian livestock sector to discuss international agribusiness.

Supreme Court Justice Sapana Pradhan Malla participated in the ‘Conference of the Women Judge: Career Challenges and Acting for Gender Equality’ held in Brasilia on 15-17 May 2019.

The Embassy hosted the *Vaisakh Day* celebrations on 18 May 2019 to promote Nepali culture and cuisines, which

attracted about 300 Brazilians at the Buddhist temple premises in Brasilia.

## **Canada**

Nepal-Canada relations further expanded during the period under review. Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli met with Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau on the sidelines of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly in New York on 24 September 2018. The two Prime Ministers discussed ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation between the two countries. They signed an MOU on the establishment of Bilateral Consultation Mechanism.



*Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, New York, 24 September 2018*

The first meeting of Nepal-Canada Bilateral Consultation Mechanism was held in Ottawa on 4 October 2018. Foreign Secretary Shanker Das Bairagi

and Assistant Deputy Minister of Global Affairs at the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development of Canada Dr. Donald Bobiash agreed to enhance cooperation in the areas of trade, investment, tourism, agriculture, migration, education, climate change, technology transfer, and consular matters. They also discussed the need for exchanging high-level visits.



*Nepali and Canadian delegations after the bilateral consultations, Ottawa, 4 October 2018*

## **Costa Rica**

This year marked significant development in Nepal-Costa Rica relations. Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli paid an official visit to Costa Rica from 29 September to 2 October 2018 at the invitation of President Carlos Alvarado Quesada of Costa Rica. The Prime Minister held delegation level official talks with the Costa Rican President on 1 October. On the occasion,

the two leaders reviewed Nepal-Costa Rica relations and discussed ways to further strengthening bilateral cooperation.



*Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli with the Costa Rican President Carlos Alvarado Quesada, San Jose, 1 October 2018*

The Prime Minister also visited the Pirris Hydroelectricity Plant at Eolik Park and Coopesantos wind energy projects, the two landmark green energy projects in Los Santos, on 30 September 2018.

## **Denmark**

Nepal-Denmark relations remained friendly and cordial during the year under review. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Health and Population Upendra Yadav visited Denmark. During the visit, he engaged in promoting cooperation in areas of health, trade, investment, education and tourism through public diplomacy. The Embassy of Nepal in Copenhagen organized promotional programmes on

tourism, culture and investment opportunities in Nepal.

## **European Union**

Nepal and the European Union (EU) continued to enjoy friendly and cooperative relations over the period under review. High-level visits and meetings between the two sides added to the partnership between Nepal and the EU.

Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali visited EU headquarters in September 2018. He had a meeting with Vice President of the European Commission and High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini in Brussels on 18 September.



*Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali with EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs Federica Mogherini, Brussels 18 September 2018*

The two Foreign Ministers discussed ways to enhance Nepal-EU bilateral cooperation in the sectors of trade, tourism, investment and technology

transfer. Similarly, on 19 September, Minister Gyawali had a meeting with EU Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development Neven Mimica in Brussels and discussed the ways for enhancing development cooperation to Nepal. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to climate action towards full and effective implementation of the Paris Agreement.

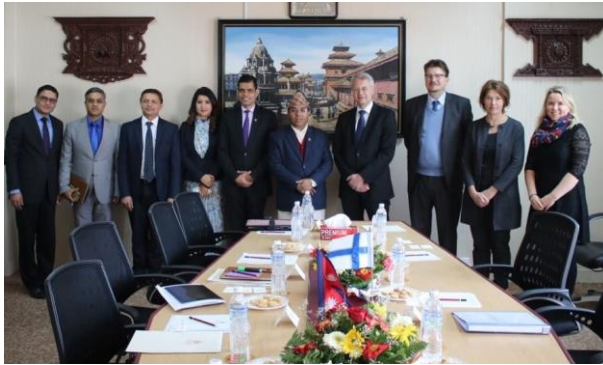


*Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali with EU Development Cooperation Commissioner Neven Mimica, Brussels 19 September 2018*

## **Finland**

The relations between Nepal and Finland was further consolidated during the review period. Bilateral discussions between the Foreign Ministries of Nepal and Finland were held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Kathmandu on 20 February 2019. At the opening of the meeting, Foreign Secretary Shanker Das Bairagi underscored the need for enhancing economic engagements between the two countries, which was reciprocated by the Finnish side.

A Bilateral Consultation Mechanism between Nepal and Finland was established with the signing of an MOU on 21 June 2019. Finnish support to Nepal is focused on the areas of education, water and sanitation, gender equality, and inclusion.



*Nepali and Finnish delegations with the Foreign Secretary Shanker Das Bairagi before the Bilateral Consultation, Kathmandu, 19 February 2019*

## **France**

Nepal-France relations further grew over the year. The two countries are celebrating the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations.

Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli visited France on 12-14 June 2019. He held a bilateral meeting with the Prime Minister Edouard Philippe of France on 13 June. Prime Minister Oli commended progress and prosperity achieved by France and the French Prime Minister congratulated Nepal on its historic

political transformation. The two Prime Ministers underscored the importance of expanding and deepening bilateral cooperation in the fields of trade, investment and technology. They underlined the significance of exchanging high-level visits in further consolidating friendly ties and promoting collaborative partnership.



*Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli with French Prime Minister Edouard Philippe, Paris, 13 June 2019*

The two leaders decided to conduct consultations between the two Foreign Ministries on a regular basis.

Communication Minister Gokul Prasad Banskota visited France on 4-8 March 2019. During the visit a Letter of Intent was signed at the ministerial level on 5 March 2019 regarding security printing press and satellite.

Earlier in November 2018, Foreign Secretary Shanker Das Bairagi visited France to participate in the

commemorative event of the Centenary of 1918 Armistice and Paris Peace Forum hosted by the French President. While in Paris, the Foreign Secretary had a bilateral meeting with Secretary General Maurice Gourdault-Montagne of French Foreign Ministry on 12 November 2018. On the occasion, diverse issues of Nepal-France relations were discussed including the exchange of high-level visits and enhancement of economic engagements.

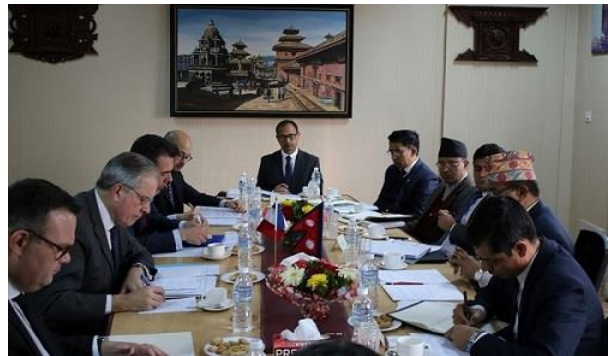


*Foreign Secretary Shanker Das Bairagi with French Secretary General Maurice Gourdault-Montagne, Paris 12 November 2018*

During the review period, the French Foreign Secretary-General Gourdault-Montagne visited Nepal and held consultations with Foreign Secretary Shanker Das Bairagi in Kathmandu on 9 January 2019. The two sides discussed matters relating to exchange of high-

level visits, trade, investment, tourism and cultural cooperation.

A nine-member Nepal-France Parliamentary Friendship Group in Federal Parliament of Nepal was formed in 2019 under the convenorship of former Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal. Earlier, France-Nepal Amity Group was formed at the National Assembly of France in 2017.



*Nepali and French delegations in Nepal-France Political Consultations*

The Embassy of Nepal in Paris remained effortful in Nepal promotion activities during the year.

## **Germany**

Germany remained an important partner of Nepal in the areas of bilateral trade, investment, tourism and development cooperation. Exchange of visits at various levels and on different occasions contributed to consolidate the relations between the two countries.

Nepal and Germany held the first meeting of Bilateral Consultation Mechanism in Kathmandu on 16 July 2019. Foreign Secretary Shankar Das Bairagi and Commissioner for South Asia at the German Federal Foreign Office Markus Potzel led their respective delegations. During the meeting, the two sides stressed on intensifying trade and promoting German investments in Nepal.

The two sides also reviewed the international and regional situation. They agreed on the need to strengthen rules-based multilateralism and regional cooperation. They acknowledged climate change as an existential threat to humanity and agreed to promote collaboration for climate action.

Following the Consultations, a Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI) on the Establishment of Bilateral Consultation Mechanism between the Foreign Ministries of the two countries was signed.

A parliamentary delegation led by Chairman Tobias Pfluger of the South Asian Parliamentary Group at Bundestag visited Nepal on 1-5 March 2019.

Nepal-Germany Negotiations on Development Cooperation were held in

Berlin on 19-20 September 2019. During the negotiations, the German side agreed to contribute 55.6 million Euros as German cooperation to Nepal for the attainment of SDGs.

Germany is a well-established market in Europe for Nepali products, such as woolen carpets, tea, coffee, herbs and herbal products, handicrafts, readymade garments, etc.

Nepal is a preferred destination for German tourists. In 2018, about 40,000 German tourists visited Nepal.

Nepali diaspora, including Nepali students studying in Germany, have contributed to foster people-to-people relations between the two countries, including in further strengthening academic and cultural cooperation.

The Embassy of Nepal in Berlin hosted a programme for Nepali Professionals in Berlin in April as a part of brain gain policy of Nepal. The Embassy was active in promoting Nepal's tourism in Germany.

## **Ireland**

Nepal and Ireland continued to enjoy friendly and cordial relations over the year.

The Embassy of Nepal in London organized Nepal-Ireland Day on 9 September 2018 in Dublin to promote tourism, culture and trade in Ireland.

The Embassy also hosted a Special Ceremony of Nepal-Ireland Friendship Day in Dublin on 18 August 2018. President of Ireland Michael D. Higgins addressed the ceremony as the chief guest.



*President of Ireland Michael D. Higgins addressing Nepal-Ireland Friendship Day, Dublin, 18 August 2018*

On the occasion, a book entitled *Michael D. Higgins Ka Pratinidhi Kavita* was unveiled by the President of Ireland. The book contains fifty-five poems of Michael D. Higgins translated into Nepali from English and Irish languages and edited by Ambassador Dr. Durga Bahadur Subedi.

## **Luxembourg**

Nepal and Luxemburg remained effortful in consolidating bilateral relations. Foreign Minister Pradeep

Kumar Gyawali visited Luxembourg and held a bilateral meeting with Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs Minister Romain Schneider of Luxembourg on 30 July 2018. The two Ministers agreed to enhance economic engagements in the areas of development cooperation, trade, investment, and tourism. While in Luxembourg, Foreign Minister Gyawali also addressed the Nepali community.

## **Norway**

Nepal-Norway bilateral ties were further strengthened during the review period. Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli met with the Norwegian Prime Minister Erna Solberg in Geneva on 10 June 2019 on the margins of the Centenary Conference of ILO. The two Prime Ministers discussed issues of bilateral relations as well as ways to strengthen cooperation at the multilateral forums with a particular emphasis on efforts to combat climate change and achieve the SDGs.

Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali and Norwegian International Cooperation Minister Nikolai Astrup met in New York on the sidelines of the 73<sup>rd</sup> UN General Assembly in September 2018. Among other matters, the two Ministers discussed Norwegian cooperation to Nepal.

The key areas of the Norwegian development cooperation in Nepal include education, good governance and renewable energy.

## **Poland**

Nepal-Poland relations were further deepened in the review period. President Bidya Devi Bhandari visited Poland to participate in the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of Parties (COP24) to the UNFCCC on 4 December 2018.

On the occasion, President Bhandari held a bilateral meeting with the Polish President Andrzej Duda in Katowice. The two Presidents expressed commitment to promoting the bilateral relations and working together on issues of common interests, such as climate change.



*President Bidya Devi Bhandari with Polish President Andrzej Duda, Katowice 4 December 2018*

Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Ishwar Pokhrel visited Poland to attend the 26<sup>th</sup> International Defense Industry Exhibition held on 4-7 September 2018. During the visit, he met with his Polish counterpart and exchanged views on matters of mutual interests.

The bilateral consultations between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Nepal and Poland were held in Kathmandu on 20 November 2018, which covered bilateral trade, tourism, investment and technology transfer, among others.

## **Portugal**

Nepal's relations with Portugal witnessed an enhanced engagements during the reporting period. The two countries continued to make efforts for exploring the potentials in mutually beneficial areas.

Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali visited Portugal on 24-25 July 2018 at the invitation of his Portuguese counterpart Augusto Santos Silva. The two Ministers held a bilateral meeting in Lisbon on 25 July 2018. They reviewed the overall state of bilateral relations and exchanged views on further promoting bilateral cooperation in the areas of trade, investment, and technology transfer.





*Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali with Portuguese Foreign Minister Augusto Santos Silva, Lisbon, 25 July 2018*

An MOU on the Establishment of Bilateral Consultation Mechanism between Foreign Ministries of Nepal and Portugal was signed in Lisbon on 25 July 2018.



*Ambassador Ambika Devi Luintel and Director-General Pedro Costa Pereira of Portugal signing MOU on Establishment of BCM, Lisbon, 25 July 2018*

## **Romania**

Nepal-Romania relations remained friendly and continued to grow over the year. Leading a Romanian delegation, Special Commission Representative of Romania Daniela Gitman visited Nepal

in October 2018 on the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Nepal and Romania. She had a meeting with Foreign Secretary Shanker Das Bairagi on 28 October 2018.

## **Russian Federation**

Nepal and the Russian Federation enjoyed close and friendly relations. Chief Justice Cholendra Shumsher J B Rana visited the Russian Federation at the invitation of Chairman Vyacheslav Lebedev of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation on 19-22 May 2019. The two Chief Justices agreed to strengthen the cooperation between the institutions of judiciary of the two countries.

The Embassy of Nepal in Moscow played an active role to promote Nepal in Russia through organizing various activities on tourism, trade, and investment. It organized two festivals for that purpose.

National Geography Russia has declared Nepal as the first destination for tourism. It conferred a National Geographic Traveller Award 2018 on the Embassy of Nepal in Moscow. With the financial cooperation from the Embassy, National Geography Russia hosted a photo contest from 15 December 2018 to 15

January 2019 and published an editorial on *Why I Fell in Love with Nepal*.

## **Serbia**

Nepal-Serbia relations continued to grow this year. Energy Minister Barsha Man Pun visited Serbia to participate in the International Conference, *Euro Asia Energy Security Forum* held in Belgrade on 26-27 October 2018. Nepal and Serbia also worked closely in multilateral forums to promote the cause of the developing countries in line with the principles of Non-Aligned Movement.

## **Spain**

Nepal-Spain relations remained cordial and friendly this year. Members of Federal Parliament Bharat Kumar Shah and Rajendra Kumar K.C. visited Spain to participate in the Global Parliamentary Summit against Hunger and Malnutrition organized by the Senate of Spain in Madrid on 29-30 October 2018.

An MOU on the establishment of sister city relations between Lumbini Cultural Municipality and Madrid Municipality was signed in Madrid on 1 November 2018. Also, an MOU was signed between Nepal Chamber of Commerce

and Madrid Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Service in Madrid.

The Embassy of Nepal in Madrid organized a program on 'Business and Investment Opportunities in Nepal' in Madrid on 5 March 2019 in collaboration with Madrid Chamber of Commerce. The Embassy also organized *Nepal: A Safe Place for Investors* in Madrid in collaboration with Nepal Investment Board. It also hosted an event *Nepal Evening 2019* in Madrid on 20 June 2019. Over 20,000 Spanish tourists visited Nepal in 2018.

## **Switzerland**

Nepal-Switzerland relations continued to progress on the basis of mutual trust, cooperation and understanding during the review period.

Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli had a bilateral meeting with Swiss President Alain Berset in New York on 26 September 2018 on the margins of the 73<sup>rd</sup> UN General Assembly. During the meeting, the two leaders discussed matters of mutual interests, including Swiss cooperation in Nepal.



*Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli with Swiss President Allen Berset, New York, 26 September 2018*

Prime Minister Oli visited Switzerland on 21-25 January 2019 to participate in the 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of World Economic Forum (WEF).

Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali attended an interactive dialogue organized by the Center for Security Studies of Zurich on 24 January 2019. In his interaction with faculty members and friends of Nepal, Foreign Minister Gyawali made a presentation on Nepal's unique and nationally-led peace process as well as the prospects of economic development in the country.

On the margins of the WEF Annual Meeting, Foreign Secretary Shanker Das Bairagi held a meeting with the State Secretary of the Swiss Federal Council Pascale Baeriswyl. The two sides agreed to further strengthen partnership in the areas of trade, investment, tourism and consular cooperation. They also

deliberated on the issues of multilateral cooperation, including on migration, human security, climate change, and mountain partnership.

## **Turkey**

Nepal's relations with Turkey remained cordial and friendly over the year. On 10 June 2019, Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli had a bilateral meeting with Turkish Vice President Fuat Oktay on the margins of the ILO Centenary Conference in Geneva. The two leaders exchanged views on further strengthening Nepal-Turkey relations.

Deputy Prime Minister and Health Minister Upendra Yadav visited Turkey to participate in the Ministerial Summit on Global Health Diplomacy to combat transplant related crimes and opening ceremony of the first International Transplant Network Congress held in Antalya on 17-19 October 2018.

Supreme Court Justice Anil Kumar Sinha visited Turkey to participate in the Fourth International Summit of High Courts-Transparency in Judicial Process held in Istanbul on 11-12 October 2018.

The first meeting of Nepal-Turkey Political Consultation Mechanism held in Kathmandu on 18 April 2019 took stock of various aspects of bilateral

relations and exchanged views on further promoting cooperation, especially through enhancing economic engagements between the two countries. The Mechanism was formally established in 2016.

## **United Kingdom**

Bilateral relations between Nepal and the United Kingdom remained warm and friendly. Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli held a bilateral meeting with British Prime Minister Theresa May on 26 September 2018 on the sidelines of the 73<sup>rd</sup> UN General Assembly in New York. During the meeting, the two Prime Ministers reviewed various aspects of Nepal-UK relations. They also discussed ways to enhance bilateral relations in the areas of trade, investment, tourism and people-to-people relations.

Adding a new chapter to Nepal-UK relations, Prime Minister Oli paid an official visit to the United Kingdom on 10-12 June 2019 and had a bilateral meeting with British Prime Minister Theresa May. The two Prime Ministers expressed commitment to working together to strengthen trade and investment partnership.



*Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli with British Prime Minister Theresa May, London  
11 June 2019*

During the visit, the Prime Minister called on Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex, and exchanged views on various matters of mutual interests.



*Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli with Prince Harry, London, 11 June 2019*

The Prime Minister also had a meeting with the Leader of the Opposition in the British Parliament Jeremy Corbyn. Both leaders discussed issues of bilateral interests and exchanged views on ways to enhance Nepal-UK cooperation.

While in the UK, Prime Minister Oli addressed a Special Ceremony organized by the Oxford Union at the University of Oxford on 10 June 2019. In his address, he highlighted Nepal's successful peace process and shared his thoughts on democracy and Nepal's efforts to achieve development and prosperity.

In addition to the high-level meetings, the Prime Minister also addressed a gathering of Members of the House of Commons and House of Lords at the British Parliament Building in Westminster on 11 June 2019. It was hosted by the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Nepal and the British Group Inter-parliamentary Union. In his address, the Prime Minister highlighted Nepal's historic political transformation and commitment towards democracy based on fundamentals of multiparty parliamentary democracy, independent judiciary, human rights, freedom of press, social justice and inclusion.

UK Minister of State for the Armed Forces Mark Lancaster visited Nepal on 19-22 February 2019. He called on Prime Minister Oli and met with Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali. In these meetings discussions were held on the British Government's efforts to address Gurkha veterans' grievances.

Earlier on 15 November, the fourth meeting of the Bilateral Consultation Mechanism between Nepal and the UK was held in London. Foreign Secretary Shanker Das Bairagi and Permanent Under Secretary and Head of the British Diplomatic Service, Sir Simon McDonald, led their respective delegations to the meeting.



*Fourth Meeting of Nepal-UK Bilateral Consultation Mechanism*

Both sides took stock of the existing Nepal-UK bilateral cooperation and agreed to enhance bilateral relations with an increased focus on economic engagements, especially in the areas of trade, investment and tourism.

Exchange of high-level visits, cooperation on education and culture, air safety and people-to-people contacts featured during the discussion. They shared views on finding solution to the concerns of the Gurkha veterans.

While in London, Foreign Secretary Bairagi met separately with Minister of

State for Asia and the Pacific Mark Field, Minister of State for the Armed Forces Mark Lancaster, and Permanent Secretary of Department for International Development Matthew Rycroft CBE. He also met with Secretary General of the International Maritime Organization Kitack Lim and Director General of International Mobile Satellite Organization Moin Ahmed.

The Embassy and British-Nepal Chamber of Commerce (BNCC) jointly organized a Nepal Development Conference focusing on trade and investment opportunities in Nepal on 13 November 2018. Finance Minister Yuba Raj Khatiwada joined 'Nepal Development Conference' organized by the Embassy on 22 February 2019.

### **United States of America**

Nepal and the United States of America continued to enjoy friendly and cordial relations. At the invitation of Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo, Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali visited the US on 17-20 December 2018. Foreign Minister Gyawali held a bilateral meeting with his US counterpart on 18 December 2018.



*Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali with Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo, Washington DC, 18 December 2018*

At the meeting, Foreign Minister Gyawali highlighted Nepal's political progress as well as the priorities of the present Government and expressed confidence that the Nepal-US relations will continue to grow in the areas of trade, investment and development cooperation. Secretary of State Pompeo commended Nepal's political progress and expressed readiness of the US Government to support Nepal's development agenda.

Assistant Secretary for Defense for Asian and Pacific Security Affairs Randall Schriver called on Foreign Minister Gyawali on 19 December. During the meeting, discussions were held on overall cooperation and Nepal's contribution to UN peacekeeping. They also discussed ways to enhance the capacity of the Birendra Peace Operations Training Centre in Panchkhal. Deputy Assistant to the US President and Senior Director for South

and Central Asia at the National Security Council Lisa Curtis also called on Foreign Minister Gyawali.

Foreign Minister Gyawali had a meeting with the Chief Operating Officer of Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) Jonathan Nash on 19 December 2018. Matters relating to the current progress of MCC Compact in Nepal and the future steps required to complete the MCC projects were discussed during the meeting.

A roundtable was organized by Asia Society Policy Institute in Washington D.C. on 20 December where Foreign Minister Gyawali spoke about multi-faceted Nepal-US relations and ways to further promoting bilateral cooperation.



*Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali addressing the Seminar organized by Asia Society in Washington DC, 20 December 2018*

Nepal and the US held political consultations in Washington, D.C. on 18 December 2018. Nepali delegation to the consultations was led by Foreign Secretary Shanker Das Bairagi and the

US delegation by Acting Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asian Affairs Ambassador Alice G. Wells.



*Nepali and US delegations holding political consultations, Washington DC  
18 December 2018*

Foreign Secretary Bairagi had a meeting with the Acting Deputy Administrator of USAID David Moore on 19 December 2018. The Foreign Secretary thanked the US Government for its support to the peace process as well as for the socio-economic development of the country. He requested the USAID to channelize their support through Nepal's national budgetary system.

Finance Minister Dr. Yuba Raj Khatiwada visited Washington D.C. on 4-9 August 2018. He had meetings with Vice Presidents of World Bank, IFC and MIGA. The Finance Minister also met with Acting Chief of MCC Robert Blau and discussed matters relating to the implementation of the Compact which was signed last year. He addressed an

event on private sector investment in Nepal. The Embassy of Nepal and the World Bank jointly organised 'Nepal Day' program on the occasion.

The Embassy of Nepal in Washington, D.C. remained effortful in enhancing bilateral relations between Nepal and the US. Likewise, the Consulate General of Nepal in New York organized an event

entitled "Travel and Tour Expo", with the support of Nepal Tourism Board, on 20 September 2018. The Permanent Mission of Nepal in New York and the Consulate General also organized Mithila Festival on 12 April 2019 with the objective of promoting Mithila Art.



## 7. Regional Cooperation

Regional cooperation in Asia continued its momentum during the reporting period. Though the stalled Summit of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) could not take place, various activities under SAARC framework continued. Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) and Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) moved forward with various activities throughout the year.

Nepal is a founding member of SAARC, an active member of BIMSTEC and ACD, and a dialogue partner of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

As a part of Nepal's foreign policy, we remained actively engaged in the regional cooperation and collaboration in the areas of energy, trade, tourism, connectivity, foreign investment, science and technology, education, health, culture, and people-to-people contacts.

Regional cooperation is vital to promote regional peace, security, and development and to collectively address the common problems, such as climate change, disasters, epidemics, transnational crimes, etc.

### **South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)**

As before, Nepal placed high priority to the regional cooperation under SAARC framework. As a founding member and current Chair, it urged the Member States for convening the 19<sup>th</sup> SAARC Summit. It contributed to the SAARC process by participating in and organizing various activities and meetings this year.

Nepal hosted the Informal Session of the SAARC Council of Ministers on the sidelines of the 73<sup>rd</sup> session of the UN General Assembly in New York on 27 September 2018. Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali chaired the Meeting which agreed to hold the Transport Ministerial Meeting in order to finalize the SAARC Motor Vehicles Agreement and SAARC Regional Railways Agreement. The Ministers directed the relevant SAARC bodies and mechanisms to identify regional and sub-regional projects in the areas of power generation, transmission and power trade, including hydropower, natural gas, solar, wind and bio-fuel in order to meet the increasing power demand in the region.

The Ministers agreed to effectively implement the existing preferential facilities under South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) and SAARC Agreement on Trade in Service (SATIS). They also agreed to enhance cooperation in the areas of agriculture by eliminating threshold criteria from the SAARC Food Bank Agreement; finalizing the establishment of Regional Vaccine Bank and Regional Livestock Gene Bank. Likewise, the Ministers also agreed to enhance cooperation in the areas of social protection, women, children, and people with disability, unemployed persons, and persons working at hazardous sites. They expressed commitment to enhance support to the Least Developed and Landlocked Member States in their development efforts by ensuring equitable benefits from free trade arrangements.

Agriculture Minister Chakrapani Khanal participated in the Fourth Meeting of the SAARC Agriculture Ministers held in Thimphu on 26 June 2019. The Meeting agreed to promote cooperation in climate resilient farming, further intensify agricultural research, development and innovation, carry out mountain and hill agricultural research, and operationalize the SAARC Food Bank.

Finance Minister Dr. Yuba Raj Khatiwada chaired the informal Meeting of SAARC Finance Ministers on the sidelines of the Annual Meeting of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) held in Fiji on 20 May 2019.

The Fifty-Sixth Session of the Programming Committee of SAARC was held in Kathmandu on 11-12 December 2018. The Meeting chaired by Joint Secretary Krishna Prasad Dhakal considered matters relating to the SAARC Specialized Bodies and Regional Centers. It assessed the outcomes of meetings of different committees, administrative and financial matters of the SAARC Secretariat, and approved the proposed budget of the Secretariat. The Committee also approved the calendar of activities of SAARC for the year 2019.

Nepal organized the Twelfth Meeting of the Committee of the SAARC Heads of University Grants Commission/Equivalent Bodies in Kathmandu on 30-31 May 2019. The Meeting considered the matters relating to mutual recognition of professional degrees, accreditation mechanism, and 'SAARC Quality Assurance Network.

The Second Meeting of the SAARC Seed Bank Board, held in New Delhi on

19 January 2019 decided to request the Member States to provide the lists of potential common varieties with the information on agro-climatic zone of those varieties. The Board directed the SAARC Agriculture Centre to draft a Protocol for the SAARC Seed Bank Agreement, Strategic Action Plan (SAP) and constitute a Sub-Committee to develop common minimum Seed Quality Standard and Seed Testing Procedures.

The Tenth Meeting of the SAARC Food Bank Board was held in Islamabad on 22-23 January 2019. The Meeting deliberated on the matters related to the involvement of partner organizations, the MOU with the organizations for their involvement in SAARC Food Bank Information System, finalization of the draft Roadmap for the implementation of the SAARC Framework Agreement on Energy Cooperation (Electricity) and its ratification.

The Third and Fourth meetings of SAARC Council of Experts of Energy Regulators (Electricity) were held in Sri Lanka on 13-14 November 2018 and 10-11 June 2019 in the Maldives, respectively. The meetings assessed the progress made in the establishment of Information Database relating to Regional Energy Regulatory Functions

and Trade. The meetings also took stock of the progress made in various areas of cooperation, including SAARC Framework Agreement, National Regulations, and Codes and Standards relating to power Grids.

### **Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)**

Nepal successfully hosted the Fourth BIMSTEC Summit in Kathmandu on 30-31 August 2018. Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli Chaired the Summit, held under the theme of *Towards a Peaceful, Prosperous and Sustainable Bay of Bengal Region*. The Summit issued Kathmandu Declaration.

The BIMSTEC Summit agreed to strengthen the institutions of BIMSTEC by establishing a BIMSTEC Permanent Working Committee (BPWC) to deal with the administrative and financial matters of the Secretariat and the BIMSTEC Centers. The Summit emphasized on the need to review, restructure and rationalize the existing areas of cooperation and streamline the BIMSTEC activities through the BPWC.

The Summit reviewed the progress made under each areas of cooperation. It welcomed the signing of an MOU on



*BIMSTEC Leaders in 4<sup>th</sup> BIMSTEC Summit, Kathmandu, 30-31 August 2018*

BIMSTEC Grid Interconnection and called for an early establishment of BIMSTEC Energy Centre to strengthen energy cooperation in the region. It decided to establish a Working Group on information and communications technology. The leaders also directed the relevant officials to work for the early conclusion of the BIMSTEC-FTA.

The Twenty-First Meeting of BIMSTEC Trade Negotiating Committee was held in Dhaka on 18-19 November 2018. The Meeting made significant progress in finalizing the draft texts of three important agreements relating to BIMSTEC Free Trade Area, namely Agreement on Trade in Goods, Agreement on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters, and Agreement on Dispute Settlement Procedures and Mechanisms. The

Meeting also made progress on three other agreements relating to Investment, Services and Trade Facilitation.

BIMSTEC Member States continued their cooperation in the areas of Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crimes this year. The Third Annual Meeting of BIMSTEC National Security Chiefs (NSC) was held in Bangkok on 21 March 2019, which expressed commitment to cooperation for the action against terrorism and transnational crime and the promotion of peace and security in the region.

The Tenth Meeting of the BIMSTEC Sub-Group on Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism was held in Kathmandu on 19-20 November 2018. The Member States made Presentations on “Sanitized Version of the National Risk

Assessment Report” of their respective countries. Nepal made a presentation on the "Need of Action Plan to Control Illicit Flow of Funds among BIMSTEC Member States". Member States also presented case studies on “Corruption and Bribery related to Money Laundering”.

The BIMSTEC Expert Group Meeting on Energy was held in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar on 28-29 March 2019. Each Member State made a country-specific presentation on the theme of “Exploring Ways and Means to Further Enhance Cooperation in Energy Sector among BIMSTEC Member States.” The meeting decided the composition of Members of BIMSTEC Grid Interconnection Coordination Committee (BGICC) to carry out BIMSTEC Grid Interconnection. The Meeting also finalized the Terms of Reference of BGICC.

The First Meeting of the BIMSTEC Permanent Working Committee (BPWC) was held in Colombo on 17-18 January 2019. It discussed the draft BIMSTEC Charter, establishment of the BIMSTEC Centers, Model Memorandum of Association (MoA) on the Establishment of the BIMSTEC Centers/Entities, Procurement Procedure of the Secretariat, and Review

and rationalization of sectors and sub-sectors of BIMSTEC.

The First Meeting of BIMSTEC Agriculture Ministers and the First Meeting of BIMSTEC Agriculture Senior Officials were held in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar on 12 and 11 July 2019, respectively. The Ministerial meeting decided to establish Corpus Fund under BIMSTEC Development Fund. The meeting was concluded with the Joint Statement *Farming for Prosperity through Sustainable Agriculture, Building Resilience for Food Security and Nutrition.*

The Second Meeting of the BIMSTEC Task Force on Traditional Medicine was held in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar on 24-25 January 2019. The meeting discussed recent developments in the sector of Ayurveda and recommended for the establishment of a BIMSTEC Ayurveda and Traditional Medicine University.

### **Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD)**

Since its association with the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) in 2016, Nepal has strengthened its engagement with this regional forum. Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali participated in the ACD Foreign Ministers’ Meeting held on the sidelines of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Session of the UN General

Assembly in New York on 27 September 2018.

Environment Minister Shakti Bahadur Basnet attended the 16<sup>th</sup> ACD Ministerial Meeting convened under the theme *Partners in Progress* in Doha on 1 May 2019. The meeting adopted Doha Declaration which emphasizes the programs and initiatives to expand regional trade, transit, investment and infrastructure development; strengthen cooperation to prevent cyber security, organized crime and human trafficking; and enhance the promotion and protection of human rights. The ACD Ministerial Meeting was preceded by the Senior Official's Meeting (SOM) to which Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Yagya Bahadur Hamal led the Nepali delegation. The SOM finalized the Draft Doha Declaration.

Nepal is currently the co-prime mover of culture and tourism sector under ACD.

## 8. Multilateral Affairs

The year 2018-19 marked the 100 years of multilateralism to promote cooperation among nations for peace, security and development. Yet the challenges to peace and security continue as the world grows more complex. We continued to witness shifting commitments to multilateral institutions and processes created for the post second world war order. The uncertainties prevailed among all international actors- states, multilateral organizations, civil society, and transnational entities alike.

The rise of populist nationalism and protectionist policies are indicative of the world being in the cusp of change. The change has been accelerated by the disruptive technologies. Increased connectivity has not been able to narrow down the division and polarization of global narratives and promote convergence. We are yet to define agreed global norms in critical areas, such as use of cyber space, artificial intelligence and outer space. There exists international regulatory vacuum on accountability and responsibility of trans-boundary impact of climate change, pollution, nuclear accidents and disasters, and use of drones and unmanned aerial vehicles. It is not yet

clear how the global community will respond to the shifting nuances of international order and adjust the existing cooperative arrangements.

The WTO continued to remain constrained by trade-restrictive measures and resulting trade tensions between member states. The inability to appoint the members of the WTO Appellate body left the dispute settlement mechanism defunct. It is likely that the slowdown in global trade will lead to global economic downturn. It will have deep impact on global initiative to achieve 2030 agenda for sustainable development, particularly for the LDCs.

US withdrawal from the Human Rights Council apparently left space for other countries of Europe, Latin America and Asia to shape the international human rights agenda. Celebration of ILO Centenary reinforced the importance of inclusive and human-centred world of work with social justice.

The issue of refugee and migration figured prominently on the Global agenda. The adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) by consensus of over 164 UN member States in Marrakesh in

December 2018 remained one of the remarkable achievements in the field of migration this year. The humanitarian needs prompted by conflict, violence and natural disasters persisted. Against this backdrop, the adoption of Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) this year created a framework for addressing the problem of the people on the move.

The agenda of climate change received sustained and considerable attention. UN Secretary General's visit to Pacific Island States and the release of Special Report of IPCC on Global Warming in October 2018 raised significant alarm on the real impact of climate change. The report highlights that even the rise of temperature by 1.5 degree Celsius would have existential consequences. UNSG's persistent diplomacy enabled the COP24 held in Katowice, Poland to agree on the 'rule book' for the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

The rapprochement between the United States and North Korea generated new hopes. The signing of a joint declaration, outlining steps toward reducing tensions, expanding inter-Korean exchanges of visits and cooperation, and achieving denuclearization, was a welcome development.

Disarmament agenda could not gather momentum even after the UN Secretary General's Agenda for Disarmament announced in May 2018. Both the Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament were unable to make any headway on their work and agenda during the year.

Nepal's commitment to the principles enshrined in the UN Charter and multilateralism were demonstrated by representation at the highest levels in major UN and multilateral events. President Bidya Devi Bhandari led Nepali delegations to the COP24 held in Poland and High Level Event on Women in Power during the annual session of the Commission on the Status of Women. Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli led Nepali delegation to the 73<sup>rd</sup> Session of the UNGA in New York. Vice President Nanda Bahadur Pun represented Nepal at the World Summit on Climate Change held in Austria. Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali led Nepali delegations to the 62<sup>nd</sup> session of General Conference of IAEA, 40<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council and BAPA+40 Conference on South-South Cooperation.

Nepal pursued its national interests through multilateral platforms by pursuing the agenda of implementing



SDGs, fighting the impact of climate change, advocating for the technology transfer, and advancing the principles of peaceful coexistence, mutual respect, sovereign equality, non-interference, fairness and justice in international relations. Nepal continued contributing to the UN peace operations as the 5<sup>th</sup> largest troop and police contributing country, playing constructive and objective role at the UN Human Rights Council, contributing to the policy process of Committees of UNGA, ILO, IOM, UN Funds and Boards, Peace Building Commission, Commission on Science and Technology, and in the inter-governmental negotiation process on migration, biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction, among others.

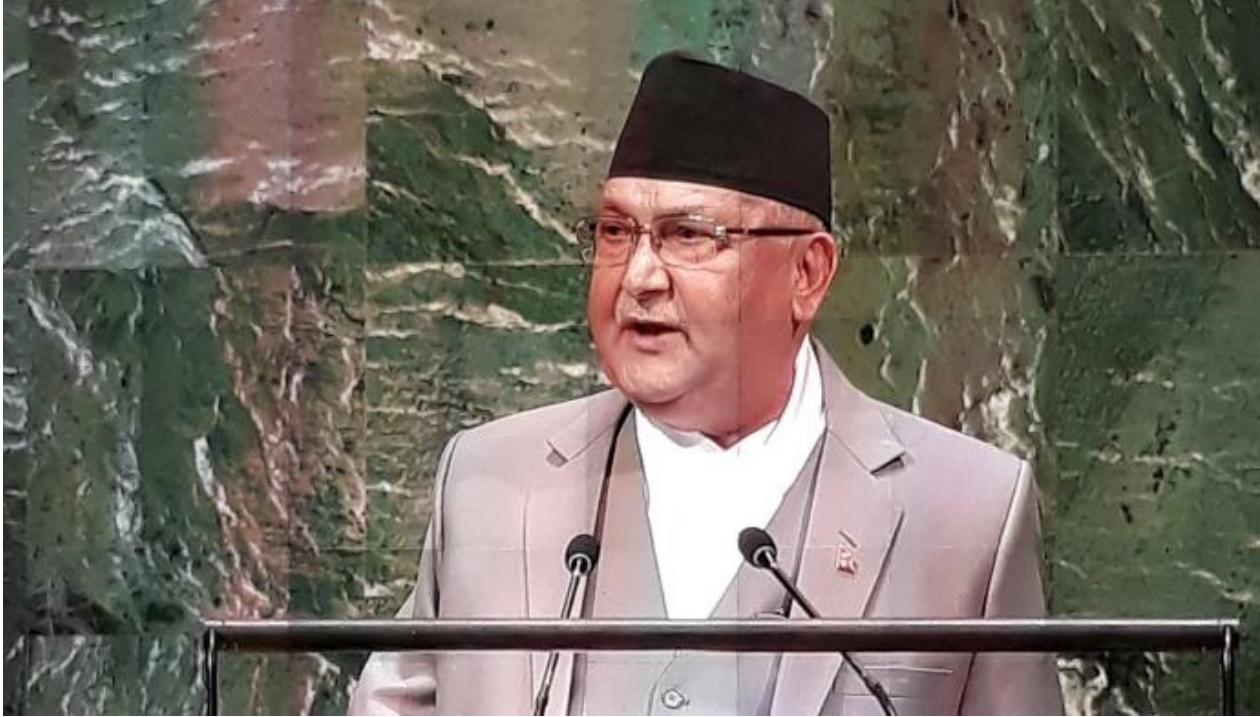
### **Nepal in the United Nations**

Nepal considers United Nations (UN) as the most legitimate and representative multilateral body to serve global interest and address the issues of global commons. Nepal continued to play a constructive role in the policy making process of all three pillars of the UN system: peace and security, development, and human rights. Nepal's election to various UN bodies, boards of UN Funds and Programmes as well as treaty bodies has provided opportunities to contribute to the work of those agencies and help enhance country's

image. Nepal's participation in the UN General Assembly sessions, Peace Operations, Human Rights Council and other entities of the UN is a demonstration of our firm commitment to the multilateral process. Nepal consistently voiced for preventive diplomacy and peaceful settlement of disputes. As a member of the Human Rights Council (HRC), Nepal advocated for impartial, objective and non-selective approach to human rights issues. We remained active in inter-governmental negotiations for making the work of the General Assembly more focused, efficient and relevant; reform of the Security Council; and strengthening of the Economic and Social Council.

### **Nepal in the 73<sup>rd</sup> UNGA**

Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli addressed the 73<sup>rd</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in New York on 27 September 2018. He highlighted the historic political transformation of Nepal, promulgation of the democratic and progressive constitution, successful holding of three-tier elections and the formation of a stable government thereafter.



*Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli addressing the 73<sup>rd</sup> UNGA, New York, 27 September 2018*

He added that Nepal has embraced a vision of comprehensive democracy that empowers people politically, socially, culturally and economically.

The Prime Minister reaffirmed Nepal's commitment to multilateralism and highlighted the importance of UN's role in solving global problems like poverty, unemployment, terrorism, climate change, food insecurity, natural disasters, conflicts and arms race. He called on the international community to support with means of implementation to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, tackle climate change, provide quality education to children, and address the technology gap. He also called on the

international community to take the cross-pillar restructuring of the UN to its conclusion and take up the issue of general and complete disarmament of all weapons of mass destruction.

The Prime Minister, speaking in the High-Level Meeting on Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) on 26 September 2018, paid tribute to the brave peacekeepers, including seventy-three Nepali nationals who made ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. He reaffirmed Nepal's commitment to international peace and security through UN peacekeeping.

Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli met with the US President Donald Trump during

the reception hosted by the President and held a brief talk with him on Nepal-US relations.

The Prime Minister held a bilateral meeting with United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres on 27 September 2018 and discussed about the important political gains Nepal achieved recently and the way forward for institutionalizing them. The Secretary-General commended Nepal's democratic transitions as an important example.



*Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli with the United Nations Secretary General António Guterres, New York, 27 September 2018*

On the sidelines of the 73<sup>rd</sup> UNGA, Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar

Gyawali addressed the Ministerial Meeting of Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) on 26 September 2018. Speaking on the theme *Upholding the UN Charter and the Purposes and Principles of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM): Towards a Culture of Peace*, Minister Gyawali said, “as the torch bearer of rules-based, inclusive and multilateral world order, the onus lies on the Movement to uphold the UN Charter as well as the principles of NAM, both of which are the embodiment of culture of peace.”

The Foreign Minister also attended the annual Ministerial Meeting of the G77 and delivered a statement at the High-level Ministerial Meeting of the Group of Friends of Mediation in which he underlined Nepal's distinct experience of managing conflict. He also expressed Nepal's readiness to share its national experience, best practice and lesson learned in the larger interest of humanity.

The Foreign Minister also addressed the Annual Ministerial Meeting of the LDCs on 26 September 2018 and of LLDCs on 28 September 2018. He outlined Nepal's efforts towards the implementation of SDGs and called for robust international partnership to achieve the goals.

The Foreign Minister also addressed the Nelson Mandela Peace Summit on 01 October 2018 and stressed the importance of global peace.

While in New York, the Foreign Minister also held separate bilateral meetings with the UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed and Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Jean-Pierre Lacroix.

### **International Peace and Security**

Nepal continued its contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security through contributing troops to the UN Peace Operations. Nepal currently stands as the fifth largest troop-contributing country (TCC) with more than 5,600 peacekeepers in the field.

Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli, while addressing the High-level Meeting on Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) in New York on 25 September 2018, reaffirmed Nepal's abiding faith in the UN Charter and firm commitment to international peace and security. Nepal supported the Secretary-General's peace, security and management reform agenda and his priority to peace diplomacy.

Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Ishwar Pokharel participated in the annual UN Peacekeeping Ministerial Conference in New York in March 2019. He reiterated Nepal's support to the reform of peace operations and pledged readiness to provide an Infantry Battalion, a Force Protection Company, two Formed Police Units, individual police officers, and staff and military observers in the Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System for the year 2019-20. He also pledged a special force company at the Rapid Deployment Level of the PCRS. DPM Pokharel stressed the need for a renewed focus on capacity building efforts for the improvement of peacekeepers' performance.

### **Disarmament and New Security Issues**

Nepal has consistently advocated for general and complete disarmament of all weapons of mass destruction, including chemical, biological, nuclear and radiological weapons. Threat to international peace and security emanates from both traditional and non-traditional sources. On the one hand, menaces like gun violence, terrorism, modernization of the nuclear arsenals and intra-state conflicts continue to imperil human security and, on the other

hand, a host of non-traditional challenges including climate change, scarcity of freshwater, food insecurity and natural disasters pose new threats to human security. As the National Authority on Disarmament Affairs, the Ministry closely follows the international development, negotiation and initiatives to cut the stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction and effective regulation of small arms and light weapons.

### **Sustainable Development Goals**

Nepal remains committed to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and has taken initiatives to achieve them through national policies, plans and programs. National Planning Commission Vice-Chairman Dr. Puspa Raj Kadel participated in the annual event of ECOSOC's High-Level Political Forum on SDGs in New York on 9-18 July 2019. He highlighted the current status of the achievement and Nepal's future plans to accelerate the pace of implementation of the 2030 Agenda. He also shared Nepal's perspectives on impacts of climate change on mountains, education for all, inclusion, Nepal's peace process and financing for SDGs.

### **UN Reform**

Nepal is a strong advocate of the UN reform. In view of changing geopolitical dynamics, expansion of the UN membership and the value given to the new norms for participation, representation and inclusion, the reform of the UN is a necessity. Nepal welcomed the repositioning of UN Development System in anticipation of enhanced performance, results, accountability, transparency and national ownership of the UN development programs.

### **Migration**

Nepal played active role in the negotiation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) which was adopted by the intergovernmental conference held in Marrakech, Morocco on 10-11 December 2018. Labour Minister Gokarna Raj Bista addressed the conference and stressed the need for regular pathways and decent jobs for migrant workers.

### **Human Rights**

Nepal upholds the ideals of inclusive democracy and integrated approach to human rights and development. Nepal believes in the universality of human rights and holds that all human rights are

universal, indivisible, interdependent, inter-related and mutually-reinforcing, which merit balanced treatment and equal emphasis. The year 2018 remained as the year of human rights law making in Nepal. In line with the Constitutional provision, we enacted sixteen legislations relating to the fundamental rights.

Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali addressed the 40<sup>th</sup> Session of Human Rights Council in Geneva on 27 February 2019. He stressed that peace and human rights cannot be achieved without attaining inclusive development.

The Foreign Minister also participated as a panelist at the high-level panel on question of death penalty and shared Nepal's view that the right to life is sacred and inviolable that makes a basis for all human rights. He affirmed Nepal's conscious choice to go for complete abolition of death penalty.



*Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali addressing the 40<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council, 27 February 2019*

Nepal's 6<sup>th</sup> periodic report was considered by the CEDAW Committee on 23-24 October 2018. The Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its Causes and Consequences Dubravka Šimonovic visited Nepal from 18 to 29 November 2018. She presented her report to the 41<sup>st</sup> session of the Human Rights Council. Nepal officially assumed the role of coordinator of the 56-countries' Asia Pacific Group at the Human Rights Council from 1 January 2019.

### **South-South Cooperation**

Nepal believes that the South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation help promote development in the countries of global South. Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali addressed the Second High-level UN Conference on South-South

Cooperation held in Buenos Aires on 20-22 March 2019 and underscored the growing relevance of South-South Cooperation to the countries of global South. The Foreign Minister also highlighted that South-South Cooperation is complementary to the North-South Cooperation, not its substitute. He underlined that South-South Cooperation can positively contribute to the timely implementation of the 2030 Agenda and other internationally agreed development outcomes, including Istanbul Programme of Action for LDCs, and Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs.

### **Ocean and the Law of the Sea**

Nepal participated in the Second Session of the Intergovernmental Conference on an international legally binding agreement on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) held in New York from 25 March to 5 April 2019. Nepal emphasized on fair and equitable access to and sharing of the benefit of marine genetic resources to the LLDCs. Nepal also highlighted the importance of capacity building and the transfer of marine technologies.

### **UN Specialized Agencies**

Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli addressed the ILO Centenary Conference held in Geneva on 10 June 2019. In his address, the Prime Minister underlined Nepal's effort to carry forward the decent work agenda, comprehensive scheme of social security and promotion of decent job. He called the preambular pledges of the ILO's Constitution the 'moral minimum' and urged international community to demonstrate renewed commitment to meet and rise above the minimum labour standards. While visualizing Nepal's agenda for decent work under the theme of *Skilled workers, prosperous Nepal and happy Nepali* he elaborated that democracy without economic rights and social justice remains incomplete.



*Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli addressing the ILO Centenary Conference, Geneva  
10 June 2019*

The Prime Minister also attended the Hand-Over ceremony of the ILO flag hoisted at the Summit of the Mount Everest. Joint Trade Union Coordination Committee President Vinod Shrestha handed over the flag to the Director General Guy Ryder. Currently, Nepal is Deputy Member of the ILO Governing Body representing both the Government as well as Workers.



*Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli at the ILO flag handover ceremony, Geneva  
10 June 2019*

Nepal continued to actively engage with the WHO, both in its normative and policy process, at the headquarters as well as in the implementation of health related programs and projects at the country level. Deputy Prime Minister and Health Minister Upendra Yadav participated in the 72<sup>nd</sup> World Health Assembly held in Geneva on 20-29 May

2019 and shared achievements of Nepal in elimination of trachoma and rubella.

At the second Trade Policy Review of Nepal at the WTO Headquarters in Geneva on 3-5 December 2018, Nepal shared progress on reforms in trade-governance, policy regimes, investment climate, foreign trade, and role of the private sector in Nepal's economy and trade. Delegates of 22 WTO members took the floor and appreciated Nepal's commitment to multilateral trading system as well as reform initiatives undertaken. As a member State, Nepal closely followed the process at General Council and Trade Negotiation Committee (TNC) as well as thematic Committees/Councils of the WTO during the review period. Nepal was elected to the Chair of Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) for the term 2019-2021.

Nepal's partnership with International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) continued to grow during the year in review. Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali participated in the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Regular Session of the General Conference of IAEA held in Vienna on 17-21 September 2018. Addressing the conference, the Minister called for general and complete disarmament of all weapons of mass destruction. He also



emphasized on the need to utilize nuclear science and technology only for the peaceful purposes within recognized safeguard framework of IAEA.

Education Minister Giriraj Mani Pokharel addressed the IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology held in Vienna on 28-30 November 2018. He stressed the need for enhanced international cooperation to help Nepal bridge the gap in the field of nuclear science and technology, health, agriculture, including response to natural disasters.

Nepal was elected as a Member of Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) for the term 2020-23. Home Minister Ram Bahadur Thapa participated in the 62<sup>nd</sup> Session of CND held in Vienna on 14-15 March 2019. He highlighted the growing challenges relating to the use of narcotic drugs and urged the international community to provide technical cooperation to the LDCs to tackle drug issues.

Nepal participated in the Ninth Session of the Conference of the States Parties of the UN Convention against Corruption held in Vienna on 15-19 October 2018 and highlighted the need to forge deeper cooperation in the joint fight against transnational organized crime in all its forms and manifestations. Nepal also

shared its policy and institutional measures in controlling corruption.

### **Prime Minister receives honorary-doctorate degree at the UN University for Peace**

Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli addressed a special programme organized by the University for Peace in San Jose, Costa Rica on 1 October 2018. On the occasion, the Prime Minister was awarded with the honorary-doctorate degree (*doctor honoris causa*) by the University in recognition of his contribution to achieving peace and democracy in Nepal. He delivered a speech of acceptance, highlighting the inter-relationship between peace, democracy, human rights and development at the award ceremony.



*Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli receiving the honorary doctorate from the Rector of University for Peace, San Jose  
1 October 2018*

## Nepal at UNFCCC's COP24

President Bidya Devi Bhandari addressed the 24<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP24) in Katowice, Poland on 3 December 2018 and highlighted the disproportionate impacts of climate change that the countries like Nepal are facing.



*President Bidya Devi Bhandari addressing the COP 24, Katowice, 3 December 2018*

The President underscored the importance of climate finance for developing e-mobility, reducing vulnerability of women and the poor, improving public health, and promotion of forests and natural eco-system.

The UN General Assembly President María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés called on the President Bhandari on the sidelines of the COP24 on 03 December 2018. During the meeting matters relating to the impacts of climate change, the significance of development for peace and mobilizing resources to meet SDGs were discussed.

## Nepal in 63<sup>rd</sup> Session of Commission on Status of Women

President Bidya Devi Bhandari addressed the High-level Event on Women in Power on the theme *How Women Leaders Change the World* hosted by the President of the UN General Assembly in New York on 12 March 2019. The President shared Nepal's initiatives, achievements, and lessons learned in the field of gender equality and her inspiring journey from a grass-root woman activist in a remote village to the first woman President of Nepal. She also highlighted that 'discrimination against women is a social construct, not a natural condition'. The High-level event was held on the occasion of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Commission on Status of Women (CSW-63) in New York on 11-22 March 2019.

The President had a meeting with the UNGA President María Fernanda

Espinosa Garcés in New York on 12 March 2019 and appreciated her initiatives regarding women empowerment.



*President Bidya Devi Bhandari meeting with President of UNGA María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, New York, 12 March 2019*

While in New York, the President held a meeting with the UN Secretary-General António Guterres on 12 March 2019. She appreciated the Secretary-General for his reform agenda and maintaining gender parity at the higher positions of the United Nations.



*President Bidya Devi Bhandari addressing the High-Level Event on Women in Power, New York, 12 March 2019*



*President Bidya Devi Bhandari meeting with UN Secretary-General António Guterres 12 March 2019*

## **Nepal in R20 Austrian World Summit**

Vice President Nanda Bahadur Pun addressed the R20 Austrian World Summit on Climate Action held in Vienna on 28 May 2019. The Vice President emphasized that Nepal has negligible role in carbon emission, but bears disproportionate brunt of it. He also shared clean energy initiatives of Nepal to adapt with the effects of climate change. The Vice President highlighted that Nepal has announced the period from 2018 to 2028 as the energy decade with a plan to substantially augment production of renewable energy, such as hydropower, end dependency on fossil fuel and promote clean energy.



*Vice-President Nanda Bahadur Pun addressing the R20 Austrian World Summit, Vienna, 28 May 2019*

## Nepal's Election to International Organizations

Nepal continued its drive to enhance visibility and leadership in multilateral institutions. As the incumbent member of the Human Rights Council, Nepal has placed its candidature for re-election. The table below shows Nepal's positions on different UN bodies:

S N	Body	Term	Begins	Status
1.	Executive Board of UN-Women	2019-21	2019 Jan	Incumbent
2.	Commission on Science and Technology	2019-22	2018 April	Incumbent
3.	Peace Building Commission (PBC) GA category	2019-20	2018 Dec	Incumbent

4.	Commission on Narcotic Drug (CND)	2020-23	2019 May	Elected
5.	Human Rights Council (HRC)	2018-20	2017 Oct	Incumbent
6.	Vice-Chair of the Bureau of PrepCom and Third RevCon on progress made in the implementation of the POA to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons	2018-21	2018 Jan	
7.	Member of Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)	2017-20	2017	Incumbent
8.	Deputy Member of Governing Board of ILO (Both from	2017-20	2017	Incumbent

	Government and Workers Group)			
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Nepal has submitted candidature for the following UN bodies:

S N	Body	Term	Begins	Status
1	Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)	2024-26	2023 June	Candidature
2	Human Rights Council (HRC)	2021-23	2021	Candidature (Re-election)
3	Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ)	2021-23	2020 April	Candidature
4	Bureau (Chair), Second Committee, UNGA-75	2020-21	2020	Candidature
5	Member of Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)	2021-24	2021	Candidature Reelection

### Incoming Visits from UN Agencies

The UN Deputy-Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed visited Nepal on 15-16 November 2018. While in Kathmandu, she called on President Bidya Devi Bhandari and Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli in November 2018.

Matters pertaining to the implementation of 2030 Agenda and further strengthening Nepal-United Nations cooperation featured at the talks. She also met with Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali on 15 November 2018.

UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women Dubravka Simanovic visited Nepal from 19 to 29 November 2018. During the visit, she had meetings with office bearers in different branches of the federal and provincial government, National Human Rights Commission and members of civil society. She presented her report to the 41<sup>st</sup> Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council in June 2019. She noted positively the increased political participation of women and the appointment of the first woman President in Nepal.

Regional Director of Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific of UNHCR

Indrika Ratwatte visited Nepal from 13 to 16 November 2018. He called on Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali and Home Minister Ram Bahadur Thapa. The Director appreciated the cooperation of Nepal in the third country resettlement of Bhutanese refugees and assured UNHCR's full support to the resettlement of the remaining refugees.

IOM Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific Dr. Maria Nenete A. Motus visited Nepal from 13 to 17 November 2018 and called on the Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali. Role of IOM in the protection and wellbeing of the migrant workers, IOM's cooperation of voluntary third country resettlement of Bhutanese refugees, IOM's new role as the lead coordinator of UN Network for Migration in the implementation, and review and follow-up mechanism of GCM were discussed in the meeting.

## **Expansion of Nepal's Diplomatic Relations**

Nepal established diplomatic relations with additional six countries in the review period, namely Suriname, Equatorial Guinea, Togo, Rwanda, Madagascar and Eswatini. As of 16 July 2019, Nepal has diplomatic relations with 166 countries.

# Public Diplomacy, Service Delivery, Protocol Matters and General Administration

## 1. Policy, Planning, Development Diplomacy and Nepali Diaspora

The Ministry took some key initiatives in the formulation and implementation of Nepal's foreign policy.

Promotion of economic diplomacy and engagement with the Nepali diaspora for the economic development of the country remained a priority.

Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli inaugurated a *National Dialogue on Foreign Policy* organized by the Ministry in Kathmandu on 29 June 2019. The dialogue provided a platform to share inputs and views on making the foreign policy of Nepal by forging consensus among all stakeholders. Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali made a presentation on foreign policy priorities and orientation of Nepal at the Dialogue. The thematic sessions of the Dialogue comprised geo-political dynamics, economic diplomacy, regional and multilateral affairs, and emerging challenges of Nepal's foreign policy. Prominent political figures, eminent scholars, foreign policy experts, economists, diplomats, and senior

officials of Government of Nepal participated in it.

Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali inaugurated *Nepal Promotion Programme for Honorary Consuls of Nepal* organized by the Ministry in Kathmandu on 26-27 June 2019. The programme was aimed at giving orientation to the Honorary Consuls on the policies, rules and regulations of the Government of Nepal. The orientation also featured on Nepal's foreign policy priorities, potential areas for foreign investment in Nepal, tourism, consular and visa services.

The Ministry, in partnership with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), organized a training program on *Conference Diplomacy, Multilateral Negotiations and Human Rights* in Kathmandu from 29 October to 2 November 2018.

### **Prime Minister delivers lecture at Asia Society**

Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli, while participating in the 73<sup>rd</sup> UN General

Assembly, attended a programme organized by Asia Society in New York on 25 September 2018 and delivered a lecture on *Peace, Democracy and Development*. In his lecture, the Prime Minister highlighted Nepal's long struggle for democracy, freedom and welfare of the people, and called for rules-based, just and equitable international order to ensure representation and access to opportunities for all States. He also underlined the importance of foreign investments, connectivity and sustainable environment for the rapid economic development of the countries like Nepal.



*Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli delivering a lecture on 'Peace, Democracy and Development' at the Asia Society, New York 25 September 2018*

## **Prime Minister's participation in the World Economic Forum**

Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli visited Davos, Switzerland on 21-25 January 2019 to participate in the 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of World Economic Forum (WEF) and addressed a session titled *Strategic Outlook on South Asia* on 22 January. The Prime Minister shared the government's commitment to create an investment-friendly regime for spurring economic growth in Nepal.



*Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli addressing a session 'Strategic Outlook on Asia', Davos 22 January 2019*

Similarly, the Prime Minister addressed a session on *Shaping the Future of Democracy* on 23 January 2019. He also participated in the Informal Gathering of World Economic Leaders and shared views on the theme of *The End of Global Trade as We Know It?* In the Gathering, the Prime Minister stressed the need for reviving multilateralism and rules-based international trading system to protect and promote the wider interest of the world.



Finance Minister Dr. Yubaraj Khatiwada attended a session on *Investment Trends Monitor* in Davos on 22 January 2019 where he highlighted that focused foreign direct investment on building infrastructure in LDCs and LLDCs was instrumental in triggering economic growth.



*Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli addressing the session on 'Shaping the Future of Democracy', Davos, 23 January 2019*

The Government of Nepal approved the Directives on Procedures for Contacting Foreign Governments, Missions, Representatives and International Organizations by Provincial and Local Governments. The Directives, prepared by the Ministry, elaborates procedures for foreign contacts by provincial and local-level authorities. The Directives has also provisions for uniformly channeling communications and contacts with foreign countries, organizations and their representatives.

The Government of Nepal decided to launch *Sagarmatha Sambaad*, a permanent global dialogue forum in Nepal with a view to fostering and promoting discourse among international actors on contemporary issues and challenges of common interest. The dialogue will be organized every two years on different themes.

### **Regional Meeting of Nepali Ambassadors in Geneva**

Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli, during his visit to Europe, took briefings from Europe-based Nepali Ambassadors in Geneva on 15 June 2019. The Ambassadors briefed the Prime Minister on the activities, major achievements, challenges and future plans of their respective Embassies/Missions.

The Prime Minister instructed the Ambassadors to work effectively for making substantive contribution to Nepal's development efforts and promote Nepal's national interests with special focus on economic engagements.

Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, during his visit to Belgium, addressed a regional meeting of Europe-based Nepali Ambassadors in Brussels on 28 July 2018. Ambassadors attending the conference made presentations on activities and initiatives of their



*Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli with Europe-based Nepali Ambassadors and Senior Officials, Geneva, 15 June 2019*

missions. The Foreign Minister instructed the Ambassadors to work for promoting Nepal's image and further strengthening bilateral cooperation with the respective countries.



*Regional conference of Europe based Nepali Ambassadors, Brussels, 28 July 2018*

### **Foreign Minister at the Annual Meeting of the New Champions**

Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali participated in the 13<sup>th</sup> World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting of the New Champions held

under the theme of *Leadership 4.0: Succeeding in a New Era of Globalization* in Dalian of China on 1-3 July 2019.

The Foreign Minister, while addressing the *Informal Gathering of World Economic Leaders: Finding a New Footing for the Global Economy* on 01 July 2019, stressed the need of international cooperation and collaboration for promotion of fair, transparent and rules-based global order.

On 02 July, the Foreign Minister addressed two sessions on *Climate Change: The Next Financial Crisis?* and *Geopolitical Shifts*. In his address, he underscored the importance of Nepal's

mountains, rivers and forests in maintaining the ecological balance.



*Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali addressing the session on Climate Change: the Next Financial Crisis? Dalian, 02 July 2019*

### **Brain Gain Center (BGC)**

The Ministry established a Brain Gain Center (BGC) with an objective of identifying, recognizing and encouraging Nepali experts and professionals around the world and creating an enabling environment for them to contribute to Nepal's socio-economic development.

The BGC policy recognizes the need to utilize knowledge, skill, technology and capital of the Non Resident Nepali (NRN) in national development. Initiated with five-fold objectives of recognizing, promoting, connecting, mobilizing and rewarding the Diaspora experts, the center has attracted over 600 Nepali expats from across the globe.

### **Country-Specific Strategies for Economic Diplomacy**

The Ministry prepared country specific strategies of economic diplomacy. The strategy identifies priorities for economic diplomacy related activities, such as trade, investment, tourism, overseas employment and official development assistance.

## 2. Protocol Matters

The Ministry facilitated a number of high level visits, both outgoing and incoming. It also arranged programmes for presentation of Letters of Credence to the President by ambassadors of various countries to Nepal.

During the period under review, the Ministry conducted twenty-seven high-level visits which included twenty outgoing and seven incoming visits. Details of the incoming and outgoing visits are annexed.

The Government of Nepal granted nineteen agrément to Ambassadors-Designate to Nepal during the reporting period. Similarly, twenty-five foreign Ambassadors-Designate presented their Letters of Credence to the President of Nepal.

Nepal hosts 28 diplomatic missions in Kathmandu, including the SAARC Secretariat and Delegation of the European Union.

### 3. Consular Services

The Department of Consular Services effectively delivered services to the general public, Government officials and the Diplomatic Missions and International Organizations stationed in Nepal.

The Department continued to fulfill its commitment to *service delivery within half an hour*. It has introduced an online system for making requests for visa recommendation, consular-legal services and diplomatic exemptions, and also put in place the online verification system for power of attorney attested by the Department as well as Nepali missions abroad. The online verification system has enabled to check the authenticity of the documents attested and visa notes issued.

The Department coordinated with the Nepali Missions abroad in the works relating to search and rescue, compensation, and repatriation of dead bodies of the Nepali nationals overseas. It launched Mobile App *Nepal Consular* on 20 February 2019 to enhance accessibility of the people to the consular-legal services.

The table below shows major consular services provided by the Department this year:

S N	Work Details	Quantity
A	<b>Consular and Legal Consultation Services</b>	
1	Recommendation for Medical Treatment, Pilgrimage, World Bicycle Tour and other issues	45
2	Recommendation for attestation of Indian Educational Documents, Nationality Verification and higher studies in India	1,677
3	Recommendation for Indian Pension related matters	24
4	Recommendation for Foreign Driving Licenses to change into Nepali License	1,830
5	Recommendation for the Character Verification Report to those who lived temporarily in India	407
6	Recommendation for import of chemicals and explosives	120

7	Recommendation for Vehicle Permit to India	28
8	Regarding renunciation of Nepali Citizenship	131
9	Verification of Power of Attorney for Land Revenue Offices	516
10	Regarding the authenticity of Nepali citizenship and related documents	159
11	Power of Attorney, Health form requests, correspondences to districts relating to repatriation of dead bodies and compensation cases	777
12	Cases forwarded to Nepali Embassies/Consulates abroad for search and rescue of Nepali Nationals	1,173
13	Cases forwarded for repatriation of dead bodies	330
14	Draft (Cheque) received as compensation from	102

	Malaysia and handed over to victims	
<b>B</b>	<b>Visa and Exemption Services</b>	
1	Issuance of Gratis/Official/Diplomatic visa	3305
2	Issuance of Diplomatic and Non Diplomatic Identity Cards	418
3	Issuance of SAARC Visa Stickers	70
4	Exemption works	3861
5	Correspondence to different government authorities	1365
6	Issuance of Visa Notes and Recommendations	1800
<b>C</b>	<b>Attestation Services</b>	
1.	Number of Attested Documents (Number of documents Registered for Attestation-190,864)	263,754

## 4. Passport Services

The Department of Passports delivered services in an efficient manner. It is the first government agency to have been certified with NS/ISO 9001:2015. The Department personalized a total of 515,146 Machine Readable Travel Documents (MRTDs) including 513,038 ordinary, 1,235 official, 741 diplomatic passports and 132 Travel Documents this year. So far, the Department has issued a total of 5,973,311 MRTDs.

The Department continued to improve the quality of its service to the Nepali citizens. With a view to addressing the need and preference of the public, the Department made arrangements for issuance of passports through fast track and normal track. There are twelve live-enrollment counters at the Department, and ten in the Nepali Missions abroad located in Doha, Riyadh, Jeddah, Abu Dhabi, Kuwait, Kuala Lumpur, Hong Kong, London, Washington DC and New York.

The Department continued working closely with relevant stakeholders to make the verification process of passport secure, simple, reliable and client-friendly. Online access to the citizenship database of the Home

Ministry and hotline access to all District Administration Offices were effectively used to verify the authenticity of the documents issued, including citizenship certificate. The Department has effectively maintained the digital database of nearly six million personalized passports.

The Department also undertook various reform measures in quality control and internal control in order to better provide standardized, efficient and predictable services. Quality manual was followed to maintain service standardization and internal as well as external audit of the services as required by ISO certifying authority.

The Department developed and implemented a comprehensive software of passport management information system (PMIS). It covers almost all the end-to-end processes from submission of application to personalization, dispatch and delivery of personalized passports.

The Department signed an MOU with Buddha Air Pvt. Ltd. for transportation of collected passport application forms and timely distribution of printed Machine Readable Travel Documents (MRTDs) through 10 airports including

Biratnagar, Bhadrapur, Simara, Janakpur, Bharatpur, Pokhara, Surkhet, Bhairahawa, Dhangadhi and Nepalgunj. With this arrangement, the Department is directly connected to 58 Districts.

The Department made necessary arrangements within its premises for personalization of passports of people with disability, senior citizens, women and those requiring special attention. It effectively handled grievances of service seekers through 'grievance handling unit'.

The Department published a *Handbook on Passport Issuance and Its Use, 2019* to provide information about passport services and to address the frequently asked questions (FAQ) relating to passport.

The Department conducted 14 orientations and training and interaction programs for the staff of District/Area Administration Offices in all Provincial Capitals and some District Headquarters.



## 5. Administration and Management

The Ministry carried forward the drive for institutional capacity building. The procurement of properties for the Ministry, Departments, and Missions abroad received due attention. The Ministry implemented the new Directives on Placement and Posting of Foreign Service and other officials in Nepali Missions Abroad, 2069. Foreign Service officials were adjusted as per the provisions of the Civil Servants Adjustment Ordinance. The newly appointed staff of the Ministry were imparted training of Arabic, Chinese and French languages.

A seven-member parliamentary delegation led by the House of Representatives' Public Accounts Committee Chairman Bharat Kumar Shah visited the Embassies of Nepal in Riyadh, Paris, Berlin and London for a Parliamentary oversight.

The Ministry, Departments, Liaison Office, and diplomatic missions abroad addressed public grievances received directly as well as through *Hello Sarkar*.

A report on "Inspection of the Inventories" of the Ministry for the Fiscal Year 2017-18 was prepared. A proposal was submitted to the Council of Ministers on 2 December 2018

regarding the management (auction and disposal) of old and damaged furniture, machineries and vehicles of Nepali diplomatic missions abroad.

The Ministry initiated the renovation of its own building. The construction works of new building for Department of Consular Services and Department of Passports are at final phase in Tripureswor, Kathmandu. The Ministry also placed high priority to purchase or construct buildings for Chancery and Residence of Nepali Missions abroad. Nepali Embassy in Washington DC purchased a new building for the Ambassador's Residence.

Embassies of Nepal in Beijing, Canberra, Colombo, Dhaka, Islamabad, Muscat, New Delhi and Riyadh were instructed to purchase land and build Chancery or Residence for Ambassadors and other diplomats. The Ministry also directed the Embassy of Nepal in Tokyo and the Permanent Missions of Nepal in Geneva and New York to initiate the process for purchasing appropriate apartment or building for Chancery or Ambassador's Residence.

The Government of Nepal appointed ambassadors to fourteen countries this

year. Five ambassadors were recalled and the resignation of two ambassadors approved.

Following is the details of the Ambassadors' appointment, recall and resignation:

<b>Appointment</b>				
<b>S. N.</b>	<b>Name of the Ambassador</b>	<b>Country of Appointment</b>	<b>Concurrent Accreditation</b>	<b>Decision Dates (B.S.)</b>
1	Nilambar Acharya	India	Afghanistan and Bhutan	2075-7-25
2	Udaya Raj Pandey	Malaysia	Indonesia and Brunei Darussalam	2075-7-25
3	Krishna Prasad Dhakal	United Arab Emirates		2075-7-25
4	Dr. Anjan Shakya	Israel	Cyprus	2075-7-25
5	Ganesh Prasad Dhakal	Thailand	Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Singapore, UNESCAP, AIT	2075-9-9
6	Mani Prasad Bhattarai	Permanent Mission of Nepal to the UN, Geneva	Italy, San Marino and Liechtenstein, WTO, WHO	2075-9-9
7	Bhrihu Dhungana	Canada	Cuba, Jamaica, ICAO	2075-9-9
8	Dipak Adhikari	France	Andorra, Monaco, Portugal, UNESCO	2075-9-9
9	Durga Prasad Bhandari	Kuwait	Iraq, ACD	2075-9-9
10	Amrit Bahadur Rai	Permanent Mission of Nepal	Ecuador and Nicaragua	2075-9-23

		to the UN, New York		
11	Dr. Banshidhar Mishra	Bangladesh		2076-2-23
12	Dr. Naradnath Bhardwaj	Qatar		2076-2-23
13	Mahesh Raj Dahal	Australia	Fiji, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea	2076-2-23
14	Dawa Futi Sherpa	Spain		2076-2-23
<b>Recall</b>				
1	Niranjana Kumar Thapa	Israel	Cyprus	2075-7-25
2	Arjun Jung Bahadur Singh	Republic of Korea		2075-9-9
3	Bharat Bahadur Rayamajhi	Spain		2075-9-9
4	Dr. Choplal Bhusal	Bangladesh		2075-9-9
5	Ramesh Prasad Koirala	Qatar		2076/1/10
<b>Approval of Resignation</b>				
1	Lucky Sherpa	Australia	Fiji, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea	2075-10-3
2	Dr. Bishwambhar Pyakurel	Sri Lanka	Maldives	2076-3-24

## Appendices

### I. Visits

#### A. Outgoing

S. N.	Dignitary	Date	Country	Remarks
1.	President Bidya Devi Bhandari	29 October- 1 November 2018	Qatar	Official Visit
2.		1-5 December 2018	Poland	To participate in the COP24
3.		10-15 March 2019	United States of America	To participate in the 63 <sup>rd</sup> Session of CSW
4.		24 April- 1 May 2019	China	State Visit (To participate in the BRF)
5.	Vice President Nanda Bahadur Pun	19-24 September 2018	China	To participate in the 17 <sup>th</sup> Western China International Fair
6.		26 May-1 June 2019	Austria	To participate in the R 20 Austrian World Summit 2019

7.	Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli	22 September - 03 October 2018	United States of America & Costa Rica	To participate in the 73rd UNGA and for Official Visit of Costa Rica
8.		22-25 January 2019	Switzerland	To participate in the 49th WEF Annual Meeting
9.		9-15 May 2019	Vietnam & Cambodia	Official Visit
10.		30-31 May 2019	India	Official Visit (To participate in the Swearing in Ceremony of H. E. Mr. Narendra Modi)
11.		8-16 June 2019	Switzerland, The United Kingdom & France	To participate in the 108 <sup>th</sup> International Labour Conference, Geneva
12.		23 July- 1 August 2018	Belgium, Luxembourg & Portugal	Bilateral Visit
13.	16-17 August 2018	India	To attend the funeral ceremony of Late Mr. Atal Bihari Bajpayee	

14.	Foreign Minister  Pradeep Kumar Gyawali	15-21 September 2018	Austria & Belgium	To participate in the 62 <sup>nd</sup> General Assembly of IAEA
15.		17-23 November 2018	Japan & Thailand	Official Visit
16.		17-22 December 2018	USA	To participate in the Bilateral Meeting with State Secretary of USA
17.		10-11 January 2019	India	To participate in the Raisina Dialogue
18.		23 February- 28 February, 2019	Switzerland	To participate in the Annual Meeting of the Human Rights Council
19.		18-25 March 2019	Argentina	To participate in the Second High-Level UN Conference on South South Cooperation
20.		30 June- 5 July 2019	China	To participate in the 13 <sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the WEF New Champions 2019

## B. Incoming

S.N.	Dignitary	Date	Country
1.	Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wazed, Chief Advisor of the Interim Government Lyonpo Tshering Wangchuk, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, President U Win Myint, President Maithripala Sirisena, Prime Minister General Prayut Chan-o-cha (Ret.),	30-31 August 2018	People's Republic of Bangladesh, The Kingdom of Bhutan, Republic of India, Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, The Kingdom of Thailand
2.	President Maithripala Sirisena	1-2 September 2018	Sri Lanka
3.	Vice President Maria Leonor Gerona Robredo	29-30 November 2018	Philippines
4.	Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN	29-30 November 2018	The Kingdom of Cambodia
5.	State Counsellor and Foreign Minister Daw Aung San Suu Kyi	29-30 November 2018	Republic of the Union of Myanmar
6.	Federal Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs Dr. Karin Kneissl	21-23 February 2019	Austria

7.	Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Thaung Tun,	29-30 March 2019	Myanmar
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## II. Joint Statements

### JOINT STATEMENT BETWEEN THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM AND THE FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF NEPAL ON THE OFFICIAL VISIT TO VIETNAM BY H.E. K P SHARMA OLI, PRIME MINISTER OF NEPAL

*Ha Noi, 11 May 2019*

1. H.E. K P Sharma Oli, Prime Minister of Nepal, paid an official visit to Viet Nam from 9 – 13 May, 2019 at the invitation of H.E. Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Prime Minister of Viet Nam. Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli was accompanied by his spouse Mrs. Radhika Shakya, Minister for Foreign Affairs Hon. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, Advisors to the Prime Minister, Members of Parliament and high ranking government officials. A business delegation also accompanied the Prime Minister of Nepal.
2. The official welcoming ceremony was solemnly held at the Presidential Palace on 11 May 2019. After the welcoming ceremony, Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli held talks with Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc, met with President of the National Assembly Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan. Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli also addressed the Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics and the Viet Nam – Nepal Business Forum. Prior to the welcoming ceremony, Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli paid floral tribute and deep respect at President Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum, and laid a wreath at the Memorial of the Unknown Martyrs and Heroes. Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli will attend and address the United Nations Day of Vaisakh on 12 May 2019.
3. The official talks were held in a warm, cordial and friendly atmosphere. The two leaders discussed all aspects of the bilateral relations, and exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual interest. Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli expressed his admiration for President Ho Chi Minh and congratulated Viet Nam on the latter's tremendous achievements in socio-economic development. Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli for having chosen Viet Nam as his first destination in Southeast Asia since he took office in February 2018, underlining that the first visit of a Nepali Prime Minister to Viet Nam would contribute to strengthening the multifaceted relations between the two countries in the coming days. Prime Minister of Viet Nam congratulated the people of Nepal for the historic political achievement and for its' unique and homegrown peace process and its institutionalization through a democratic constitution and the formation of a stable government. He lauded Nepal Government's efforts to bring about visible transformation in the living standard of Nepali people and expressed his best wishes for the realization of the national resolve of *Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali*. Following the talks, the two leaders witnessed the signing of the Agreement on Visa exemption for diplomatic and official passport holders, the MOU on establishment of bilateral consultation mechanism between the two Ministries of Foreign Affairs and the Letter of Intent on negotiating and signing the framework Agreement on trade and investment cooperation.

4. Both leaders underlined the cultural and historical similarities between their countries, and recognized the importance of Buddhism as a strong binding thread between the peoples of the two countries. The two leaders noted that both Viet Nam and Nepal had to undergo various kinds of struggle to preserve sovereignty, territorial integrity and national independence.
5. Both sides welcomed practical commemorative activities to be held in 2020 for the 45th anniversary of their diplomatic relations. Both sides shared the views that the visit – a key milestone in their relations, would pave the way for a new stage and an enhanced level of cooperation in tourism, trade, investment and people to people contact between the two countries.
6. Acknowledging the remarkable progress in their bilateral relations and on the basis of mutual understanding and trust, the two leaders shared a vision on further widening and deepening the Viet Nam – Nepal traditional friendship across all areas.
7. Recalling their meeting on the sidelines of World Economic Forum in Davos in January 2019, the two leaders agreed to enhance mutual visits and exchanges at the high and all levels, between their political parties, governments, legislative institutions, local bodies and peoples.
8. Both sides welcomed the signing of the Agreement on visa exemption for diplomatic and official passport holders, the MOU on establishment of a bilateral consultation mechanism between their Foreign Ministries, the Letter of Intent on negotiating and signing the framework Agreement on trade and investment cooperation and underlined the importance of those agreements in promoting bilateral relations and cooperation in the years ahead.
9. Both leaders shared the assessment that their bilateral economic and trade cooperation remained far below their potentials and strengths. They welcomed the renewal of the MoU on cooperation between the Viet Nam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI) and the Nepal Chamber of Commerce (NCC) in April 2018, and tasked their relevant authorities to explore establishment of bilateral economic and trade cooperation mechanisms, encourage their businesses to survey each other's market and participate in trade promotion activities, particularly in such areas as electric appliances, coffee, tea, seafood, textile, leather footwear and to explore new areas of cooperation, including energy, renewable energy, high-tech agriculture, and tourism.
10. Both leaders agreed to look into proposals of market access for the agricultural products that they held competitive edge, encourage information exchange and cooperation in agricultural science and technical research, and promote exchange of agricultural experts. Recognizing the desire of Nepal to graduate from LDC status at an early date, the Vietnamese side welcomed further imports of Nepali products into Viet Nam's market and agreed to encourage Vietnamese investors and entrepreneurs to invest in productive sectors in Nepal.

11. Both sides agreed to exchange experience on law enforcement, information on criminals and consider negotiation and signing of agreements in order to create the legal framework for their cooperation in combating crimes and criminal justice, with immediate priority given to the signing of an agreement on crime prevention and combat between the Ministry of Public Security of Viet Nam and the Ministry of Home Affairs of Nepal.
12. The two sides agreed to enhance exchange and cooperation in culture, tourism and people-to-people interaction. Both leaders welcomed the success of the Nepali tourism promotion program in Ho Chi Minh City in March 2019, and agreed to encourage more tourists to each other's tourist attractions. The Vietnamese side expressed its support to *Visit Nepal Year 2020* by sending more tourists to Nepal, including Buddhist pilgrims to Lumbini, the birth place of Buddha and the fountain of Buddhism. Recalling the Memorandum of Arrangement between the aeronautical authorities of Viet Nam and Nepal of 20 October 2015, both sides underlined the need for establishing direct air service between the two countries and instructed the concerned Ministries to conclude an Agreement on Air Services at the earliest to promote trade, investment, tourism and people-to-people contacts. Both leaders commended the effective performance of the Nepal – Viet Nam Research Centre since its inception in November 2018 and agreed to promote establishment of the Viet Nam-Nepal Friendship Association in Ha Noi in the time to come.
13. Both sides agreed to bolster cooperation in other potential areas such as science and technology, information and communication, logistics, and disaster preparedness.
14. Both leaders shared similar views on various regional and international issues of mutual interest. They reiterated the importance of faithfully observing the Charter of the United Nations, principles of international law and norms. They reiterated their resolve to preserve multilateralism and find common solutions to common problems. They further reiterated the need to work together for a just, equitable, inclusive, rules-based and democratic world order.
15. Both Prime Ministers spoke highly of the cooperation between the two countries at regional and international forums, including the United Nations, and agreed to further strengthen this tradition. Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc expressed his gratitude to the Government of Nepal for supporting Viet Nam's bid to become a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for the term of 2020-2021.
16. Prime Minister of Nepal K P Sharma Oli expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc and the people of Viet Nam for the warm welcome and gracious hospitality, and extended his cordial invitation to Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc to visit Nepal in the near future. Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc gladly accepted the invitation. The dates of the visit would be worked out through diplomatic channels.

**JOINT STATEMENT ON THE OFFICIAL VISIT OF THE  
RT. HON. K. P. SHARMA OLI PRIME MINISTER OF NEPAL  
TO THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA  
Phnom Penh, 15 may 2019**

1. At the invitation of Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Rt. Hon. K. P. Sharma Oli, Prime Minister of Nepal, paid an official visit to the Kingdom of Cambodia on 13-15 May 2019. He was accompanied by his spouse Mrs. Radhika Shakya, Hon. Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, Advisors to the Prime Minister, Parliamentarians, high ranking Government officials and a business delegation.
2. The Prime Minister of Nepal and his spouse laid wreathes at the Monument of Independence and paid homage to the memory of the war heroes and heroines of Cambodia. They paid tribute and respect at the Royal Memorial of His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK, PREAH BOROM RATANAK KAUDH, the Late King Father of Cambodia. They visited National Museum and the Silver Pagoda, and also the Win-Win Monument which exhibits historical facts on Cambodia's successful effort to bring about complete peace, national reconciliation and national unification of Cambodia.
3. During this visit, the Prime Minister of Nepal called on Samdech Vibol Sena Pheakdei Say Chhum, President of the Senate and Acting Head of State and also met with Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakkrei Heng Samrin, President of the National Assembly.
4. The Prime Minister of Nepal had a bilateral meeting with Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding. Recalling his first visit to Nepal in November 2018, Samdech Prime Minister Hun Sen welcomed the return visit by Prime Minister K. P. Sharma Oli as a landmark visit, and noted that this visit would take the excellent relations already existing between the two friendly countries to new heights. Prime Minister K. P. Sharma Oli termed Cambodia as a close friend and an important partner of Nepal in the region.
5. The two Prime Ministers discussed in-depth on promoting bilateral cooperation in many areas including trade and investment, tourism, culture and education, and exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual interest. They reaffirmed strong commitment to further deepen the friendly ties between Cambodia and Nepal which are deeply rooted in the shared cultural heritage of the two nations. Both Prime Ministers noted with satisfaction that Cambodia and Nepal have developed a strong and mutually beneficial partnership at bilateral, regional and multilateral levels for the sake of peace, stability and sustainable development of the two nations and the world.

6. Samdech Prime Minister Hun Sen highly commended Nepal's historical political transformation and its unique homegrown peace process, and the prevailing stability in Nepal under the leadership of Prime Minister K. P. Sharma Oli, which has allowed the country to focus on sustainable socio-economic development. He expressed his best wishes for the realisation of Nepal's national aspiration of "prosperous Nepal, happy Nepali". Prime Minister K. P. Sharma Oli also lauded the continued success of the Cambodian Government in maintaining peace, stability, high economic growth, a robust tourism industry, and improvement in the quality of life of the Cambodian people, under the leadership of Samdech Prime Minister Hun Sen.
7. The two Prime Ministers underscored the importance of regular exchange of high-level visits and consultations that would afford ways and means to strengthen and expand bilateral cooperation in all feasible areas for the mutual benefits of both nations. Toward this end, the two leaders agreed that the process of consultation between the two foreign ministries should commence at the earliest.
8. Acknowledging that economic cooperation between Cambodia and Nepal still has much room for improvement, the two Prime Ministers concurred to task the institutions concerned of both countries to work together in order to increase bilateral trade, investment and tourism exchanges. They also stressed the important role of the private sector in economic development and encouraged close collaboration between the chambers of commerce of Cambodia and Nepal in fully exploiting economic potentials and business opportunities of both countries.
9. The two Prime Ministers witnessed the signing of the Framework Agreement on Trade and Investment between the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Government of Nepal, and a Memorandum of Understanding between the Chamber of Commerce of Cambodia and the Chamber of Commerce of Nepal. They welcomed the signing of the Agreement and the MoU, and expressed optimism that, with the conclusion of these two documents, economic, trade and investment activities between the two countries will grow significantly in the near future.
10. Recalling the signing of the Memorandum of Understandings on the concurrence of both sides to conclude an Air Services Agreement during the successful visit of Samdech Prime Minister Hun Sen to Nepal in November 2018, the two Prime Ministers instructed the respective civil aviation authorities to expedite discussion on the conclusion and implementation of the Air Services Agreement between the two countries. They shared the view that direct air linkage is needed to facilitate business and tourism exchanges between the two countries. The two leaders also agreed to urge all the relevant institutions of both countries to work closely together, such as through joint promotional activities and tapping into the rich cultural and natural heritage of both nations to increase tourism exchange.

11. Both Leaders noted with satisfaction that cultural cooperation is picking up following the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Cultural Cooperation between the two countries on 29 November 2018. They expressed confidence that effective implementation of this MOU will not only promote mutual understanding and friendship, but also contribute to enhancing tourism industry of the two countries. Both leaders agreed to encourage people-to-people exchange through education cooperation as well.
12. The two Prime Ministers expressed satisfaction at the growing level of multilateral cooperation between Cambodia and Nepal, and agreed that the representatives of both countries should collaborate more closely on various regional and international fora, including the UN, for peace, stability, sustainable development and shared prosperity.
13. Both leaders jointly addressed the Cambodia-Nepal Business Forum and encouraged economic, trade and investment exchanges between the two countries.
14. Prime Minister K. P. Sharma Oli expressed his deep appreciation to Samdech Prime Minister Hun Sen and the people of Cambodia for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to him, his spouse and the accompanying delegates during their stay in Phnom Penh.
15. The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister of Nepal extended a cordial invitation to Samdech Prime Minister Hun Sen to visit Nepal at his convenience. Samdech Prime Minister Hun Sen accepted the invitation with pleasure, and thanked Prime Minister Oli for the invitation. The dates of the visit would be worked out through diplomatic channels.

## **JOINT UK-NEPAL COMMUNIQUÉ ON THE OCCASION OF THE VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF NEPAL TO THE UNITED KINGDOM**

On the occasion of the visit to the United Kingdom of the Prime Minister of Nepal, Rt. Hon. K P Sharma Oli, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the United Kingdom, Rt. Hon. Mr. Jeremy Hunt MP, and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal, Hon. Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, agreed the following communique.

The United Kingdom and Nepal are long-time partners that have enjoyed diplomatic relations for over 200 years, by far the longest formal relationship Nepal has with any country. Today the relationship is broad, vibrant and diverse. This year we have witnessed progress against our shared objectives, and we commit to continued dialogue on issues of mutual interest.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) of the United Kingdom and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) of Nepal acknowledged the long and distinguished service of Gurkhas in the British Army. The two sides recognised Gurkhas as a vital link in strengthening the bilateral relationship. Going forward, both sides agreed to continue discussion on Gurkha matters.

Both sides discussed the shared objective to strengthen the trade and investment relationship between Britain and Nepal, in line with Nepal's "Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali" agenda. The FCO and MFA agreed on the important contribution the UK makes to supporting Nepal's economic development as the country's largest bilateral donor. Looking ahead, Nepal agreed to seek to improve still further the environment for inward investment and the UK will provide support to encourage potential investors to invest in Nepal. To help deliver this, both sides noted the progress made in negotiations on a Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement, and agreed the aim of it entering into force by 2020. Going forward, the UK welcomed Nepal's desire to obtain a sovereign rating working with UK financial institutions.

Both sides acknowledged Nepal's efforts to graduate from least developed country status at an early date and achieve the sustainable development goals by 2030. The FCO agreed to a strong development partnership that continued to support Nepal's development efforts under the new polity. The MFA on behalf of the Government of Nepal appreciated DFID's work to help the Nepali people including after the 2015 earthquakes through the National Reconstruction Authority. Going forward, both governments recognised each other's strong leadership on climate change issues and agreed to work together, both bilaterally and multilaterally, to tackle this challenge.

The FCO and MFA agreed on the importance of supporting the international rules-based system and multilateralism. They reiterated the commitment of their governments to protecting and promoting human rights in line with international norms and standards, noting both countries were on the UN Human Rights Council. Looking ahead, both sides agreed to focus on tackling human trafficking. Nepal acknowledged the British Prime Minister's leadership of, and commitment to, this agenda. The FCO welcomed Nepal's ambition to ratify the Palermo Protocol in 2019 and the

two sides agreed they will work together on this issue, including through DFID's work in Nepal. Both sides expressed their commitment to freedom of expression and media freedom in line with their laws and regulations. The UK side informed that UK and Canada would host Media Freedom conference in London in July 2019 and requested for Nepal's participation.

Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to building on our strong and enduring partnership. They welcomed efforts to bring Nepali and British young people closer together, welcoming the work of the British Council, which they were pleased was celebrating its 60th anniversary in Nepal. They agreed that other educational initiatives, including the work by UK universities offering degrees in Nepal, the Chevening Scholarship Programme and the British Government's Girls Education projects in Nepal, would support Nepal's development. The UK welcomed Nepal's official recognition of UK A-Level qualifications.

The FCO and the MFA celebrated the strong people-to-people ties between the two countries. They welcomed the Nepal government's work to strengthen its economy by attracting more tourists, including through their VisitNepal2020 Campaign. The FCO also extended its support to make this campaign a success. They were pleased to note the number of visitors to Nepal from the UK had risen to over 60,000. Both sides welcomed the many contributions of the Nepali diaspora to public life in Britain. Both sides appreciated the work of hundreds of civil society organisations and individuals who help keep the relationship between Britain and Nepal vibrant.

The two sides agreed to build on the broad and robust foundation of our past, for an even stronger relationship to tackle the issues that matter to us both in the future.



### III. Agreements/MOUs signed/concluded/acceded

S.N.	Country Name	Agreement/MoU	Remarks
1	Austria	MoU on Hydropower Infrastructure Technology Cooperation between Nepal and Austria	Signed in Vienna, Austria on 22 May 2019
2	Bangladesh	MoU on Power Sector Cooperation	Kathmandu, 10 August 2018
3	Cambodia	Agreement Between the Government of Nepal and the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia on the Exemption of Visa Requirements for Holders of Diplomatic and Official/Service Passports	Signed in Kathmandu on 29 November 2018
4	Cambodia	Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the Establishment of Bilateral Consultation Mechanism Between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Nepal and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the International Cooperation of Cambodia	Signed in Kathmandu on 29 November 2018
5	Cambodia	Memorandum of Understanding Between the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal and the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia on Cultural Cooperation	Signed in Kathmandu on 29 November 2018
6	Cambodia	Memorandum of Understanding on Air Service Agreement Between the Government of Nepal and the Kingdom of Cambodia	Signed in Kathmandu on 29 November 2018
7	Cambodia	Trade and Investment Framework Agreement Between the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal and the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia	Signed in 13 on May 2019 Phnom Penh

8	Cambodia	Memorandum of Understanding between Cambodia Chamber of Commerce and Nepal Chamber of Commerce	Signed in Phnom Penh on 13 May 2019
9	Canada	MoU establishing Bilateral Consultation Mechanism between Foreign Ministries of Nepal and Canada	New York, USA on 24 Sept 2018
10	Canada	MoUs signed between University of Prince Edward Island (UPEI) of Canada and Tribhuvan University (TU) and Kathmandu Engineering College	Signed in Ottawa, Canada on December 2018
11	China	Protocol between the Government of Nepal and the Government of the People's Republic of China on Implementing Agreement on Transit Transport between the Government of Nepal and the Government of the People's Republic of China	Signed in Beijing on 29 April 2019
12	China	Agreement between the Department of Customs, Ministry of Finance, Government of Nepal and the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China on Cooperation and Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters	Signed in Beijing on 29 April 2019
13	China	Agreement between the Government of Nepal and the Government of the People's Republic of China on Preventing the Theft, Clandestine Excavation and Illicit Import and Export of Cultural Property	Signed in Beijing on 29 April 2019
14	China	Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation between the Government of Nepal and the Government of the People's Republic of China	Signed in Beijing on 29 April 2019
15	China	Delivery and Acceptance Certificate for the China Aid Repair and Reinforcement Project of the Existing China	Signed in Beijing on 29 April 2019

		Aid Project in Nepal between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of Nepal	
16.	China	Minutes of Meeting on Strengthening Assistance Cooperation in the Field of Livelihood in the Northern Region of Nepal between China International Development Cooperation Agency and the Ministry of Finance of the Government of Nepal	Signed in Beijing on 29 April 2019
17.	China	Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Cooperation on Standardization between Nepal Bureau of Standards and Metrology (NBSM) of Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies of the Government of Nepal and Standardization Administration of the People's Republic of China	Signed in Beijing on 29 April 2019
18	Finland	MoU on Bilateral Consultation Mechanism between Foreign Ministries of Nepal and Finland	Signed in Kathmandu on 21 June 2019
19	France	Letter of Intent regarding security printing press and satellite	Signed in Paris, France on 5 March 2019
20	Germany	Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI) on the Establishment of Bilateral Consultation Mechanism between the Foreign Ministries of the two countries	Signed in Kathmandu, Nepal on 16 July 2019
21	India	MoU between Nepal and India on Preliminary Engineering Cum Traffic Survey of the Broad Gauge Line between Raxual and Kathmandu	Kathmandu, 31 August 2018
22	Japan	Exchange of Notes on revising the Attachment of Air Service Agreement between Nepal and Japan	Signed in Kathmandu on 9 Jan 2019

23	Japan	Memorandum of Cooperation between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Nepal on Conducting Bilateral Consultations	Signed in Kathmandu on 9 Jan 2019
24	Japan	Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare and the National Police Agency of Japan and the Ministry of Labour and Social Security of the Government of Nepal on <i>A Basic Framework for Information Partnership for Proper Operation of the System Pertaining to Foreign Human Resources with the Status of Residence of "Specified Skilled Workers</i>	Signed in Kathmandu on 25 March 2019
25	Mauritius	Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Nepal and the Government of the Republic of Mauritius on the Recruitment and Employment of Workers from Nepal	Signed in Geneva on 11 June 2019
26	Malasiya	Memorandum of Understanding Between the Government of Nepal and the Government of Malaysia on the Recruitment, Employment and Repatriation of Workers	Signed in Kathmandu on 29 October 2018
27	Myanmar	Memorandum of Understanding on the establishment of Bilateral Consultation Mechanism (BCM) Between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Nepal and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar	Signed in Kathmandu on 30 July 2018
28	Myanmar	Agreement Between the Government of Nepal and the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on the Exemption of Visa requirements for Holders of Diplomatic and Official (Special) Passports	Signed in Kathmandu on 30 July 2018

29	Myanmar	Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies of Government of Nepal and the Ministry of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on Cooperation on Trade and Investment	Signed in Kathmandu on 30 November 2018
30	Portugal	MoU on Establishment of Bilateral Consultation Mechanism between Foreign Ministries of Nepal and Portugal	Signed in Lisbon, Portugal on 25 July 2018
31	Qatar	Agreement on Abolishing Visa Requirements for the Holders of Diplomatic, Special and Official Passports between the Government of Nepal and the Government of the State of Qatar	Signed in Doha, Qatar on 30 October 2018
32	Qatar	Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Agriculture and Food Security between the Government of Nepal and the Government of the State of Qatar	Signed in Doha, Qatar on 30 October 2018
33	Qatar	Letter of Intent on Security Cooperation between the General Directorate of Public Security of the State of Qatar and Nepal Police, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of Nepal	Signed in Doha, Qatar on 30 October 2018
24	Spain	MoU on the establishment of sister city relations between Lumbini Cultural Municipality and Madrid Municipality	Signed in Madrid, Spain on 1 November 2018
35	Spain	MoU was signed between Nepal Chamber of Commerce and Madrid Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Service	Signed in Madrid, Spain on 1 November 2018
36	Sri Lanka	MoU between Institute of Foreign Affairs (IFA) of Nepal and Bandaranaike International Training Institute (BIDTI) of Sri Lanka	Kathmandu, 1 September 2018

37	Sri Lanka	MoU between Government of Nepal and Government of Sri Lanka on Cooperation for Youth Development	Kathmandu, 1 September 2018
38	Switzerland	MoU on Employment Opportunities for Dependent Persons of Diplomats	Signed in Davos, Switzerland on 24 January 2019
39	Thailand	Memorandum of Understanding on Air Services Agreement between the Government of Nepal and the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand	Signed in Bangkok on 2 November 2018
40	United Arab Emirates	Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Nepal and the Government of the United Arab Emirates in the Recruitment, Employment and Repatriation of Workers	Signed in Geneva on 14 June 2019
41	Vietnam	Agreement Between the Government of Nepal and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on Exemption of Visa Requirements for Holders of Diplomatic or Official Passports	Signed in Hanoi on 11 May 2019
42	Vietnam	Memorandum of Understanding Between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam on the Establishment of Bilateral Consultation Mechanism	Signed in Hanoi on 11 May 2019
43	Vietnam	Letter of Intent on Negotiating and Signing the Framework Agreement on Trade and Investment Cooperation	Signed in Hanoi on 11 May 2019
44	University of Peace	International Agreement for the Establishment Of the University of Peace	Through Accession on 25 August 2018

## IV. Bilateral Meetings and Consultation Mechanisms

Country	Mechanism	Venue and Date
Austria	Nepal-Austria Foreign Minister Level Talks	Kathmandu 21-23 February 2019
Australia	The first meeting of Bilateral Consultation Mechanism between the Foreign Ministries of Nepal and Australia	Kathmandu August 16, 2018
Bangladesh	Nepal and Bangladesh Minister level bilateral meeting on Energy and Power	Kathmandu 10 August 2018
Bangladesh	Agreement between Nepal and Bangladesh on Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income	Kathmandu 5 March 2019
Bangladesh	The first meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG) on Nepal-Bangladesh Cooperation in the Field of Power Sector	Kathmandu, 3 December 2018
Bangladesh	The first meeting of the Joint Steering Committee (JSC) on Nepal-Bangladesh Cooperation in the Field of Power Sector	Kathmandu 4 December 2018
Bangladesh	The First Meeting of Nepal-Bangladesh Joint Group of Customs Officials	Kathmandu 12-13 December 2018
Belgium	Nepal- Belgium Foreign Minister Level Talks	Brussels 26 July 2018

Canada	The first meeting of Nepal-Canada Bilateral Consultation Mechanism	Ottawa 4 October 2018
China	The 12 <sup>th</sup> meeting of Nepal-China Bilateral Consultation Mechanism	Beijing 12-15 December 2018
	The first meeting of Mechanism for Facilitation on the Implementation of China-Nepal Cooperation Programmes and Projects in Nepal	Kathmandu 3 December 2018
	The Third Nepal-China Railway Co-operation Meeting	..... 10 December 2018
	The Fourth Nepal-China Railway Co-operation Meeting	Beijing 20 June 2019
	The third bilateral meeting on Border Law Enforcement Cooperation between the Public Security Department of TAR of China and the Ministry of Home Affairs of Nepal.	Kathmandu 3 December 2018
	First Joint Implementation Mechanism (JIM) Meeting on Nepal-China Cooperation on Energy Sector.	Kathmandu 28 September 2018
	<i>Nepal–China's Tibet Trade Facilitation Committee (NTTFC)</i>	Lhasa 2-3 July 2019
Costa Rica	Bilateral Talks between Prime Minister Mr. KP Sharma Oli and President of Costa Rica Costa Rica Mr. Carlos Alvarado Quesada	San Jose 1 October 2018



Denmark	First Meeting of Nepal-Denmark Bilateral Consultation Mechanism	Copenhagen 11 June 2018
France	Nepal-France Foreign Secretary Level bilateral meeting	Paris 12 November 2018
Germany	Nepal and Germany first meeting of Bilateral Consultation Mechanism	Kathmandu 16 July 2019
India	Foreign Secretary Level video conference meeting between Nepal and India	Kathmandu 13 August 2018
	Foreign Secretary Level video conference meeting between Nepal and India	Kathmandu 21 September 2018
	Foreign Secretary Level video conference meeting between Nepal and India	Kathmandu 31 December 2018
	Foreign Secretary Level video conference meeting between Nepal and India	Kathmandu 11 July 2019
	Nepal-India Foreign Secretary Level bilateral meeting	Kathmandu 28 March 2019
	The sixth and seventh meeting of Nepal-India Oversight Mechanism	Kathmandu 18 July 2018 and 7 July 2019
	The Ninth meeting of the India-Nepal Survey Officials' Committee (SOC)	Dehradun India

		11-13 October 2018
	Tenth Meeting of Nepal-India Boundary Survey Officials Committee (SOC)	Kathmandu 26-28 June 2019
	The Fifth Meeting of Nepal-India Boundary Working Group (BWG)	Kathmandu 19-21 September 2018
	The Seventh meeting of the Joint Agriculture Working Group (JAWG) between Nepal and India	Kathmandu 16-17 August 2018
	Nepal-India Joint Secretary Level Meeting to finalize the MOU on supply of chemical fertilizer on Government-to-Government basis.	Kathmandu 14-15 January 2019
	The first meeting on Inland waterways connectivity between Nepal and India	Kathmandu 15-16 July 2018
	The Second meeting on Inland Waterways Connectivity between Nepal and India	Kathmandu 7-8 March 2019
	The Sixth meeting of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) on Cross Border Railway Links along the Nepal-India Border	Kathmandu 9 July 2018
	The Third Joint Working Group meeting	Kathmandu 10 July 2018
	The Third Comprehensive Review Meeting of Nepal-India Rail Services Agreement	New Delhi 6-7 June 2019

The Sixth Line of Credit (LOC) Project Review Meeting between Nepal and India	Kathmandu 11 July 2018
The Seventh Nepal-India Line of Credit Review Meeting	New Delhi 3 June 2019
The First Meeting for the Comprehensive Review of Nepal-India Treaty of Trade	New Delhi 9 August 2018
The 19th Director General Level Talks on Customs Co-operation between Nepal and India	Kathmandu 19-20 November 2018
The sixth Meeting of Nepal-India Joint Standing Technical Committee (JSTC)	New Delhi 9-10 January 2019
The Sixth meeting of Nepal-India Joint Steering Committee (JSC)/Joint Working Group (JWG) on Power Trade and Cooperation	Pokhara 23-24 January 2019
The eighth Meeting of Nepal-India Joint Committee on Water Resources (JCWR)	New Delhi 11 January 2019
The thirteenth meeting of Nepal-India Joint Committee on Inundation and Flood Management (JCIFM)	Kathmandu 27-31 May 2019
The Ninth meeting of Nepal-India Joint Committee on Kosi and Gandak Projects (JCKGP)	Kathmandu 28-29 November 2018

	The Second meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG) on Tourism Cooperation between Nepal and India	Kathmandu 6 July 2018
	A meeting between Civil Aviation Authorities of Nepal and India	Kathmandu 14-16 June 2018
	The Third meeting of the Working Group on Nepal-India Cross Border Transport Facilitation	New Delhi 20 July 2018
	The First meeting of the Joint Project Monitoring Committee (JPMC)	Kathmandu 11 March 2019
	The second meeting of the Joint Project Monitoring Committee (JPMC) on Strengthening of Road Infrastructure in Terai areas of Nepal	Kathmandu 06 May 2019
	The Third Nepal-India Coordination Meeting between the Inspector General (IG), Armed Police Force (APF) of Nepal, and the Director General (DG), Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) of India	New Delhi 7-10 August 2018
	Thirteenth meeting of the Nepal-India Bilateral Consultative Group on Security Issues (BCGSI)	Kathmandu 14 December 2018
Malaysia	The First Joint Working Group (JWG) Meeting on the Recruitment, Employment and Repatriation of Workers	Kathmandu 29 October 2018
Magnolia	First Meeting of Bilateral Consultation Mechanism	Kathmandu 31 October 2018

Myanmar	The first meeting of the Bilateral Consultation Mechanism between Nepal and Myanmar	in Kathmandu 30 July 2018
Poland	The Bilateral Consultations between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Nepal and Poland	Kathmandu 20 November 2018
Portugal	Nepal-Portugal Foreign Minister Level Meeting	Lisbon 25 July 2018
South Korea	The fourth meeting of Bilateral Consultation Mechanism between Nepal and the Republic of Korea	Kathmandu 23 July 2018
Sri Lanka	MoU between the Institute of Foreign Affairs of Nepal (IFA) and Bandaranaike International Diplomatic Training Institute (BDTI)	Kathmandu 1 September 2018
Switzerland	Second Meeting of Nepal-Switzerland Bilateral Consultations	Bern 14 June 2018
Turkey	The first meeting of Nepal-Turkey Political Consultation Mechanism	Kathmandu 18 April 2019
United Kingdom	Nepal-UK Prime Minister Level Bilateral Talks	London 10-12 June 2019
	Fourth meeting of the Bilateral Consultation Mechanism between Nepal and the United Kingdom	London 15 November 2018
United States of America	Nepal –US Foreign Minister Level Bilateral Talks	Washington DC 18 December 2018

## V. Major Statements

### STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT MRS. BIDYA DEVI BHANDARI AT COP24

3 December 2018 Katowice, Poland

Mr. Chairperson,

Nepal is a least developed country, comprised of the Himalayas, mountains and the plains known as the Terai.

We have been bearing the brunt of disproportionate impacts of climate change despite being a low carbon-emitting country.

Himalayan glaciers are melting; snow-capped mountains are becoming dark and dull; the possibility of glacial lake outbursts is high; and the river- basin system is adversely affected.

Avalanches, floods and landslides, and droughts have become more erratic than ever before.

The rural drinking-water system has been disturbed because of the undesirable impacts on natural resources.

We are compelled to spend significant amount of our national income in addressing disasters-induced problems.

Main productive land of Terai, ‘the granary’ of Nepal, is frequently affected by floods and inundation. Even more severe is the impact on agriculture sector.

Such disasters and incidences have more direct bearing on women and indigent people. We know the hardship of rural women, who are compelled to spend hours to fetch water for household consumption.

We feel as if we have been penalized for the mistakes we never made.

I would like to reiterate that it is incumbent upon the international community to ensure that justice is done.

We believe that the commitment to maintain the threshold of 1.5 degree Celsius as outlined in the recent IPCC Special Report will further encourage the world community to traverse resolutely in the path of low carbon emission.

We are a country that has been immensely contributing to controlling global warming.

Himalayan Ranges and high mountains including the Mt. Everest contribute to keeping air and water cool, refreshing and pure.

In fact, mountains and oceans form organic linkages to influence climate and weather patterns.

These mountains melt slowly yet continuously to recharge and humidify the land.

This water recharging system has a prime importance in controlling the temperature of the earth.

Value of such natural phenomenon should be realized by the high carbon emitting countries as well as the developed ones and ensure that the environment of mountainous countries is not exacerbated.

We are effortful in minimizing the vulnerability of climate change through the design and implementation of model projects as well as through measures such as National and Local Adaptation and Mitigation Plans of Action.

With a view to effectively implement the Paris Agreement, we are planning to review the Policy and update Nationally Determined Contributions to make them more relevant in the present context. A long-term strategy is being formulated for their implementation.

We have already started the use of electric vehicles at the President's Office and we have a policy to extend this to other areas as well.

The Government of Nepal has initiated the President Chure Conservation Program with a view to implementing, in an integrated way, the environment conservation and livelihood programs in the Chure area, popularly known as Shiwalik in Nepal. We believe that this project will contribute to the protection and conservation of the environment of not only the Chure area but also the neighboring countries.

We are confident that the support and cooperation of the international community will be there in mobilizing knowledge, skills, technology and climate finance in our efforts to promoting study of Himalayan hydrological sciences, supporting sustainable mountain economy, pursuing economic and social development for shifting into renewable energy, employment generation, and ensure access of all Nepal is to clean energy.

We also believe that climate finance is critical also for developing e-mobility, reducing vulnerability of women and the poor, improving public health, and promotion of forests and natural system in the form of carbon sink.

Nepal remains committed to make the project implementation climate friendly and development efforts compatible with the Sustainable Development Goals.

It is our collective responsibility to protect our own and that of the future generations' right to live in clean and safe natural environment.

Nepal is confident that CoP 24 will find pathways for the effective and faithful implementation of the Paris Accord.

Finally, I hope that this Conference will be able to make significant contributions to the global campaign of environment protection and conservation. I would like to extend my best wishes for the success of this Conference.

I thank you all.



**STATEMENT BY THE RT. HON. PRESIDENT AT THE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING OF  
THE SECOND BELT AND ROAD FORUM FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

26 April 2019 Beijing

H.E. Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have brought to you all warm greetings and best wishes from the Government and people of Nepal, the land of Buddha and Sagarmatha, the highest peak on earth.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to H.E. Xi Jinping for the kind invitation to attend this important event and for the warm hospitality accorded to us. I would also like to congratulate the Government and people of China on the occasion of 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of founding of the People's Republic of China.

The world today is at the cusp of profound transformation. In many parts of the world, poverty has been reduced, access to health and education has become easier, and many economies are heading towards prosperity. The unprecedented scale of technological revolution has opened a vista of possibilities.

Those achievements would have been impossible were it not for cooperation.

Those gains would have been unthinkable were it not for collaboration.

However, the new as well as old challenges are conspicuous. The distribution of wealth is strikingly uneven. Promises of development have not yielded for many. Millions of people are still trapped in the vicious cycle of poverty.

The very foundation of cooperation and collaboration is facing scepticism. Protectionism and isolationist tendencies have surfaced.

Such regressive response will not only jeopardize the hard-earned gains, but also be unjust for future generations.

We have to acknowledge that the existence of poverty in any corner of the world can be a threat to the whole world.

Therefore, proliferation of several challenges calls for more collaboration, not less.

Unfinished pursuit of development calls for more cooperation, not less.

The quest for brighter and better future calls for more connectivity, not less.

Asia is a powerhouse of the world economy. For the future of global prosperity, the region is well poised to play a pivotal role. A region with many rich civilizations, Asia's future should be that of inclusivity and partnership.

The far-sighted vision of President Xi to build a community of shared future for mankind through Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) carries a huge potential. It is an important framework for collaboration, for cooperation and for connectivity.

Mutual efforts for mutual benefit; inclusive development for fair and equitable world order; and the green development for the good health of the people and planet embody its spirit.

It lays emphasis on boosting connectivity, developing infrastructure, connecting markets and enhancing cooperation among the nations in diverse sectors in the region and beyond.

It promotes openness in place of isolation, cooperation in place of confrontation and win-win cooperation in place of zero-sum game.

Vis-à-vis the huge resource gap in global level, BRI can play an instrumental role in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals.

And, BRI is the engine for prosperous future where not a single country is excluded from the fruit of development.

For a landlocked country like Nepal, connectivity is of paramount importance in its socio-economic development. With enhanced connectivity, vast opportunities for trade, investment, tourism and people-to-people relations will open up.

The development of 'Trans-Himalayan Multi-Dimensional Connectivity Network', including Nepal-China Cross-Border Railway, will boost connectivity not only between Nepal and China but other countries in the region.

After a prolonged political transition Nepal has achieved political stability. Our objective ahead is to bring about visible transformation in the living standard of our people.

Our national aspiration is guided by the motto ***Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali***. Our immediate goal is to graduate from LDC status. We intend to become a middle-income country by achieving the Sustainable Development Goals well before 2030.

We would like to enhance bilateral as well as multilateral collaboration and cooperation with neighbours, other friendly countries including development partners to overcome our development challenges.

To conclude, while expressing firm conviction that the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation will be successful in building up our concerted efforts for a just, fair, equitable, inclusive and rules-based world order for lasting global peace and prosperity, I would like to express my best wishes for the grand success of this Forum.

Thank you!

**ADDRESS BY RT. HON. MRS. BIDYA DEVI BHANDARI AT A ROUNDTABLE ON  
“PROMOTING GREEN AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT TO IMPLEMENT  
THE UN 2030 AGENDA”**

27 April 2019 Beijing

Your Excellency President Xi Jinping

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Your Excellency President for your insightful and visionary remarks at the opening ceremony yesterday.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is for the people, for our planet and for prosperity.

This vision is for the kind of development which is transformative, inclusive and equitable. Indeed, sustainable development without inclusivity will be a mere illusion.

The realization of this ambitious vision is possible only through an enhanced level of co-operation among nations.

It is with this vision that Nepal has embodied the Sustainable Development Goals in its domestic policies, plans and programmes. We are in favor of strengthening the mandate of the United Nations for development.

This is a happy coincidence that the spirit of the Belt and Road Initiative, which aims to achieve development and prosperity leaving no one behind, corresponds with Agenda 2030.

Belt and Road Initiative, today, is becoming a key driver for poverty alleviation, employment generation, infrastructure building and industrial transformation.

In view of widening financial gap, it will significantly help many countries to implement the Agenda 2030.

The clock of caution is ticking louder when it comes to climate change. Unsustainable patterns of production and consumption have accelerated environmental degradation. Unfortunately, countries like Nepal are bearing the brunt of climate change despite their negligible emissions. Women and underprivileged community have been its main victims. The only way forward is development of green economy. The time has come to review the development models which are detrimental from environmental perspectives. The research findings have indicated that our

posterity will not only face uncertainty but their future will be jeopardized if we fail to maintain the ecological balance of the planet.

Sustainable development under this circumstance will only be an illusion if such a situation is not altered. In this context, while balancing all the three components of sustainable development, the Belt and Road Initiative can serve as an important medium in transforming to clean-energy and low-carbon pathways of economy.

Similarly, cooperation in emerging industries like information technology can generate substantial growth. To minimize the environmental risks, scientific researches and solutions based on them should be sought.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Nepal is a country of the high Himalayas. These high peaks serve as the heat sink during the summer and heat source in winter. Forming an integral part of the organically linked ecosystem, they are common heritage of humanity.

Also, there is tremendous potential in developing clean energy in Nepal through hydropower. It can greatly contribute to the green development of Nepal as well as its neighbours.

It is a matter of happiness that Nepal, which was connected to the southern route of the ancient Silk Road, is now linked with Belt and Road Initiative. We believe that this Initiative will support the process of economic transformation of landlocked Nepal by expanding its connectivity networks and integrating its economy into the global market.

In addition, we expect that Belt and Road Initiative will greatly contribute to eradicating poverty, deepening and expanding trade, revolutionizing industries, creating jobs and improving the living conditions of the people by increasing economic opportunities.

There is a Chinese maxim: *“building roads is the first step towards prosperity”*. We are now creating the necessary foundations to realize the long-term goal of development and prosperity. In this context, we have laid primary emphasis on the development of Trans-Himalayan Multidimensional Connectivity Network under Belt and Road Initiative.

The objective of “peace and cooperation, openness and inclusiveness, mutual learning and mutual benefit,” which is the spirit of the ancient Silk Road, and embraced by Belt and Road Initiative, will help us realize the SDGs.

Thank you!

**STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER K P SHARMA OLI AT THE 73<sup>rd</sup> SESSION OF  
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

New York, 27 September 2018

Madam President,

I extend warm felicitations to you on your election to the presidency of this Assembly.

The outgoing President deserves our appreciation for successfully steering the Assembly's work.

We commend the Secretary General, Mr. Antonio Guterres, for the dedication, commitment and leadership with which he has been serving the Organization.

As we commemorate the 100th birth anniversary of Nelson Mandela, I would like to pay my profound respect to him and for the cause he fought for. An iconic figure, he was a great human soul and remains a source of inspiration for peace, justice, harmony, forgiveness and reconciliation.

This year we have lost an outstanding diplomat and visionary Secretary General Kofi Annan. I also pay sincere tributes for the tremendous contributions he made to promote peace, development and human rights in the world.

Madam President,

I bring greetings and best wishes from the Land of Buddha and Sagarmatha also known as Mount Everest for the success of this session.

Since I addressed from this podium in 2006, Nepal has undergone historic political transformation.

Through dialogue and deliberations, through mutual respect and accommodation, we steered a uniquely successful home-grown, nationally led and owned peace process.

It was about peaceful transformation of an armed conflict.

It was about restructuring of the State and promoting unity in diversity;

It was about making Nepali people truly sovereign and as source of state power; and

It was about institutionalizing and consolidating all those achievements in a democratic constitution through a popularly elected Constituent Assembly.

Despite the difficulties in the wake of devastating earthquakes, the political leaders rose to the occasion with a common resolve to promulgate the constitution in September 2015, thereby fulfilling the seven-decade long people's aspiration to write their own constitution.

The Constitution of Nepal not only consolidates democratic polity under a federal republican order, but also embodies extensive rights and freedoms of the people. Separation of power, checks and balances, the rule of law, independence of judiciary, periodic elections, inclusive and proportional representation are the defining features of the Constitution.

Our vision is of a comprehensive democracy that empowers individuals not only politically but also socially, economically and culturally.

Implementing the Constitution was another paramount task before us. We accomplished this historic task last year through free, fair and impartial elections of federal, provincial and local levels with record turnout and the participation of the people from all sections of our society. Most importantly, the elections brought 41 percent of women into elected bodies. We remain committed to bridging the gap of the remaining 9 percent.

The elections not only ensured democratic rights of Nepali people in the widest possible manner, it has also produced a strong government in many years. The Government that I head has over three-fourth support of the parliament. Governments in the provinces also enjoy strong majority support. We have achieved much needed political stability through these landmark elections.

With these historic achievements, we have laid the foundation towards creating an egalitarian and just society where all citizens are treated equally and receive equal protection and opportunities. Social justice remains at the center of our polity.

The United Nations and the international community supported our peace process for which we are grateful.

Nepal's case is a unique example of peaceful and democratic transformation. It is a telling testimony that dialogue triumphs the differences; and ballot triumphs the bullets.

We believe that what Nepal has achieved in conflict transformation can be an inspiring success story for many people longing for peace in different parts of the world. We are willing to share our experiences and provide our insights.

With hard lessons learned in the arduous journey of democratic transition, we have now emerged as a confident nation, capable of sustaining political gains and undertaking a course for economic transformation. Cognizant of the need for accelerating the process of development, my Government has set a vision for 'Prosperous Nepal and Happy Nepali'.

We will realize this vision with the right mix of prudent utilization of natural resources and the optimal mobilization and management of human resources that we are endowed with. We count on continued goodwill, support and cooperation from the international community in our development endeavours.

Our foreign policy guides us to maintain amity with all and enmity with none. It has shaped our independent outlook on global issues which we consider on merit basis.

We believe that regional and global efforts complement our national development efforts.

In line with our foreign policy priority to regional cooperation, we have recently hosted the 4th Summit meeting of BIMSTEC. We would like to see a revitalized SAARC as an important regional organization.

Excellencies,

The world today is at an important juncture; with a unique juxtaposition of perils and promises.

Challenges ranging from poverty, terrorism, climate change, food insecurity, forced displacement and natural disasters to arms race continue to confront the global community. Intra-state conflicts have taken heavy toll on millions of lives. For the first time in decades, world hunger is rising after a prolonged decline.

In many regions, peace remains obscure. Inequality within nations, as well as among them, is increasing. Countries have failed to adopt sustainable production and consumption patterns.

In this context, the theme of the general debate “Making the United Nations relevant to all people: Global leadership and shared responsibilities for peaceful, equitable and sustainable societies” resonates well the need of our time.

Madam President, Nepal supports the seven priority areas that you eloquently outlined in your inaugural address to this Assembly earlier this week.

I hope the current session will seriously deliberate on these priority areas with seriousness and urgency they deserve. Here lies our political will and determination.

With this commitment we must ensure that the voice of the people struggling for their rights, liberty, freedom and justice in various parts of the world, including Syria, Yemen, Palestine, and many other places must be heard and addressed.

Madam President,

The pursuit of making the UN relevant to all people is well captured in the philosophy of ‘leaving no one behind’.



In its third year, global efforts in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda appear too few and far insufficient. Needless to say, the least developed countries are the battleground on which the 2030 Agenda will be won or lost.

Development in LDCs appears dismal despite a record performance of global economy. International support measures are failing to make a dent. Implementation of the internationally agreed commitments made in their favour is far below our expectation.

Reaching furthest behind first is not a luxury. It is not a charity either. It is an international obligation, a duty and social responsibility.

The impact will be fully realized only when external support measures respect national ownership and leadership, are aligned with national priorities, come through national system, while they help build productive capacity, job creation and develop human resources.

Only through smooth access to market, removal of trade barriers, injecting finance and investment, building capacity and transfer of technology and overcoming the infrastructural bottlenecks can enable LDCs and LLDCs take path to sustainable development and integrate themselves in the global value chains.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

When it comes to climate change; the clock of caution is ticking loud.

The impact of climate change burdens the poorest and the most vulnerable countries, like my own country Nepal, despite their negligible emission. We cannot remain a bystander when snow-clad mountains, known as water towers of the world, are receding and glaciers are retreating, erratic weather patterns causing floods and inundation in the plains. It is an unpleasant irony that we have been victim of the catastrophes that we did not contribute for its causality.

The impacts of climate change on mountain and small island countries have been felt as existential threat. The loss of lives, properties and bio-diversity, and increasing phenomenon of calamities are becoming untenable.

A matching and robust response is required. We cannot evade from the responsibility nor will there be any excuse for inaction. We must act decisively in ensuring climate justice that respects the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. To make this happen, international cooperation and collaboration for adaption and mitigation is sine qua non. The Paris Agreement must be implemented in its entirety and good faith.

Madam President,

The health and wellbeing of our children and youths is an investment for future. Delivering quality education, imparting skills, and spurring innovation can make a virtuous composite to enable youths to be relevant and be able to contribute to society and nation building.

We must support for the full development of their potentials, their creativity and energy to flourish. Inculcating entrepreneurial spirit and creating decent job opportunities for the youths can fuel economic development and help positively transform our societies.

At the same time, we must also inculcate them with the civil and moral values so that they become a force for harmony and tolerance in society.

Madam President,

The frontiers of technologies are ever expanding, and they have been major driving force for societal transformation. But the digital dividend is unevenly distributed, while the digital divide is widening.

Technology has been a powerful agent of change and transformation. At the same time, technological revolution is disruptive. The developing countries, especially LDCs, are struggling to cope with the new modes of production and consumption. We must create an environment to ensure easy access to affordable technology and free the barriers for their transfer. This will provide a level playing field to all countries to benefit and propel economic growth through new technologies.

This year, the UN has taken boldest of the reform initiatives in decades. The cross-pillar restructuring of the organization gives us an important opportunity to strengthen its development pillar and prove its efficiency in delivery.

We believe that the repositioned UN development system will better deliver on 2030 Agenda.

To ensure a sound system, learning the new methods by a new generation of Country Teams is important. But more than that, unlearning the old habits – that implored us to undertake this reform – is equally important.

What matters also in the reform is the transformation of the culture. The new culture must have accountability, transparency and national ownership at its core.

Nepal welcomes the reforms undertaken in peace and security architecture as well as management of the organization. UN should reflect the mosaic of its membership, and achieve greater efficiency and effectiveness.

The Security Council reform is long overdue. Any reform must reflect the current realities and ensure justice to historically under-represented and developing countries.

Nepal reaffirms its principled stand for a general and complete disarmament of all weapons of mass destruction.

In this context, we welcome the recent efforts made by the United States and two Koreas towards denuclearization and peace and stability of the Korean peninsula.

Nepal welcomes the Secretary General's Agenda for Disarmament with a hope of renewed impetus to disarmament. Nepal commends the beginning of deliberations under the 'Kathmandu Process' for developing innovative confidence building measures in the Asia Pacific region.

No region is immune from the menace of terrorism. Nepal strongly condemns all acts of terrorism, committed by whomsoever and for whatever purposes. Nepal calls for an early conclusion of a comprehensive convention against terrorism.

Madam President,

Never has been the issue of human mobility so prominent in the agenda of the United Nations. Nepal looks forward to the December Conference for the formal adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

Ensuring human rights and wellbeing of all migrant workers remain our priority. Nepal believes that the Compact will serve this purpose and make migration work for all.

Nepal has hosted thousands of refugees for decades on a humanitarian ground. The international community must uphold the refugees' right to return to their homeland safely and with full dignity.

Madam President,

The complexities and intractability of global conflicts render the current thrust on conflict prevention even more important. Mediation, an under-utilised tool, can be applicable in all phases of the conflict continuum.

Nepal recently marked the six decades of partnership for peace with the UN. Nepal has responded to every call, even at the shortest notice and without national caveats.

Nepal welcomes the Secretary General's initiative of 'Action for Peacekeeping' and has endorsed the Declaration on Peacekeeping Operations. Troops and police contributing countries must be given fair opportunities to serve at the leadership positions both in the headquarters and the field missions.

A sustained partnership for capacity building of peacekeepers and providing for their safety and security can enhance performance of peace operations. Nepal condemns attacks on peacekeepers. Ending the indignity of sexual exploitation and abuse is a must.

Nonetheless, peace missions alone cannot substitute the home-grown preventive as well as conflict resolution measures. Our own experience tells that peacekeeping cannot do what the politically negotiated settlements can.

Excellencies,

Nepal's commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights is total and unflinching. We hold that development, democracy and respect for human rights as interdependent and mutually reinforcing.

As a member of the Human Rights Council, we will continue to play our constructive role to deliver on Council's mandates.

The ongoing transitional justice process in Nepal respects the comprehensive peace accord as well as the ground reality for sustaining peace and delivering justice. We will not allow impunity in serious violations of human rights and humanitarian laws.

Madam President,

We are living in an uncertain world. Cold-war rivalries are re-surfacing. Trade tensions are building up. Multilateralism is being questioned.

The Secretary General's opening statement largely captures the realities of contemporary world and the sentiment of the Member States; be it in the field of peace and security or in sustainable development, climate change, migration and technology.

We underscore the centrality of the United Nations as the most legitimate multilateral forum to deliberate on the challenges that we all confront globally. It is the obligation of all Member States to preserve the sanctity of multilateralism and uphold respect for international law. The problems that we confront today at global scale can only be overcome by global collaboration and partnership in absolute trust and confidence.

We are yet to make international system truly inclusive that promotes fairness, equality and justice for all states, bigger or smaller.

Before I conclude, Madam President, let me reiterate Nepal's profound commitment to the principles and purposes enshrined in the UN Charter. We remain as firm as we have been in past 63 years since we joined this organization.

The onus to give direction to the world lies on us. Our collective wisdom and leadership should aim at the realization of aspiration of all for peace and prosperity.

Let us make a collective resolve that the 21st century history will not be written as a history of confrontation and conflict; of poverty, exclusion and under-development; of injustice and exploitation.

It should rather be a history of cooperation and harmony; of prosperity, inclusion and development; and of justice and fairness.

Thank you

**REMARKS BY PRIME MINISTER MR. K P SHARMA OLI ON PEACE,  
DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT: AT THE ASIA SOCIETY**

25 September 2018 New York

Thank you, Mr. Tom Nagorski, for the kind words of introduction.  
The Hon'ble Kevin Rudd, Former Prime Minister of Australia  
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen:

I begin by thanking the Asia Society for having me here today. I am also delighted to have former Prime Minister Rudd with us.

Today, I stand before you to share my thoughts on peace, democracy and development. Nepali people have emerged through various struggles and transformations, at different junctures of history.

At one point of time, our forefathers fought against the imperialistic forces and our sovereignty and independence was preserved, by their courage, and patriotism. The generation of my parents, who were ordinary peasants, had to fight to free themselves from the clutches of feudalism and oppressive regime. Their struggle uprooted the despotic family rule of Ranas.

And, my generation had to fight against an autocratic monarchy. This was our final assault on an illiberal and undemocratic regime.

Now, the course of Nepal's political history has changed. We are a democratic republic. But our fight is continuing in a different form; as a fight against poverty, underdevelopment and backwardness.

In the course of history, our political gains have not come without heavy price. Several compatriots made ultimate sacrifice and got martyrdom. Many lived in political exile while others were brutalized and suppressed.

I feel a bit emotional when I recall those dark 14 years that I spent in jail, including four years of solitary confinement. My crime was that I fought against autocratic regime. But this never deterred, rather emboldened me to continue the struggle.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As a result of our sustained struggle, democracy was restored in 1990. However, our fight for full-fledged democracy continued. We had never relented in our efforts. Nor was there any complacency towards our ultimate goal of a progressive democratic republic.

An armed conflict that began in 1996 was successfully resolved through a peace accord signed in November 2006.

Key to this process was the famous 12-point agreement forged in November 2005. I was among those who played an important role in forging consensus to advance this process and bring the rebellion force to a negotiating table.

This brought the seven party political alliance and the rebellion force together to mount a combined people's movement against an absolute monarch who had snatched people's rights through unconstitutional means.

The ensuing result forced the monarch to capitulate. The armed conflict ended, and peace process began. The restored parliament clipped the wings of the ruling monarchy and suspended it until it was finally abolished two years later by a democratically elected Constituent Assembly.

The Constituent Assembly, was highly inclusive having representation from all gender, castes, tribes, linguistic groups, faith communities, cultures, geographical length and breadth of the country.

Dear Friends,

After 7 years of consultations and deliberations, arguments and debates, demands and pressures, peaceful agitation and campaigning, a highly progressive and democratic constitution was finally written, for the first time by people's representatives.

As a leader of the second largest political party of that time I had an important responsibility to steer the process to a successful conclusion.

Finally, the Constitution was promulgated on 20 September 2015. It has finally settled the political issues that the country confronted for a long period of time.

This was a watershed moment in the political history of modern Nepal.

I believe that the future generations we may not have to go through the similar course of struggle for rights and freedoms anymore.

Through the Constitution we consolidated democratic polity, republican order, periodic elections, universally recognized human rights, separation of power with checks and balances, rule of law, independent judiciary, and inclusive and proportional representation system.

Implementation of the constitution is as much important as its promulgation. I had the privilege of serving the nation as the first Prime Minister under the new constitution. It was thus incumbent upon my government to take decisive steps to implement the constitution as per the roadmap it has provided.

The Constitution came into full implementation after the free and fair democratic elections held last year for the federal, provincial and local levels. With a historic electoral turnout, the elections resulted in 41 percent of women's representation, and formation of stable and democratic governments at all three tiers of the federation.

The Government I head enjoys three-fourth support of the parliament. The 'Policies and Programmes' of my Government were unanimously endorsed by the parliament, an exercise seen rarely in a competitive democracy. This proves that the fellow Nepalis reposed trust in our leadership and our ability to deliver.

Dear Friends,

We steered a successful peace process through inclusive political dialogues and deliberations and spirit of accommodation.

Ours was a home-grown, nationally led and owned peace process. In the process:

- We managed to reconcile competing demands and aspirations of our diverse population;
- We ensured equal participation of all stakeholders and heard their voice;
- We recognized the important role of women in conflict resolution and peace process;
- We transformed state structures and institutions to mirror the mosaic of our society; and
- We brought the government closer to the people through restructuring of the State.

The major thrust of the peace process has been to promote reconciliation in society healing the wounds of conflict period.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have a clear vision for the development of the country. I am aware of our strengths, challenges and limitations.

To sustain the political gains and deliver on the development dividend to our people, my Government has set a long-term goal of "Prosperous Nepal and Happy Nepali".

To realize this goal, we must:

- Eradicate poverty,
- Eliminate inequality and discrimination,
- Create employment opportunities,
- Ensure social justice,



- Promote good governance, and
- Ensure effective service delivery,

Our aim is to attain a comprehensive democracy that empowers individuals in all spheres of national life- political, economic, social and cultural. I have a conviction that full realization of SDGs, makes this possible.

Nepal is a resource-rich country. But the level of development is well below our potentials. This mismatch must come to an end sooner than later.

We have identified the drivers of economic growth. These include no other vital sectors than agriculture, energy, industries, transport, infrastructure, information technology, tourism, and urban development.

For making economic progress sustainable, parallel attention will be given to the climate change mitigation, adaptation and preservation of bio-diversity.

Nepal is safe for foreign investment. The Government remains committed to further improving business and investment climate in the country.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Now, let me turn briefly to Nepal's foreign policy priorities.

Nepal is the oldest independent state in our region, with her own distinguished and glorious history.

Amity with all, and enmity with none remains at the heart of Nepal's foreign policy. This is inspired by the principles of UN Charter, Panchasheel, non-alignment, international law, and norms of world peace.

We enjoy cordial and friendly relations with both our immediate neighbours, India and China. Economic growth and prosperity in neighbourhood offer us a promising prospect for the development of our country.

Our relations with major powers and development partners have been all along cordial and friendly. We would like to further develop and expand our cooperative partnership with them. Extended neighbourhood and labour destination countries are also in our foreign policy priority.

Nepal has been playing an active role for the promotion of regional cooperation under SAARC and BIMSTEC.

On multilateral front, Nepal's efforts will be directed towards promoting a rule-based, just and equitable international order in which all States- small and big- fulfill their international

obligations in good faith, and all countries enjoy equitable opportunities to fulfill aspirations for development and prosperity.

Before I conclude, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to state that Nepal's commitment to democracy and fundamental freedoms is total and unflinching. The long journey of our political struggle is synonymous to the struggle for democracy.

We will not allow any compromise on democratic norms, values and principles. We believe that democracy, development and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing.

With these words, I conclude my remarks. I would be delighted to engage with you all in the interactive discussion.

Thank you.

**STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER MR. K.P. SHARMA OLI AT UN UNIVERSITY  
FOR PEACE**

01 October 2018 San Jose, Costa Rica

Dr. Francisco Rojas Aravena, Rector of the University  
Distinguished Professors  
Members of the Faculty  
Dear Students and Scholars  
Senior Officials of the Government of Costa Rica  
Excellencies  
Members of My Delegation, and  
Ladies and Gentlemen

Let me, at the outset, convey my deep gratitude to His Excellency Mr. Carlos Alvarado Quesada, the President of the Republic of Costa Rica, for the kind invitation extended to me to pay an official visit to this country. I thank the Government of Costa Rica for their warm reception and generous hospitality provided to me, my wife Radhika and my delegation.

It is my distinct pleasure and honour to be here at this University.

I had heard a lot of good things about Costa-Rica. I am pleased to be in this part of the world, and this beautiful land that hosts the prestigious University for Peace, an important institution that is working towards the realization of the UN charter's vision for peace and security.

I thought that this was an appropriate forum to share my views on peace and democracy following my participation in the UN General Assembly. Nothing could be a more relevant forum than this University.

I thank the Rector and the whole University family for your kind invitation. What touches me more is your decision to confer the honorary doctorate degree on me today. I am humbled to accept this great honour with a deep sense of gratitude.

For me, this honour is an acknowledgement of my country's successful peace process and appreciation of peace-loving Nepali people.

Moreover, with humility, I must submit that this recognition is bestowed on a citizen of the country that gave birth to Buddha –an apostle of peace.

I must commend the University for its Immense Contribution, as a center of learning and research, to promoting the culture of understanding, tolerance and peace around the world,

Today, it is my great privilege to address the distinguished audience of erudite scholars, professors and students, among others.

I am pleased to share with the distinguished audience that Nepal has become party to the agreement establishing the University. This is a reflection of our deep commitment to universal peace.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Last week, I attended and addressed the General Debate of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly. The world leaders gathered in the Assembly spoke of a myriad of challenges that we face today.

Backlashes against multilateralism; growing incidences of terrorism and violent extremism; perpetuating poverty and increasing inequality; rising temperature and rising sea levels; continuing civil wars and sectarian strife; persistent food insecurity were among the issues that prominently figured during the Debate.

No matter where the leaders came from; no matter which countries they represented, they were united in their call for a peaceful planet, shared progress and prosperity of humanity.

In the march against many of these woes, the institutions like this University should be in the frontline. For, they have the answer to the many dilemmas we face today.

Education that inculcates tolerance and compassion, respects diversity and accommodates differences while unleashing the infinite potential of human mind is the answer to the problems the humanity faces today.

After all, education is a lifelong process. As a student, one accumulates knowledge and sharpens skills, which later can be used to navigate the world.

Education is also about making oneself updated and relevant, for what we know and what we do not know today may change.

Education that cultivates culture of peace and tolerance while inspiring innovation and invention is the answer to the dilemmas that the world faces today.

Such education is a building block to build the citadel of peace and prosperity.

I, therefore, would like to commend the contributions that this University has made as a hub of knowledge for conflict prevention and peace.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Contemporary world is a confluence of achievements as well as setbacks, of progress as well as perils, of hope as well as despair.

While the world has witnessed impressive economic growth and phenomenal technological progress, the benefit has not accrued to all equitably. Inhumane poverty still persists. Inequality within and among societies and nations is increasing.

Thousands of lives have been lost due to the civil wars and violent conflicts. The menace of terrorism has not abated, and its tentacles threaten the humanity in every part of the world.

Extremism that doesn't respect diversity and pluralistic nature of human society is showing its ugly head. We must note that diversity is inherent in nature; and no one can go against this.

The ecological balance has been upset. With the temperature rising, glaciers retreating, snow melting and sea level rising, the climate change has accelerated. And, our responses do not match the enormous challenges that are the results of human recklessness.

Unfortunately, it is the countries with negligible emissions that are bearing the heavy price of climate change. This is unfair and thus unacceptable. We together have the responsibility to hand over a habitable planet to our future generations. We must fulfill our accountability towards them.

With the fourth industrial revolution, many groundbreaking achievements have been made. However, the benefit of technological progress has not been judiciously shared among all. The disruptive potential of such change in the world of work is yet to be assessed fully.

With the millions of people on the move, migration today is a mega trend. The response is needed to ensure that people migrate as a choice but not by compulsion. The world needs to come together to ensure the human rights of migrants and to make migration safe, orderly and regular.

Today, the problems are more interconnected than ever. They are not confined to the borders of countries and continents. They are not confined to particular race and nation.

However, the tendencies undermining multilateralism and search for global solutions are gaining ground.

At the time when response should be joint and collective, rhetoric of isolationism is a regressive move.

At the time when international cooperation should be made more robust, protectionism and erosion of trust in the entire edifice of rule-based international order is a discouraging move, which is unfortunate.

I believe that the world needs, more than ever, to reassert its faith in multilateralism and collective solutions.

And, it is equally important to resurrect and reinvent the rule-based international order, which is inclusive and accommodative of the voices of all countries, no matter how small or big, rich or poor, developed or developing.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

A deeper reflection reveals that many maladies of modern times are rooted in human minds.

The attitude of violence sown in some human minds begets wars and human tragedy.

The excess of greed breeding, in some, begets conflict and corruption.

The veil of ignorance imbedded, in some, begets culture of intolerance.

For this reason, foundation of peace should be built in the minds of people. This is also the essence of culture of peace.

The potential of human mind is not optimally realized. Human imagination, innovation and invention have brought tremendous break-throughs in the history.

And this potential of human mind is not yet fully realized. There are millions of people living in backwardness, who, if provided with proper education and opportunity, will be instrumental in rowing the raft of progress. We have to identify the willing minds and invest in them for their fuller development.

Not all people are equal in terms of their capacity. Not all share similar interest in the same subject. Therefore, the role of education is to identify and spur the hidden individual potential through appropriate tools including counseling.

Memory power, and creative ingenuity as well as imaginative power are the two aspects that make human minds superior to others.

Prosperity and progress in isolated enclaves cannot sustain forever if a large chunk of humanity is lagging behind without being able to realize its full potential.

Education should enable human beings to harness the nature's enormous potentials while bridging the gaps between haves and have-nots and ending deprivation and backwardness. Doing so will contribute to defeat the cause of social tension, discord and conflict.

The utility of education lies on its ability to inculcate positive outlook in human beings. It should also foster moral values. This will enable individuals to judge what is right and what is wrong, where to proceed and where to restrain.

Educating the minds of people will make them better individuals and open newer horizons. But more than that, it should also contribute to the development of societies and nations.

Through education, individuals get enriched. Enriched individuals in turn enrich the families. Enriched families help develop society. Enriched societies contribute to enriching the nations. This, in sum, enriches the understanding among nations at the global level in the interest of humanity at large.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Peace is not a mere absence of war. Nor should it be understood as suppressed calmness, forced silence, and circumscribed tolerance.

It is a state of mind, way of living and has much broader dimensions –individual, political, economic, social, and cultural- which are interdependent and mutually reinforcing.

At individual level, freedom with responsibility towards greater good of society is the foundation of peace.

At political level, meaningful participation in political process and logical power sharing contributes to sustaining peace. A perfect mix of rights and duties fosters an environment conducive to peace.

Likewise, in economic realm, for ensuring peace, the disparities between haves and haves-not and the condition of extractive economic exploitation should be abolished. Joblessness must end. Physical and biological human needs that are basic and justifiable must be met.

At socio-cultural level, tolerance and compassion in society and interfaith and civilizational harmony and unity in diversity are the catalyst for peace.

This perspective calls for promoting the concept of comprehensive democracy that embraces political, economic, social and cultural aspects to empower individuals.

In SDGs' underlying philosophy of 'leaving no one behind', I see an element of social justice. My vision of a comprehensive democracy is also anchored on social justice. So, there is a perfect match between SDGs' ultimate vision and the objective of this comprehensive democracy I am talking about.

I think research programmes of this University could address the interrelationship between comprehensive democracy and SDGs for detailed analysis. In this regard, my Government is willing to contribute to research activities of the University by sending some students.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The UN Charter captures the aspirations of people for universal peace –‘to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war’. To promote and defend these aspirations, both structures to maintain and culture to sustain peace are needed.

The international institutions, rules, UN peace missions, and mediation are among the important tools as far as the structures are concerned.

Sincere fulfillment of moral and legal obligations by all Member States and upholding the values of peace and harmony by every citizen are essential to maintain and sustain peace.

Here lies the important role of peace education.

In this sense, the United Nations has done justice to the core of its mandate by establishing this University.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

For peace to prevail, the first step is to understand and address the root causes of conflict that are of different scope, scale and nature.

Poverty, inequality and backwardness often provide a breeding ground for conflicts. So do intolerance, intimidation and bigotry.

Self-centered parochialism and lack of far-sightedness further aggravate the situation. A myopic and selective approach does more harm than good.

Environmental distress, discrimination, societal discord, deficit of trust and denial of sovereign rights of nations over natural resources also contribute to fueling conflicts.

More study and research of such causes of conflict can help broaden our understanding and anchor the peace universally.

Universities like this have an important role to generate, preserve and transfer knowledge about peace and conflict resolution.

Needless to say, the custodians of peace are the young people. Therefore, their contribution and stake in consolidating peace is paramount, so is their role in defending democracy and championing the human rights values.



When I say this, I recall my days as a young political activist fighting for democracy. In those days of autocratic rule in my country, arbitrary detention and torture were common. I myself was imprisoned for fourteen long years that also included a period of solitary confinement of four years.

In our pursuit of democracy, we never relented, never bowed to authority and never gave up our conscience. Our perseverance and indomitable courage shaped our struggles for political transformation.

Inspired by the universal acceptance of human values, we had numerous struggles and movements for people's rights and democracy that culminated in the promulgation of a democratic constitution in 2015.

Gender perspective in peace is equally important. Women have an important role to play as agents of peace and harmony.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The primacy of peace is well established in the teachings of Buddha, who is an enlightened son of Nepal. Born in Lumbini of Nepal, Buddha taught the path of peace and non-violence and his teachings are of eternal relevance to the world.

The relevance and utility of certain things get diminished with the passage of time. But, Buddha's message is of timeless value. It is as pertinent today as it was in the time of its articulation.

The Charter of the United Nations embraces this eternal and universal message of peace of Buddha.

We find in his teachings an illuminating philosophy for peace.

The essence of Asian philosophy is '*vasudaiva kutumbakam*', which means the world is one family. Likewise, '*sarve bhawantu sukhina*', which means all human beings should remain happy, is the core of our welfare vision, derived from long philosophical tradition. The relevance and appeal of these maxims are universal. This philosophy doesn't discriminate humanity on any ground. Our vision for peace is guided by this philosophy.

Unfortunately, as witnessed in other parts of the world in different times and circumstances, Nepal too experienced a period of armed conflict that was the outcome of the prevailing circumstances and had much to do with dissatisfaction of the people fueled by the lack of opportunities for economic and social development.

However, the political parties of Nepal and the armed rebels managed to come together proactively to resolve the conflict through peaceful means and laid grounds for peace. As a result of a homegrown and nationally led and owned process, a peace accord was signed in 2006, formally

ending the armed conflict. Management of arms and combatants was successfully handled to pave the way for political process.

In the last decade, Nepal has undergone political transformation of historic proportions. We moved from a unitary monarchial system of governance to a federal democratic republican polity, which has now been institutionalized by the new Constitution.

The constitution promulgated by the Constituent Assembly elected by Nepali people, is a forward-looking, progressive and human-rights based document which ensures inclusive and participatory democracy, decentralized federal structure, socio-economic justice and rule of law.

This has marked the conclusion of the uniquely successful peace process. Our conflict resolution experience and the peace process can provide an important case study for research works including in this University.

Our experience is a testimony of the fact that with requisite political will and sense of accommodation, negotiations and dialogue can resolve conflicts.

We must be aware of the elements that seek to drive a wedge between different groups by taking advantage of their differences and discords to perpetuate conflict to fulfill their vested interests. We must resolutely defeat them.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The historic elections, that were held last year at federal, provincial and local levels not only recorded a high number of participation, but also elected people from all sections of society.

More than 41 percent of women have been elected in the representative bodies at all levels.

Our experience is a testimony of the fact that strong political will and constitutional guarantee can be instrumental in empowering women to ensure their legitimate share as well as in making democracy inclusive.

Having settled the political issues, the history has bestowed on us the greater responsibilities to undertake socio-economic transformation to sustain the political gains we have achieved.

With an overwhelming mandate of people, the government that I head is determined to building on this political transformation and accelerate its drive for prosperity and sustainable development.

Our vision is guided by the long-term goal of “Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali”.

To realize this goal, our priority is to ensure decent jobs and gainful employment for our working age population, modernize our agriculture, utilize our energy potential especially in hydropower, and promote development of infrastructure, connectivity, tourism and human resources.

In doing so, we will need investment in multiple sectors. And we have put right policies in place to make foreign investments in Nepal safe and profitable.

Before concluding, I would like to stress the need to promote enhanced collaboration and cooperation between the University for Peace and universities, think tanks and policy institutions of Nepal in advancing the common cause of peace.

When we talk about interrelationship between peace, democracy and development, we must not forget:

- that democracy and development are contingent upon peace.
- that the investment in development will crumble in the absence of peace.
- that aspirations for democracy will evaporate in the absence of peace.

With this note, I would like to thank you, Dr. Francisco Rojas Aravena, Rector, and the entire University fraternity for the Honorary Doctorate as well as this opportunity to share my thoughts.

I wish the University all success in its noble mission.

Thank you.

**ADDRESS BY PRIME MINISTER K P SHARMA OLI AT THE UN DAY OF VAISAKH**

12 May 2019, Ha Nam, VietNam

Most Venerable Dr. Thich Thein Nhon, President, International Congress Day of Vaisakh

Most Venerable Prof. Dr. Phra Brahmaphundit, President, International Council for Day of Vaisakh

Most Venerable Monks

His Excellency Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

His Excellency President of Myanmar

His Excellency Vice President of India

Excellencies

Scholars

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I have brought warm greetings to you all from the land of Buddha and Sagarmatha; from sisters and brothers of Nepal !

I want to chorus with you- Bhavatu Sabba Mangalam ! ( May All be blessed to Auspiciousness) Nepal is a land of wonderful people. The only thing they cherish is friendship with all and enmity with none.

The only thing they wish is peace, not only at their home, but also in the entire world, entire universe.

This fits well into this grand ceremony whose very objective is to foster understanding and harmony in a world that is marred by conflicts, tensions, uncertainties and contradictions. We believe in universal fraternity and harmony to be the guiding norms to govern relationship between states and their peoples.

Truly, this is an unforgettable opportunity for me and my country to be represented in this august UN Vaisakh Day celebration in a country with which we share not only a strong political relationship but equally strong cultural relationship, that brings our peoples closer.

Thank you, Prime Minister Phuc, for the kind invitation and for the warm welcome and generous hospitality.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

No words would capture the essence and importance of this day. On this very full moon day some 2643 years ago, the immortal son of the world, whom we reverently call Buddha, descended to

this world. On the same day 35 years later, he achieved enlightenment and finally at the age of 80, some 2563 years ago he assimilated in the eternal peace. Such is the solemnity of the day.

I come from the blessed land where Buddha was born. It was a little hamlet in the southern plains of Nepal, where the seed of Buddhism was sown and its early sapling was nurtured. That was why Siddhartha Gautam gave up his crown princship, his palace, his lovely wife, a cute and innocent son. He had got something and was willing to get more. Lumbini is therefore not only the birthplace of Buddha, but also the fountain of Buddhism.

Today, this place is the centre of attraction for pilgrims, scholars, researchers and those in quest of the ultimate truth and salvation !

Lumbini is more than this. It was an integral part of Shakya Ganarajya (Shakya Republic) with its Capital in Kapilvastu. It was an advanced city state by all standards of that period. Organized in the principle of republican system of governance, it was a flourishing republic and with a kingship elected by the people and thus governed under the able leadership of Shakyas. The recent excavation establishes the cultural and architectural significance of the Shakya Ganarajya. It was in this very land, the famous philosopher Kapil invented the 'Sankhya', known as the philosophy of numbers.

As Buddhism spread to the rest of Asia and the world, transferred alongside was the vast collection of knowledge and wisdom, ideas about life and livelihood, messages about social harmony and universal fraternity.

Today, the shared asset of Buddhism connects countries in Asia and beyond, including Nepal and Vietnam. Many of our people follow Buddhism as their core faith and the rest respect it as a pool of enlightened ideas and source of inspiration.

I am impressed by the great efforts of the people and Government of Vietnam towards preserving and promoting the treasure of Buddhism. I deem this Conference as a landmark in the continuum of the same admirable endeavor.

Dear Friends,

Buddhism has served for generations as the fountain of humanity; as the belief system focused on the quest for betterment of human beings, society and the world.

Like other belief systems, Buddhism, too, talks about the distinction between the worldly and the eternal, the transient and the endless. Yet, the unique appeal of Buddhism lies in its care of life and nature. One does not have to wait for the next life or another world to find happiness. Ultimate joy can be attained by anyone, any time, in this very world, in this very life. For this, we should just discard the hatred, self-interest and violence, and should fill ourselves with the spirit of compassion, fraternity and benevolence.

Buddhism thus seeks to empower people. Buddhism is rediscovery of humanity; disciplining, organizing and transforming of oneself, and, by setting example, transforming the rest of society. Its ultimate aim is to attain harmonious organization of society and world order: order that is based on justice, universal fraternity, peaceful co-existence, and human dignity.

In recognition of Buddhism's contribution to world peace and harmony, the United Nations, whose very Charter is based on the Buddhist values of cooperation and co-existence, recognized, in the year 1999, 'the Day of Vaisakh'. Such recognition should be a matter of pride for us.

Most Venerable and Excellencies,

And this is why Buddhism is relevant when it comes to the question of larger global leadership today. In fact, Buddha's entire life is the testimony of 'lead by example'. Without second thought, we can say that Buddha was a great visionary leader, who inspired people to shun vices and embrace virtues. He was able to reach the people and communities with love and compassion and lead them on the path of patience and perseverance amidst adversities of all kinds.

Buddha set an example that modesty and humility are the true traits of leadership, not aggression and ego. He passed on to the succeeding leadership the cognizance of the Four Noble Truths and the Noble Eightfold Path. Right view, Right intention, Right action, Right effort, Right speech are as much the fundamental qualities of today's leadership as they were in the past.

Leadership is about having right vision of destination for society and guiding people on right path. But it is certainly not about being swayed by popular whims and momentary delusions. It is about right intention to bring positive results and serving for larger public good, not self-gratification. It is about creating harmony in society, promoting fraternity and treating everyone with respect and dignity.

Dear Friends,

Generosity and moral integrity are on top of all attributes of leadership that we can draw from Buddha's teachings. Speaking to his principal disciple Ananda, Buddha made it a point that leadership is self-making, self-driving and self-motivating process.

'Live and let live' is the core tenet of Buddhism that immensely contributed to the wider Asian values of caring, sharing and pursuing larger societal good.

These noble traits are antithesis to silo mentality and divisive mindset that are increasingly finding space, particularly in today's political spectrum in several parts of the world.

Today, society is getting more individualistic, consumerism is overshadowing the human values of auspiciousness and countries are becoming more inward-looking. Rhetoric of exclusion is

gaining more traction than the message of inclusion. Short-term transactions are being prioritized at the cost the long-term peace, stability and harmony in the world.

Further, global geopolitics is getting fluid and full of uncertainties. The order that was created and the institutions that were built as modus operandi for countries and communities to work together are losing their hold. Existing multilateral system is under attack. Sense of shared responsibilities is dissipating.

True that we live in a world today, which is more prosperous than ever; wealthier than ever. Yet, one fifth of its humanity still lives under abject poverty, deprived of even the most basic needs, while the world's military expenditure is getting higher every year.

The idea of economic justice is sounding more alien to us. The objective to realize the Sustainable Development Goals is facing challenge in receiving adequate international support.

Environmental degradation goes unchecked and the very sustainability of the world is under threat, thus posing the very question of existentiality. Paris Agreement on climate change survives amidst an uncertain fate. Terrorism continues to threaten peace and order in societies.

Amidst such disruptions, the core Asian values of universal fraternity, “Basudhaibakutumbakam” (the world is one family), peaceful co-existence and sense of sharing become all the more relevant for today's leadership. The faithful observance of Panchasheel will serve as an important guide to foster understanding and harmony.

The notion of balance and Middle Path gains even greater significance; notion that demands us to shun excesses, accommodate diversities, find the ground for compromises; a path that world help avoid conflicts and chaos.

In our quest for peace, stability and sustainable future, pathway shown by Buddha always remains pertinent. Buddha's messages emphasize balance and equilibrium between man and nature, between material and spiritual, between the day-to-day affairs and the perpetual.

Buddhism is strong against the three vices, namely ignorance or delusion (Moha), greed (Raga) and hatred (Dvesha), which are, in one way or other, the main causes of the crises the world is facing even today.

Strong linkage between Buddhism and nature needs no emphasis as everything we understand by Buddhism was systematized and formulated under a Bodhi tree, within the nature. Buddhism is about eschewing excessive desires, including desire for material possession.

As it is often said, famines do not occur due to lack of food; it occurs when there is no justice in distribution; it occurs due to culture of amassing more than what we need. Kindness and compassion are the main virtues to make human beings happy. When the culture of giving, sharing

and helping others is predominant, society becomes blissful. In genuine philanthropy, givers and receivers are happy together.

Happy individuals are the key constituents of a happy society. Happiness depends both on the external nature and the inner self and Buddhism has answer to both. One of the treasure troves Buddhism offers for happiness is the art of “Dhyana” (meditation), which is getting increasingly popular. “The Dhyana” (meditation) is the state of concentration of mind which brings mental peace, thus making our physical being healthy and ultimately contributes to the foundation of peaceful society.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In this conversation about transformation towards peaceful and sustainable society, I feel inspired to share with you some thoughts on the kind of historic transformation Nepal and Nepali society have been able to achieve in recent past.

The home-grown peace process that we accomplished is a rare case and hence a topic of interest for study and research worldwide. Our journey of transformation from bullet to ballot is exemplary one, which is a testimony of how peace prevails eventually. We have not only ended the ten year long armed conflict but also brought the conflicting parties into peaceful political process.

An inclusive democratic constitution has been promulgated by an inclusive body of directly elected people’s representative, replicating the egalitarian Sangha way of Buddhism. Through the Constitution, people’s agendas have been established and a country that once suffered the brunt of conflict and violence is now marching proudly and with high optimism on the path of peace, stability and prosperity. Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali is our national aspiration.

Such transformation has been possible in the land of Buddha, land of Peace!

Dear Friends,

Buddha, Buddhism and Lumbini are inseparable. Buddhism cannot be disassociated from Buddha; it also cannot be disassociated from Lumbini. To understand Buddha it is important to understand Lumbini. Visit to Lumbini is, therefore, once in a lifetime experience for those who follow Buddhism and those who admire its grandeur.

The birthplace of Buddha welcomes you with boundless affection.

The Government of Nepal wish to host United Nations Vaisakh Day programme in Lumbini. We are also planning to organize an international conference on Buddhism next year.

I take this opportunity to extend a cordial invitation to you all in Nepal.



To ease your travel, we are going soon to complete the works for the Gautam Buddha International Airport, which is about 20 KM east from Lumbini, and bring it into operation.

Lumbini's development is in our priority. We have a plan to develop Lumbini as an international Peace City and a revered place for all humanity, for all Buddhists across the world, and for those who have interest and belief in the principles laid by Buddha.

Finally, I wish to thank the organizers for inviting me to speak on such a solemn occasion and on such a pertinent theme. I am grateful to all of you for your presence and patience.

Thank you !

**STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER MR. K P SHARMA OLI AT THE 108TH  
SESSION (CENTENARY) OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE**

**10 June 2019 Geneva**

President of the Centenary International Labour Conference,  
Excellencies Heads of State and Government,  
Director General of ILO Mr. Guy Ryder,  
Employers' and Workers' Representatives,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are gathered here today at a historic occasion

- to mark the centenary of an organization that pioneered in writing the most ambitious social contract in the history of humankind,
- to mark the centenary of the vision and aspiration for a just, humane and equitable world, and
- to lay an equally enduring foundation for the future.

This centenary celebration of the International Labour Organization is a celebration of the rights of the toiling masses to social justice through social dialogue.

I extend warm congratulations to ILO fraternity on this historic occasion.

I feel deeply honoured to be part of this momentous occasion and thank the Director General for the invitation.

I have brought greetings and best wishes from the land of Sagarmatha- the Mount Everest, and Lumbini, the birthplace of Buddha and the fountain of Buddhism, for the success of this Conference.

Excellencies,

The ILO's Constitution was framed in the ashes of the First World War. It reflected the collective desire and commitment of humanity to peace through social dialogue. It was a testimony that production relations can be transformed through dialogue.

The core principles that ILO advanced, such as equal pay for equal value of work, freedom of association, working hours, adequate wage for living, balance between work and life, and social protection are its unique contributions to human civilization.

These are not ordinary achievements. ILO is a trendsetter of the future.

I would like to mention here two landmark initiatives of the last decade of the twentieth century- Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work in 1998 and the Decent Work Agenda in 1999.

The report “Work for a Brighter Future” of the Global Commission on the Future of Work provides a sound basis for our deliberation.

I believe the report will set a discourse for another quarter of a century.

Development of technology, shifting demography, migration and change in the organization of work are creating new paths to prosperity.

On the other hand, they are disrupting the existing work arrangements.

Technology has replaced traditional jobs, transformed the way we work, and created more innovative workplaces.

Artificial intelligence, automation, robotics, internet, 3D printing and block-chain are bringing profound changes in the way we imagine the work.

The gig economy is providing millions an alternative to work remotely.

However, every change comes with new opportunities and challenges. This provides an opportunity to define that our destiny remains at the human command, but not at the command of technology,

- an opportunity that we handover a liveable planet to our posterity, and
- an opportunity to create a win-win situation through demographic dividend to supplement where human capital is in short supply. In managing the changes, we must keep human at the centre of all.

Investing in people’s capabilities, promoting entrepreneurship and creating decent jobs are critical to cope with the changes.

We must ensure gender equality, strengthen social protection, respect social dialogue, and guarantee rights at work.

As the climate change is raising demands in green jobs, climate actions will be most effective if they begin at the world of work.

Green jobs would be the stepping-stones towards green economy.

Adequate wages and time sovereignty go hand in hand. That is the sign of prosperity and wellbeing of all workers.

Labour is not a commodity. ILO has a role to play that core principles of Philadelphia Declaration are upheld at all times.

Persistent unemployment of youth breeds political instability and engenders poverty. We must end this situation.

Excellencies,

Nepal is endowed with vast natural resources as well as rich demographic dividend. This makes future of the world of work in Nepal highly promising.

We have adopted firm legal and policy reforms to address the dynamic international labour environment.

We have domesticated the provisions of the fundamental ILO instruments to which we are a party. Our laws do not discriminate workers on the basis of their status – regular or irregular, outsourced or contractual and those coming from organized or informal sector.

We redefined the notion of life-long job by social protection to all workers irrespective of their nature of job; ensured fair balance between flexibility and social security; and legally ended the dichotomy of formal vs. informal sector.

This way, we have successfully concluded the process of formalizing the informal sector.

Excellencies,

Nepal's democratic Constitution is founded on the ideals of equality, non-discrimination, and social justice.

Democracy without economic right and social justice remains incomplete.

Our conception of democracy goes beyond the formalities such as formation of political party, participation in electoral process or enjoyment of the freedom of expressions.

Ours is a comprehensive democracy that empowers individual in all dimensions- political, economic, social and cultural.

Our Constitution embodies social justice, right against exploitation, rights to work, remuneration and social security as well as right to trade union and collective bargaining.

The rights to education, health care, food, housing, culture and language are guaranteed as fundamental rights of our people.

We have enacted a number of implementing legislations to enforce the fundamental rights, including those related to the world of work.

The entire life of an individual is covered by social security system. In childhood and old age, the State provides universal social security. In active age, workers are protected through contribution-based social security. This provision has been incorporated in the Social Security Act.

Last year in November, we launched a comprehensive social security scheme to the working people.

This largest ever social security undertaking in Nepal is being implemented through contribution from both the workers and employers, and covers benefits such as unemployment, maternity, sickness, old age, accident, dependent family members, and disability.

For past 25 years, Nepal has been providing old age pension to the senior citizens, and monthly allowances to single women and those coming from the most marginalized section of our society. There has been gradual increment in the amount and coverage of this critical cash hand-out. This year in February, we launched yet another employment based social security scheme under the Prime Minister Employment Program.

This flagship program aims to create jobs, guarantees employment to every working age citizen, provides allowances in case of unemployment, promotes innovation and entrepreneurship, and supports skilling, re-skilling and up-skilling.

To change the production relations, we have introduced new sets of labour laws that safeguard dignity of work, guarantee equal pay for the equal value of work, and ensure flexibility in the world of work.

The Trade Union Act protects collective rights of our workers in line with ILO Conventions 87 and 98.

Excellencies,

Inclusion remains a basic tenet of our polity.

Special measures are in place to ensure inclusion of all sections of our society in the State organs.

One-third representation of women is guaranteed in the Federal Parliament and Provincial Assemblies.

Elections in 2017 have resulted over 41 per cent of women's representation in elected bodies.

Excellencies,

Enterprises are the drivers of modern economy that provide jobs and implement ILO standards. Our actions should support them to grow, create more jobs, and sustain economy. By jobs we mean the development of entrepreneurship, enterprises, MSMEs, start-ups and self-employment.

Decent jobs for our youths and social security to all are a key to address the job deficit.

Migrant workers are often vulnerable to high recruitment costs, contract substitution, unsafe and unsecured working conditions, and non-compliance of terms of employment.

Nepal being a country of origin as well as destination, we consider that the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) adopted in December last year provides a framework for cooperation.

Our role in the ILO Governing Body and UN Human Rights Council is informed by the basic premises of GCM to make labour migration safe, orderly and beneficial to all.

Dear brothers and sisters,

We have created institutional framework for social dialogue at the federal, provincial, local and enterprise levels.

Through a common platform of Joint Trade Union Coordination Centre, Nepal practices a unique example of unity in diversity of trade unions.

This distinct forum of workers represents all working people in Nepal to engage in social dialogue and promotes their interest in a spirit of solidarity and harmonious labour relations. Presence of tripartite forum at the centre has resulted in improved labour relations that have brought down the labour disputes almost to nought.

The Government ensures employer's compliance through labour audit that provides an opportunity for reflection, self-assessment and improvement.

Labour inspection and inspection of occupational safety and health are the integral part of labour audit.

The world of work in Nepal has voluntarily evolved a social contract to implement rights related issue and engage in collective agreements to safeguard the interests.

Excellencies,

Nepal's own democratic struggles drew significant inspiration from the work of ILO as many of our trade union leaders were the torchbearers of resistance against autocracy and pioneer of the democratic movements.

Over five decades of my public life, I have fought for equality and social justice for our people.

The Government under my leadership is focused on realizing the national aspiration of *Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali*.

For prosperity, we need skilled labour. This helps foster prosperity, which should lead to happiness. In this context, we want to define it as- सक्षम श्रमिक, समृद्ध नेपाल, सुखी नेपाली – meaning 'skilled workers, prosperous Nepal, happy Nepali' to underpin our agenda for decent work, wage and workplace.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We intend to end all forms of deprivation and exploitation, ensure equitable development and establish a socialism-oriented state as envisioned by our Constitution.

We aim to end the worst form of child labour by 2022 and all forms of child labour by 2025. We are committed to meeting SDGs before 2030, including the SDG 8 composite in all its dimensions.

With this objective in mind, Nepal joined the Alliance 8.7 as a Pathfinder country. To conclude, Mr. President, hundred years on, the preambular words of the ILO's Constitution continue to resonate in this assembly hall calling for reaffirmation to social justice and lasting peace.

We must meet these 'moral-minimum' and move forward to address more pressing issues of our time.

Today is the time to uphold ILO's founding ideals and demonstrate that they continue to be relevant in furthering the value of human worth, equality, social justice and sustainable future.

Let us deliberate on how ILO can secure its own future and the future of its tripartite constituents.

I am confident, the outcome document of this Centenary event adequately reflects on that important aspect of the organization.

I thank you all.

**REMARKS BY THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF NEPAL, HON.  
PRADEEP KUMAR GYAWALI AT RAISINA DIALOGUE**

**10 January 2019 New Delhi**

Chair of the Session,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Let me start by thanking the Ministry of External Affairs of India and the Observer Research Foundation for giving me this honour. It is a rare privilege to share my humble thoughts before this distinguished audience.

In its fourth year, Raisina Dialogue has become a great platform for churning of innovative ideas.

Generation and dissemination of ideas has been the outstanding tradition of our region. This region was once the wonderful home of the greatest among human civilizations, far advanced in research, innovation, ingenuity and intellectual artifact reflecting the rich tradition of "वादे वादे जायते तत्त्वबोधः" or "through discourse, essence can be extracted."

When science and scientific thinking was little known to the world, this region had already produced *Vedas* and *Vedanta*; when idea of modern statecraft was still in nascent stage elsewhere, this region had already brought up *Arthashastra*; when human-centred thoughts were yet to be born, this region already prided itself on Buddhism, the core message of which is the peace, happiness and welfare of humanity. The uniqueness of ideational pattern of our region is the unwavering conviction on social harmony, discipline, order and larger public good.

Dear Friends,

Much has been said about the changing world order, the shifting paradigm of the world politics, and the rapidly transforming geopolitical milieu around us. Without repeating what scholars and practitioners have already thrashed out so profusely, I wish to make a modest attempt to touch on a couple of questions: what the changing world scenario means for a relatively small country like Nepal, for our neighbourhood and the region; and what kind of global and regional arrangements we would like to see. While doing this, I will also touch upon some aspects of Nepal-India relations today and what these relations would mean for the region and beyond.

Attributes that characterized the world order in the past decades are now covered in the mist of uncertainty. Globalization has been challenged by the very people, who once stood as its determined proponents. Free flow of people, I mean the working people, in fact never happened



as restrictions of various nature continued and such restrictions have further been reinforced. What globalization effectively meant was the free flow of goods and services of those who could produce. This pillar of trade globalization seems to be getting shaken today.

Globalization: we may have liked it or not. It has its pros and cons sides. But one thing is true: under globalization, countries were able to uplift unprecedented number of their people out of drudging poverty. Trade exponentially grew; industries expanded; value chains were set up; millions of jobs were created, including in developing countries; and economies were transformed. This was not a small achievement by any means.

There were small players like us who could not reap the full benefits of globalization. We consistently demanded that a level playing field had to be created; an enabling environment had to be there for all to prosper; and the growing economic disparity must be addressed. We continued to voice that no country should be left behind in this historic march towards prosperity. We demanded reform, but we never sought alternative of globalization; never opposed rules-based arrangements of global trade.

Today, the same arrangements face big questions not from us but from the big players, in whose ideas the arrangements were rooted.

Today, technological advancement has brought us closer than ever before and made us more known to each other; but in the mindset, we are getting farther and the border that surrounds us is getting tighter.

Today, the world has become more peaceful than before, but still military expenditure has soared up higher than ever: expenditure that could otherwise have gone for development.

While the world is becoming more interdependent, the challenges ahead require to be addressed with more collective efforts. These include challenges posed by the growing tendencies to weaken multilateralism and collaboration.

While the humankind is making progress to understand and predict the dynamics and adjust with the rule of nature, ironically, we are creating such a situation where unpredictability is prevailing and pre-set rules are being shaken.

What triggered today's anti-globalization wave? Was it the 2008 financial crisis and its associated impacts on day-to-day life in the developed world? Was it the Brexit referendum? Was it some of the 'costly wars'? If yes, could these have been avoided? Could the respective leaderships have taken an alternative decision that would yield results otherwise? Does leadership just mean catering to the short-term public sentiments or do leaders have responsibility to sway public opinion for a better result and a more collective welfare? Does the world today seriously lack

statecraft required to keep things in better order and organized way? These questions are set to irk us as we embark onto this fluid and uncertain transition.

Uncertain because the existing world order stands challenged and the new order is yet to take shape.

Uncertain because the nature, definition and structure of world power is changing but the new power equation does not seem to be fully acknowledged.

Uncertain because the old alignments are fading and the new ones, at times of hitherto unthought kind, seem to be emerging, which are yet to stand solid and as durable.

Uncertain because there is a growing skepticism about tenacity of what was once deemed as universalism and universal values and the alternative values are yet to take shape.

Uncertain because there are still believers in good number that the current wave against globalization and liberal world order could just be transient and we would all soon return to the same 'normalcy'.

Anyway, geopolitical contest is today's reality and economy is at the heart of this contest. Unlike in the past, today it is less of ideological divide, more of who gains from what sort of trade and economic arrangements. And such contest has at times tended towards the zero sum game of harming each other. One good thing about today's contest is that unlike in the past there is less threat of interstate military warfare. Not so good thing, however, is that the contest has sometimes been pungent.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Small countries do not have resources and capacity to be engaged in such geopolitical contestation.

A country like Nepal has always been a firm advocate of rules-based, predictable international order. We are a believer in multilateralism, where we can get our voices heard; problems and challenges recognized; and support be extended. Small countries may not have adequate strength and competence to engage in bilateral deals with bigger players and this is why they cherish the cushion provided by collective negotiations in multilateral and regional forums. Rules-based order is essential for our survival.

We have always been supporter of multilateral institutions like the United Nations. What we have wanted, though, is its reform to reflect the current realities.

We have always supported rules-based trading arrangements under WTO. What we have wanted is a meaningful preferential treatment to less capable, least developed countries like us so that we can catch up.

We have constructively participated in the existing global economic architecture and have demanded that such architecture should be inclusive, democratic and enabling for the most resource-constrained countries. We have stressed that gaps and deprivation must be addressed.

Nearer in the region, we have always been a campaigner for greater regional integration. We stand for strengthening SAARC and BIMSTEC and the implementation of the agendas of BBIN sub-regional cooperation.

Next door, we have always emphasized on the importance of good and harmonious relations between our two big neighbours. When these two rise together, the rise of Asia becomes unstoppable. We were encouraged, in this context, by the positive vibe that last year's Wuhan summit created. We are of the view that one country's rise should not be seen as a threat to the other. It could be an opportunity to rise together. The only thing is that right sort of arrangement for rising together has to be there and leaders in the region are capable of getting that ensured.

Having possessed a third of the Earth's landmass and almost two thirds of the world population, mostly young and energetic, Asia is the fascinating combination of economic strength, demography and unique value system. And with the developed and prosperous Asia, the world will be transformed because this will mean the end of the largest chunk of world poverty.

Cognizant of the fact that we can work together in neighbourhood for our mutual benefit and common prosperity, we have been emphasizing the need of a trilateral partnership between our three countries. Such partnership would entail working together for better physical connectivity, deeper economic linkages and greater people-to-people connections.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Nepal pursues an independent foreign policy. Our conduct of external relations is based on a balanced and independent outlook, which is rooted in the historical fact that we were among the few countries that always remained independent, free from any sort of colonial rule. The 28 million Nepali people harbour today an abounding sense of national pride and patriotism.

Patriotism that does not have ill will against anyone: our people have always demonstrated great degree of resilience in times of difficulties and their confidence was never shaken. Amity with all and enmity with none is our motto in foreign policy. We seek to foster relations with neighbours and all friendly countries around the world based on justice, sovereign equality, trust, mutual respect and benefit.

Nepal is a peace loving country and shuns any kind of military alliance.

Distinguished Audience,

In this august forum where we are talking about world's transformation, I feel tempted to share with you the transformation of historic proportion that Nepal has been able to achieve in the past few years. Unlike the current global transformation towards fluidity and uncertainty, ours has been transformation towards stability and predictability. With the making of a democratic and inclusive constitution in 2015 and subsequent formation of strong elected governments in the centre, provinces and local levels, Nepal has entered into a new phase, where our main quest is growth, development and prosperity.

Past two decades were challenging time for Nepal. First the country went through a decade long armed conflict and then long transition marked by uncertainty about how we are to seek a constitutional settlement of conflicting political perspectives. Success of peace process depended on our ability to reach this settlement. We finally did it thanks to the prudence of our political leadership, perseverance of our people and support and solidarity from international community. We were mindful of the cost of instability: our development was pushed back; we remained in stagnation while others advanced.

Now under Prime Minister Oli's leadership, we are committed to work in such speed that would enable us to make up for the two lost decades. We have set a development vision with the slogan of '*Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepalis*'. We have the potential and what we need is resources and technology.

We are known for richness in water resource, which we are yet to convert into hydropower; we are known for natural beauty and cultural diversity, due to which our tourism industry is growing.

We are aware that single-handedly we cannot reach the destination of prosperity. We must seek support from our development partners from around the world, including our rising neighbours.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

India is our close neighbour, with whom Nepal's relations have been comprehensive and multifaceted. Our economic partnership is robust and has a long history. India is our biggest trading partner, source of FDI and a main transit country. We are connected by geography as well as history, by our religions as well as culture.

Apart from taking effective measures for the implementation of all the agreements and understandings reached in the past, we have common understanding on the need for reinvigorating the existing bilateral mechanisms to promote cooperative agenda across diverse spheres.

Our enhanced engagements at different levels, in particular in recent times, have contributed to taking the bilateral relations to newer heights.

We cherish India's progress and prosperity. Its accomplishments in many spheres are notable. The wonderful journey of India as a major economic powerhouse is an inspiration for many people around the world and more so in our neighbourhood.

To increase the flow of goods and augment trade between our two countries, we are focused on investing in infrastructures and streamline procedures. We are aware that cross-border connectivity is very important to unleash development potentials and to spur growth.

The importance of connectivity cannot be overemphasized for a landlocked country like ours. With India, we are advancing connectivity by railway and waterways. When I talk about connectivity I recall what Prime Minister Modi eloquently highlighted, during one of his visits to Nepal, as the HIT formula (highways, information ways and transmission ways). We appreciate in this context a recent positive step taken by India towards making cross border trade of electricity possible. Given Nepal's hydropower potential and investors' interest in it, it has long been our demand that cross border trade of electricity be opened up just like other tradable commodities.

Dear Friends,

Back to the world geopolitics again, there is no denial that we all have our respective fundamental national interests that we cannot compromise on. At the end of the day in electoral democracy, we must answer to our people, serve them best and make them happy. It is equally true, however, that there are issues beyond our respective border that we cannot tackle in isolation: issues which our domestic audience is not necessarily aware of and for this reason require correct guidance from leadership. Past experience tells us that global challenges require global solution. At a time when the number and intensity of such challenges have grown manifold, thinking of the world as one is all the more required.

Climate change is one such colossal problem of our time that is staring at us and challenging us if we have the strength, conviction and collective will to find a solution. Reports after reports have forewarned of impending disaster and called for immediate actions. It is disheartening, therefore, particularly for small, vulnerable, resource constrained and least prepared countries like us, to see that the fate of Paris Agreement looms in uncertainty.

Our report card of the Millennium Development Goals was a sort of mixed. We did well with some of the goals while progress in other areas remained illusive. Without collective actions, SDGs will not fare better. Partnership for development is a critical aspect of realization of these internationally determined goals. We are, therefore, concerned about the shrinking development assistance.

As I already said, advancement in information and communication technology has tremendously benefitted us in many ways. This has made us more connected and made us more informed. This advancement has not come without challenge. How are we prepared to address today's cyber

anxiety? Cyber or satellite collapse? As a byproduct of ICT appears the challenge of fake news and propaganda. Information empowers people; misinformation betrays. How are we going to enable our people to rightly filter between information and misinformation?

Likewise, how we are going to tackle the challenges associated with the most contemporary scientific advancements? Robots have started to perform many of the jobs humans did in the past. How are we going to create alternative jobs for our people? Are we all prepared for half men, half robot kind of working environment? How shall we address the chasm that will possibly be created among us by Artificial Intelligence? How are we going to manage the possible unmanned military capability?

New forces of division in the form of sectarian violence, religious extremism and terrorism are gaining ground posing huge threat to individual liberty, democratic institutions and rule of law. Are we able to overcome these without collective efforts?

Growing volume of world trade is taking place over the water. How we are going to make the oceans safer? How are we going to prevent maritime conflict? How are we going to ensure that landlocked countries get better access to sea for trade and transit?

Distinguished Audience,

Challenges the world faces today are too big and too many to be overcome by our lone efforts. History is our witness. There has always been a positive correlation between our collective efforts and world's peace and prosperity. Such efforts are more required today.

Let us, therefore, be prepared to correct our obsession with short-term gains and think in a larger perspective of long-term collective welfare.

Let us contribute to build bridges rather than barriers.

Let us act in synergy rather than in isolation.

Let us embrace fraternity rather than narrow communalism.

Let us aspire for a better world where we collectively work for common prosperity; a world which future generation can proudly inherit.

I thank you for your kind attention.

**STATEMENT BY HON. MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS PRADEEP KUMAR  
GYAWALI AT 62<sup>ND</sup> GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC  
ENERGY AGENCY**

17 September 2018 Vienna

Madame President  
Madame Acting Director General  
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

I begin by congratulating you, Madame President, on your election to the chair of this General Conference. I assure you of my delegation's full support.

Madame President,

Nepal's abiding faith in multilateralism emanates from our deep commitment to the principles and purposes of the UN Charter, the values of *Panchasheela*, and the norms of world peace. We consider that only through dialogues, negotiations and engagements in multilateral setting, the world community can address the global challenges that we in isolation cannot.

As the world becomes increasingly complex, the problems we face become equally intractable. This is where the value of multilateralism, collaboration and cooperation among the sovereign States appears critical to build synergy, muster strength and confront the challenges collectively.

Nepal considers that all three pillars of the United Nations- peace and security, human rights and development- should receive equal emphasis. We believe that advancement in science and technology should contribute to the strengthening of the development pillar of the United Nations.

Almost three years have passed since the UN General Assembly adopted the Agenda 2030 for sustainable development with a commitment to leaving no one behind. This is a fitting time that we deliberate in this important forum how the nuclear science and technology can be beneficially utilized for attaining SDGs. I am glad to note that IAEA has calibrated its activities to facilitate this process and help achieve the goals related to health, clean water, agriculture, nutrition, food security, climate action and access to energy for all. These are critical areas for reducing poverty, sustaining progress and enhancing benefit of technological advancement for humanity. Indeed, with its fundamental tenet "atom for peace and development" IAEA had always captured the very essence of this idea.

Madame President,

We deeply value our membership and partnership with IAEA. Though use of nuclear science and technology is still very limited in Nepal, our joining as a Member State of IAEA in 2008 has broadened our understanding of application of nuclear technology and its utility for socio-economic development. Important innovations in medicine, energy and other industrial applications have been developed through the use of nuclear technology. Countries like ours need technical support for properly utilizing nuclear science and technology for development, building capacity, complying with the safeguard regime and ensuring safety and security of nuclear and radioactive materials.

Since the signing of RSA[1] Concerning the Provision of Technical Assistance and the Fifth Agreement to Extend the 1987 RCA[2] for Research, Development and Training in 2012, Nepal has become beneficiary of IAEA's technical cooperation. The area of technical cooperation includes building of national infrastructure for radiation safety, developing radiation health service infrastructure, increasing animal productivity and trans-boundary diseases control, improving crop yield for food security, education in nuclear physics and chemistry, and non-destructive testing among others.

We have seen good results of the projects in the application of nuclear science and technology for peaceful purposes. Nuclear medicine services have been strengthened and expanded in Nepal. Diagnosis and treatment of cancer disease has become more effective and affordable to the needy and poor.

The cooperation has helped capacity building of Nepali technical experts as well as institutional capacity building of some academic and scientific institutions. Now we are engaging with IAEA to prioritize national programs and projects with a view to sustain the achievements and help implementing SGDs. Last year we had the pleasure to host the Director General of IAEA Mr. Yukiya Amano on visit to Nepal.

Nuclear science and technology should be used only for the peaceful purposes within recognized safeguard framework of IAEA. To give it an effect, in 1972, we signed the Comprehensive Safeguard Agreement with IAEA. Ever since, we have not only adhered to the Treaty provisions but also stood for stringent safeguards measures and IAEA verifications. Nepal has introduced Nuclear Materials Regulatory Directives and has adopted National Nuclear Policy. We are in the process of enacting separate nuclear law to create a sound regulatory framework within the country. We believe that only a robust regulatory framework at the national levels can ensure better nuclear security and safety at the global level.

Madame President,

Nepal strongly believes that the international community, while complying to such frameworks prescribed for the peaceful uses of nuclear technology, should equally espouse the principles of general and complete disarmament of all weapons of mass destruction particularly the chemical,



biological, radiological and nuclear weapons. We believe that resources of armaments should be diverted to peace and development. We consider that sustainable peace can be achieved only through dialogues and collaboration, not through armaments. We believe in utilizing science and technology for creating new and fair development opportunities for all.

To confirm this belief, Nepal was one of the original signatories of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons which we ratified in 1970. We are a signatory to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. Last year we supported the adoption of the Nuclear Weapons Prohibition Treaty and later we signed it. Ratification process of both of these treaties is being initiated with due priority. We are a State party to the Chemical Weapons Convention and Biological Weapons Convention. We strongly support UN Security Council resolution 1540 and remain fully committed to its implementation. These international regimes not only compliment but also support and sustain the momentum towards non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament with NPT as its cornerstone.

Madame President,

Before I conclude, allow me to briefly update about the uniquely successful peace process through which Nepal transitioned to a state of democratic peace and stability. In the process we concluded a decade long armed conflict peacefully, managed arms and armed combatants and integrated them into the society, restructured the State, empowered women and hitherto marginalized communities, managed diversity and adopted democratic constitution through an inclusive and democratically elected Constituent Assembly and formed stable governments in all three tiers of federal structures through democratic elections. It was a home-grown, nationally led process owned and supported by our people. The peace process has established a culture of dialogue, accommodation, and mutual respect among the stakeholders within the country.

To sustain the political gains and building on the democratic foundation that has been created, we are now focused on attaining economic development with a vision of 'Prosperous Nepal and Happy Nepali'. This vision is closely aligned with SDGs, and we intend to implement this through promoting investment, propelling economic growth, creating job, maintaining stability, and ensuring social justice, good governance and rule of law.

Excellencies,

In today's globalized world, no country can walk alone in the pursuit of development and prosperity. Only through partnership, cooperation and collaboration we can collectively reach to that destination. Nepal is keen to forge that partnership for collective prosperity.

I thank you for your attention.

**STATEMENT BY HON. MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS PRADEEP KUMAR  
GYAWALI AT THE ANNUAL MINISTERIAL MEETING OF LDCs**

**27 September 2018 New York**

Mr. Chairman,  
Honorable Ministers,  
Under Secretary General and High Representative for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS,  
Distinguished Delegates,

At the outset, I commend Bangladesh for its role as chair of the Group of Least Developed Countries for the last three years, leading the Group so successfully, and welcome Malawi as interim chair of the Group.

I also take this opportunity to appreciate the role played by the UN Secretary-General as well as by the OHRLLS team.

Mr. Chairman,

LDCs are the battleground on which the 2030 Agenda will be won or lost. Stakes are high for us. And the cost of non-achievement is even higher.

In implementing 2030 Agenda, the experience till date shows a mixed progress for LDCs. Nepal is localizing the SDG implementation, remains committed to a balanced and robust economic development with a high growth rate.

Only a handful of LDCs are expected to reach the SDG target of at least 7% GDP growth per annum by 2019.

The increasing trade tensions these days hurt the furthest behind most. More than that, it assaults the very philosophy of a rule-based and fair global trade regime.

The structural constraints of poverty, inequality and unemployment continue to impede the pace of progress in LDCs. Adverse effects of climate change, natural disasters and internal conflicts further compound the challenges. Those LDCs, which are also geographically constrained, such as landlocked and small islands, are more vulnerable to these shocks. They bear higher cost of production, transportation and low comparative advantage of their exports.

International community should come forward to ensure market access, remove tariff and non-tariff barriers, lift quantitative restrictions, and help capacity building and technology transfer.

They need financing and investments to conquer poor infrastructures, narrow production and export bases, dismal capital formation, and low factor productivity.

It is high time that all stakeholders, including the international community, deliver on their commitments.

Mr. Chairman,

The priorities of the Istanbul Program of Action (IPOA), re-endorsed by its Mid-Term Review, are critical to the development of LDCs. What we need is a strong synergy between the implementation of IPOA and the 2030 Agenda.

Nepal welcomes the operationalization of Technology Bank for LDCs in Turkey. With this, SDG target 17.8 has been achieved, the first ever target to have been met. The Bank needs to be adequately resourced, so that it can provide much-needed science, technology and innovation support to LDCs.

This year, in its triennial review, the Committee on Development Policy (CDP) has recommended four countries for graduation. It is encouraging that never have so many countries been identified for graduation at a single review.

Still, we fall short to meet IPOA's aim to enable half of the LDCs to meet the graduation criteria by 2020. A robust response is required to ensure that a greater number of LDCs are prepared for graduation. Most importantly, the graduation must be smooth as well as sustainable.

For many LDCs, the graduation criteria itself fails to capture the reality in its entirety, which deserve a revisit.

Nepal met two out of three criteria for graduation for the second consecutive triennial review this year, but we still have low per capita income. Sustainability of our development progress is a major challenge. As the country is recovering from the disastrous earthquake of 2015 and continues to remain vulnerable to natural disasters, the decision regarding our graduation has been deferred till 2021.

We are now intensifying our development efforts to build ground for sustainable graduation as well as to become a middle-income country by 2030.

Mr. Chairman,

In June this year, the UN Member States adopted a transformative resolution on repositioning of UN Development System. It is our hope that a reinvigorated system works better for LDCs. If the system fails, LDCs would bear the severest of the brunt.

As I conclude, Mr. Chair, I would like to stress that the development path of LDCs should not remain slow, long and vague. The crucial phase of implementing 2030 Agenda as well as IPOA cannot go squandered. The greatest challenge in front of us is resource gap. International support measures should complement our national efforts.

The clock is ticking, and we cannot afford to lose a single opportunity.

I thank you all.

**STATEMENT BY HON. MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS PRADEEP KUMAR  
GYAWALI AT THE 40TH SESSION OF  
HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

27 February 2019 Geneva

Mr. President  
Excellencies  
Distinguished Delegates  
Ladies and Gentlemen

It is indeed an honour to be back after 11 years since I first addressed this Council in 2007.

I bring warm greetings on behalf of the people and Government of Nepal for the success of this session.

At the outset, let me begin by congratulating you, Mr. President, and members of the Bureau and assure Nepal's full support.

I congratulate Madam High Commissioner and wish her for a successful tenure of office.

Mr. President,

While addressing the 73rd session of the UNGA last September, the Prime Minister of Nepal Rt. Honourable Mr. K P Sharma Oli had said and I quote, “[W]e hold the view that development, democracy and respect for human rights are interdependent and mutually reinforcing. As a member of the Human Rights Council, we will continue to play our constructive role to deliver on Council's mandates.” Unquote.

This statement essentially reflects Nepal's firm commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights at home and constructively contribute to fulfill the mandate of this Council as its member.

We believe in multilateralism with the United Nations at its center. Nepal holds strong faith in the principles and values enshrined in the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other human rights instruments to which we are a party.

We firmly believe in the universality, indivisibility, interrelatedness, interdependence and mutually reinforcing nature of human rights, including the right to development. All human rights must be treated in a fair and equal manner on the same footing and with the same emphasis. Our approach must remain balanced and all human rights must be operational at national, regional and international levels. The rule of law must work at all levels.

Peace and human rights cannot be achieved without attaining inclusive development. We consider that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Global Compact on Migration provide wider platforms to advance inclusive human rights agenda everywhere. Faithful implementation of these landmark compacts and other relevant internationally agreed development frameworks is central to the enjoyment of human rights by all.

As we celebrate the centenary of International Labour Organization and the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, these milestone events should inspire us to further advance human-centered future of work and the human rights agenda.

Mr. President,

The Human Rights Council and its mechanisms have been playing an important role for the protection and promotion of human rights. The work of this Council should rekindle a hope for all those that look upon us as a voice of conscience. This becomes possible only when we act in unison for all those that deserve our attention. Our commitment and action should speak in harmony.

The Universal Periodic Review mechanism has successfully evolved as a platform of positive international cooperation in the field of human rights. This represents a transparent and fair process for all. We consider that the spirit of cooperation and desire to improve human rights situation everywhere through UPR process should be further promoted. In Nepal, we have been implementing the outcome of second cycle of UPR in earnest under a clear plan of actions.

Mr. President,

Nepal represents a uniquely successful case of democratic political transformation. At the center of this process lies our aspiration to ensure equal rights to all of our people. Therefore, Nepal's commitment to the universal values of human rights is total. We are a party to all major international human rights instruments, including seven of the nine core human rights conventions. We have internalized those values into our national laws, policies and practices.

The Constitution of Nepal is founded on universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms and such other principles as inclusive multiparty democratic polity, pluralism, the rule of law, representative and accountable government, social justice and independent judiciary. Equality and non-discrimination lie at the core of it. The Constitution guarantees special measures that all sections of our society are enabled to enjoy those rights and receive fair share of representation in all spheres of national life, including politics, governance, health, education, employment and social security.

We have put in place requisite legal and institutional arrangements to realize those provisions. The year 2018 essentially remained a year of human rights law making. We accomplished the task of

enacting total 16 legislations for the implementation of all fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution.

The National Human Rights Commission of Nepal confirms to the Paris principle and stands accredited as 'A' category national human rights institution for years.

Separate independent and constitutionally empowered Commissions have been established to promote and protect the rights and interests of women, Dalit, indigenous nationalities, Madheshi, Tharu and Muslims. National Inclusion Commission is mandated to ensure that the constitutional and legal provisions are effectively implemented.

True to our commitment, we have all along remained constructively engaged with the UN human rights mechanisms and fulfilled our reporting obligations. Last year alone, three periodic reports of Nepal under CRPD, CERD and CEDAW were considered by the respective treaty bodies. We hosted Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants and Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, Its Causes and Consequences. We have extended invitation to the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food and are keen on welcoming her to Nepal some time this year.

Nepal was one of the pioneering countries to mainstreaming human rights agendas into national policies and plans through Human Rights National Action Plan. Currently the fourth series of the Action Plan (2014-19) is under implementation and the fifth one is being prepared in tandem with the national development plan for next five years.

Mr. President,

Having firmly set the political course in place, we are resolutely focused on economic agenda with the long term vision of "Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali". We are in the mission of enabling our people to fully enjoy all human rights. Landmark schemes of contribution-based social security scheme, universal health insurance program and Prime Minister Employment Program have been launched.

Forty-five percent of the public sector employment has been reserved for weaker sections of our population. The policy of affirmative action has significantly enhanced their access to education, health services, employment opportunities and political participation. We have been able to bring transformative change in their empowerment and bring them to the forefront of political and development process.

The story of gender equality and empowerment is particularly inspiring. Women now represent 33 per cent at the federal and provincial assemblies, and total 41% in all elected bodies. Nepal currently has a woman Head of State.

Strengthening of national capacity remains our priority. Nepal's independent judiciary has made contribution to further enrich human rights jurisprudence. We have abolished death penalty and do not condone impunity.

Nepal is a uniquely successful case of nationally owned and nationally led peace process. To conclude the last leg of this process, term of the two independent Commissions- the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Commission of Investigation on Enforced Disappeared Persons- have been recently extended to allow time to complete their mandates. We are preparing for the amendment of the laws in consultation with and participation of the victims. There exists a requisite political will to conclude this last remaining task of the peace process in equally unique way. In doing so, we will be guided by the Comprehensive Peace Accord, directive of the Supreme Court, relevant international commitments, concerns of the victims and the ground realities. There will be no blanket amnesty in the cases of serious violations of human rights.

Civil society organizations have been important partners in our development efforts. We value the role of the media and civil society in the promotion and protection of human rights. To conclude, Mr. President, Nepal truly believes that together we can provide a strong voice to all those who look up to the Council and make a positive difference in their lives by upholding the mantle of human rights.

We are a young democracy. We are keen to learn from the wider world, share our own experience in the field, and contribute for the promotion and protection of human rights. Our experience so far in the Council has given much needed confidence to consolidate democracy, peace and human rights in the country. With this in mind, Nepal has presented candidature for the re-election to the Council for the second term 2021-2023 and we count on your support and cooperation.

We know that no country has ever achieved perfection in human rights. What is important is how sincerely and seriously we are aiming higher and better. We consider that Nepal has been consistently doing better and we are genuinely willing to improve further. With this open mind and genuine desire we have come to this session.

I thank you.



**STATEMENT BY MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS MR. PRADEEP KUMAR  
GYAWALI AT THE SECOND HIGH-LEVEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON  
SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION**

**20 March 2019 Buenos Aires, Argentina**

Mr. President,  
Excellencies, Heads of State/Government and ministers  
Distinguished delegates  
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my honour and privilege to participate in the Second High-Level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation in the beautiful city of Buenos Aires, which is witness of the important and historic Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA) adopted here 40 years ago. The BAPA Conference in 1978 not only set a bedrock for cooperation among developing countries but also became a synonymous with South-South Cooperation itself.

I would like to join the speakers before me in thanking and appreciating the generosity of the Government of Argentina for hosting as well as for making excellent arrangements for the Conference. We also appreciate the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the UN Office for South-South Cooperation for substantive as well as other preparations.

I also take this opportunity to congratulate you, Mr. President, and other officers on your appointment to lead this important Conference. I would also like to assure you of our full support in discharging your important responsibilities.

I align my statement with the statement of the Group of 77 and China delivered by the State of Palestine.

Mr. President,

South-South Cooperation is more relevant now than ever before.

The development landscape has changed significantly. The South has developed an enormous potential for economic transformation. The progress some members of the South have achieved over the decades has not only widened the scope of the cooperation, but has brought us closer towards realizing the purpose of 'collective self-reliance'. While sharing of experiences and best practices between and among the countries of the South will go a long way, the cooperation needs a more concrete and meaningful form.

This is time to further diversify and strengthen our cooperation: in scale, in scope, in quality and in its effectiveness.

South-South Cooperation, as complementary to and not as a substitute for the North-South Cooperation, plays an important role for the effective and timely implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other internationally agreed development outcomes such as IPOA and VPOA.

Mr. President,

Let me highlight what cooperation means to a landlocked LDC like Nepal that has just begun an economic transformation to sustain its successful political gains that culminated in the democratic Constitution in 2015. To realize the ambition of the Constitution, the Government has already initiated transformative process in a holistic approach with a resolve of “Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali”. 41 percent women representations in the federal, provincial and local elected bodies, introduction of Comprehensive Social Security Program, Nationwide Health Insurance Program and Prime Minister Employment Program among others, are the instruments to achieve prosperity and happiness. We have internalized the SDGs in our national policies and planning. We wish to graduate from LDC stage at earliest and to become middle income country by 2030. There is need of enhanced level of investment to accelerate the economic growth which demands scaled up international cooperation.

We know that those who have a long journey to travel should walk fast. And we are prepared to walk fast and catch up with fast growing economy.

But we are not alone in this journey. We are confident that international cooperation and partnership, including South-South cooperation, are important components in realizing our national development goals and objectives.

Mr. President,

Lastly, allow me now to highlight four important principles for my country:

- First, some members in the South despite being similar development ambitions are far lagging behind. They need even more understanding, partnership and cooperation. Principle of ‘leaving no one behind’ should be placed at the core.
- Second, our cooperation should have a focus, a clear focus on poverty eradication. SDG 1 is the biggest battle we have and perhaps the most cross-cutting, and therefore a *sine qua non* for making the world a better place to live.
- Third, gender equality, inclusiveness, concrete steps to mitigate the adverse effect of climate change and the social justice, among others, should be the guide posts of development

perspectives. Women and youths should be assured for better opportunities and more investment must be guaranteed in education and technological innovations.

- Finally, our development experience tells that all forms of cooperation should respect national ownership and leadership, and focus on country needs and priorities. And global peace and stability is the prerequisite, because cost of conflicts mainly goes on the shoulder of Global South.

To conclude, Mr. President, I reiterate Nepal's call for meeting commitments, forging partnerships, increasing cooperation and redoubling our efforts, including through the South-South Cooperation, to support the countries that need the most. Nepal is ready to work together with all fellow member states and all stakeholders to this important end.

I thank you.

## **VI. Establishment of Diplomatic Relations**

<b>S.N.</b>	<b>Name of Countries</b>	<b>Date of Establishment of Diplomatic Relation</b>
1.	Rwanda	20 July 2018
2.	Madagascar	26 September 2018
3.	Suriname	11 October 2018
4.	Togo	22 March 2019
5.	Equatorial Guinea	30 April 2019
6.	Eswatini	9 May 2019

## VII. Appointment of Nepali Ambassadors

S.N.	Name of Appointed Ambassadors	Accredited Countries (Residential)	Date of Cabinet Decision
1.	Dr. Anjan Shakya	Israel	25 Kartik 2075
2.	Mr. Krishna Prasad Dhakal	United Arab Emirates	25 Kartik 2075
3.	Mr. Nilamber Acharya	India	25 Kartik 2075
4.	Mr. Udaya Raj Pandey	Malaysia	25 Kartik 2075
5.	Mr. Bhriugu Dhungana	Canada	09 Poush 2075
6.	Mr. Dipak Adhikari	France	09 Poush 2075
7.	Mr. Durga Prasad Bhandari	Kuwait	09 Poush 2075
8.	Mr. Ganesh Prasad Dhakal	Thailand	09 Poush 2075
9.	Mr. Mani Prasad Bhattarai	Switzerland	09 Poush 2075
10.	Mr. Amrit Bahadur Rai	PMN, New York	23 Poush 2075
11.	Dr. Banshidhar Mishra	Bangladesh	23 Jestha 2076
12.	Ms. Dawa Futi Sherpa	Spain	23 Jestha 2076
13.	Mr. Mahesh Raj Dahal	Australia	23 Jestha 2076
14.	Mr. Narad Nath Bharadwaj	Qatar	23 Jestha 2076

## VIII. Foreign Ambassadors who presented credentials

S.N.	Name of Ambassador	Accreditation/ Country	Date
1.	H. E. Mr. Pertti Juhani Anttinen	Residential, Finland	13 September 2018
2.	H. E. Mr. Francois-Xavier Leger	Residential, France	13 September 2018
3.	H. E. Mrs. Brigitte Oppinger-Walchhofer	Non- Residential, Austria	13 September 2018
4.	H. E. Mr. Jose Ramon Baranano Fernandez	Non- Residential, Spain	13 September 2018
5.	H. E. Mr. Randy W Berry	Residential, USA	25 October 2018
6.	H. E. Mr. Baraka Haran Luvanda	Non- Residential, Tanzania	25 October 2018
7.	H. E. Mr. Stephen Borg	Non- Residential, Malta	25 October 2018
8.	H. E. Mr. Petar Ljubicic	Non-Residential, Croatia	25 October 2018
9.	H. E. Mr. Jo Yong Man	Residential, Democratic Republic of Korea	7 January 2019
10.	H. E. Ms. Hou Yanqi	Residential, People's Republic of China	7 January 2019
11.	H. E. Mr. Musaid Bin Sulaiman M. Al-Mawany	Residential, Saudi Arabia	7 January 2019
12.	H. E. Mr. Klas Molin	Non-Residential, Sweden	7 January 2019

13.	H. E. Mr. Maj. Gen. Chris Sunday Eze (Rtd.)	Non-Residential, Nigeria	18 March 2019
14.	H. E. Mr. Ivan Lancaric	Non- Residential, Slovak Republic	18 March 2019
15.	H. E. Mr. Marten Cornelis Van Den Berg	Non- Residential, Netherlands	18 March 2019
16.	H. E. Mr. Pham Sanh Chau	Non- Residential, Vietnam	18 March 2019
17.	H. E. Mr. UNG Sean	Non- Residential, Cambodia	8 May 2019
18.	H. E. Mr. Giovanni Rene Castilo Polanco	Non- Residential, Guatemala	3 June 2019
19.	H. E. Mr. Francois Delhaye	Non- Residential, Kingdom of Belgium	3 June 2019
20.	H. E. Mr. Ali Chegeni	Non- Residential, Islamic Republic of Iran	3 June 2019
21.	H. E. Mr. Ashraf Shikhaliyev	Non- Residential, Republic of Azerbaijan	3 June 2019

22.	H. E. Ms. Dinah Grace Akello	Non- Residential, Republic of Uganda	15 July 2019
23.	H. E. Mr. Muhamed Cengic	Non- Residential, Bosnia and Herzegovina	15 July 2019
24.	H. E. Mr. Sekou Kasse	Non- Residential, Republic of Mali	15 July 2019
25.	H. E. Mr. Agis Loizou	Non- Residential, Republic of Cyprus	15 uly 2019



## **IX. Kathmandu-based Foreign Ambassadors who completed their Tour of Duty**

<b>S. N.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Return Date</b>
1.	H. E. Mr. Yves Carmona	France	July 2018
2.	H. E. Ms. Alaina B. Teplitz	USA	August 2018
3.	H. E. Mr. Kim Yong Hak	North Korea	December 2018
4.	H. E. Ms. Yu Hong	China	December 2018

## **Abbreviations**

A4P	Action for Peacekeeping
ACD	Asia Cooperation Dialogue
AI	Artificial Intelligence
AIT	Asia Institute of Technology
BAPA	Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries
BBNJ	Bio-diversity of areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ)
BGC	Brain Gain Centre
BGICC	BIMSTEC Grid Interconnection Coordination Committee
BPWC	BIMSTEC Permanent Working Committee
BRI	Belt and Road Initiative
BS	Bikram Sambat
BWG	Boundary Working Group
CBS	Central Bureau of Statistics
CCPCJ	Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ)
CEDAW	Committee on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women
CND	Commission on Narcotics Drugs
COP	Conference of the Parties
CSW	Commission on Status of Women
DOFE	Department of Foreign Employment
DPM	Deputy Prime Minister
DPR	Detailed Project Report
EIF	Enhanced Integrated Framework
EPG	Eminent Persons' Group
EPS	Employment Permit System
GCM	Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
GCR	Global Compact on Refugees
HRC	Human Rights Council

IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
IFA	Institute of Foreign Affairs of Nepal
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPOA	Istanbul Programme of Action
JAWG	Joint Agriculture Working Group
JETRO	Japan External Trade Organization
JPMC	Joint Project Monitoring Committee
JSC	Joint Steering Committee
JTT	Joint Technical Team
JWG	Joint Working Group
LCS	Land Customs Station
MCC	Millennium Challenge Corporation
MIGA	Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency
MRTDs	Machine Readable Travel Documents
PBC	Peace Building Commission
R20	Coalition of R 20 Regions of Climate Action
RBAP	Regional Bureau of Asia and the Pacific
SOC	Survey Officials' Committee
TCCs	Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs)
TNC	Trade Negotiation Committee
TOE	Team of Experts/Officials
TPR	Trade Policy Review
VPOA	Vienna Programme of Action
WEF	World Economic Forum



# Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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This Annual report can also be accessed at Ministry's website: [www.mofa.gov.np](http://www.mofa.gov.np)