

# National Workshop on Post 2015 Sustainable Development Framework

Kathmandu, 14 August, 2014

NGO Federation of Nepal (NFN) organized a Multi-stakeholder National Workshop on Post 2015 Development Framework in Kathmandu on 14 August 2014. The main objective of the workshop was to share outcome of different thematic discussions on proposed post 2015 Development Goals and collect feedback from various stakeholders and prepare common agenda from entire civil society on the Post 2015 agenda before the government of Nepal sets its position and makes recommendations to the United Nations on the same.

Welcoming to the participants of the workshop, Mr. Gopal Lamsal, Secretary General of NFN informed how global as well as national deliberations were taking place on beyond 2015 development agendas along with sharing about NFN's engagement in various programmes and initiatives on MDGs and Post 2015 development agenda. While putting forward his opinion about the Post 2015 initiatives, he said that civil society of Nepal wants post 2015 agendas to be prepared in a way that they address the problems facing the LDCs.

Chairing the programme, NFN President Ms. Sharmila Karki expressed that she is upbeat about civil society's concerns to be incorporated in the inter-governmental process of preparing Post 2015 Development Agendas. She also put emphasis on active engagement of civil



society, government-CSO cooperation and internalization of international principles on development partnership and cooperation in this process. She appreciated the role of number of civil society organizations who participated in the thematic discussions on the Zero Draft on Post 2015 Development Framework presented by the UN-OWG for global deliberations and also informed that the outcome document emerged from the series of discussions will be handed over to the government of Nepal after incorporating feedback from wider civil society community.

Chief Guest of the programme Prof. Dr. Govinda Raj Pokharel, Vice Chairman of the National Planning Commission (NPC) made a brief analysis of the economic growth that the country has achieved and also shared the existing gaps hindering to achieve inclusive growth. He expressed doubt about creating inclusive wealth with pace of present growth which is too slow to meet the

expected growth. He stressed on the need for prioritizing role of private sector, an engine of economic growth, in the whole Post 2015 Development Framework formulation process. He also suggested NFN to give prominent space to the private sector while making standpoint of civil society on the Means of Implementation. According to him, means of implementation was the key area to be improved and monitored. Refuting the criticism coming from different stakeholder about lack of government's investment and unbalanced allocation of budget for different sectors such as agriculture, health and education; Mr. Pokharel argued that the problems were not in the



allocation of the budget, instead in the implementation. Sharing his views on ongoing deliberation on Post 2015 Development Agenda, he stated that many of the goals needed modification while setting country-specific target. He also promised that the conclusion coming from civil society would get serious

attention of National Planning Commission and other government agencies working on the agenda.

Special Guest of the workshop, Mr. Deepak Dhital, Joint Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs made it clear that though the civil society's pro-active role is acknowledgeable, formulation of Post 2015 Development Agenda was the inter-governmental process and Nepal government was ensuring its representation in the UN process to make country-specific need be included in the proposed Goals. Further, he informed that the issues such as sustainable mountainous growth were incorporated in the proposed Goal due to the strong position of Mountainous counties including Nepal. In his view, the proposed Goals come up with an idea of transformative shift by adhering principle of 'leave no one behind'. He said that the proposed Goals are prepared in a wider perspective by giving equal focus to economic development, social development, and environmental sustainability. However, he said that the set targets required open and accountable institutions to be achieved. Mr. Dhital also made it clear that when it comes to implementation level, achievable targets should be set to fit into the national context.

On the occasion, Ms. Sophie Kemkhadze, UNDP Deputy Country Director in Nepal informed how UN system was working on Post 2015 Development Framework and how consultations process were going on. She said that the UN agencies were sensitive in ensuring that consultation processes on the same were going well so that action could be enforced in result-oriented manner. Appreciating the role of NFN to create environment to bring government and CSOs together to brainstorm on Post 2015 Development Framework, she said that the initiatives of CSOs would be able to bring voice of Nepal and Nepali people to a wider arena.

Similarly, Dr. Arjun Karki, International Coordinator of LDC Watch said that it was very positive that international debate has been localized in a true sense this time. Putting forward his views on the different aspects of proposed Goals and international partnership, he said that means of implementation was more important than setting target itself. Expressing scepticism about the usefulness of Official Development Assistance which is based on the supporter's interest, he put emphasis on flow of support that could help LDCs to get rid of underdevelopment. Mr. Karki also underscored need



of putting non-tariff barrier to an end and remove monopoly in technology. Further, he also suggested that geographical remoteness and population should be taken into account while finalizing the goals as the countries having small size of population and territorial coverage cannot compete with those countries having larger geographical area and large population.

Before the key speakers presented their views on the theme, different thematic groups presented the outcomes of thematic discussions on proposed Goals. Mr. Saroj Pokharel from Action Aid presented the conclusion drawn from the thematic discussion on Poverty Eradication, Mr. Buddhi Chaudhari from FIAN Nepal on Sustainable Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition, Mr. Shanta Lal Mulmi from Resource Centre for Primary Health Care, Mr. BK Shrestha from National Campaign for Education on Education, Ms. Tej Kumari Tiwari from Women in Policy Advocacy on Gender Equality and Women-Girl Empowerment, Mr. Dilli Ghimire from National Association of Community Electricity Users in Nepal on Sustainable Energy, Mr. Rajendra Aryal from Federation of Drinking Water and Sanitation Users in Nepal on Water and Sanitation, Dr. Chandra Bahadur Shrestha from Nepal Engineering College on Infrastructure and Industrialization, Mr. Kalanidhi Devkota from Municipal Association of Nepal on Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements, Mr. Manjeet Dhakal from Climate Action Network on Climate Change, Mr. Ganesh Karki from Federation of Community Forest Users Nepal on Ecosystem and Biodiversity, Mr. Bishnu Khatri from Collective Campaign for Peace on Peaceful and Inclusive Society and Mr. Daya Sagar Shrestha from NGO Federation of Nepal presented conclusion of thematic discussion on Means of Implementation and Global Partnership.

Similarly, outcomes of different cross cutting themes were also presented in the workshop. Mr. Kumar Bhattarai from Consortium Nepal presented on Children, Mr. Ganesh BK from National Human Rights Alliance on Human Rights, Mr. Sushil BK from Dalit NGO Federation on Dalits, Dr. Gauri Shankar Lal Das from National Senior Citizen Federation on Senior Citizen, Mr. Sudarshan Subedi from National Federation of Disabled Nepal on Disables, Ms. Bhumika Shrestha from Blue Diamond Society on Sexual Minorities, Mr. Kedar Khadka from Good

Governance Foundation on Good Governance and Mr. Tilottam Poudel from Association of Youth Organizations in Nepal presented on issue of Youth.

After the presentation, feedback on the outcomes of thematic discussions and cross cutting issues was collected from the participants.

NFN will now prepare a comprehensive outcome document by further incorporating the feedback and will submit to the government on behalf of an entire civil society organization which NFN believes to be helpful in preparing the official document of Government on Post 2015 development agenda and in the process of engaging in UN process.

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