

SUMMIT FOR DEMOCRACY

FACT SHEET

The Summit for Democracy - Fact Sheet is an initiative by Accountability Lab Nepal (ALN) to monitor the commitments made by the Nepal government during the Summit for Democracy (S4D). This final fact sheet outlines the Nepal government's progress on these commitments from 01 June 2023 to 31 May 2024.

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HUMAN RIGHTS

June 22, 2023: The Supreme Court ordered the implementation of the Citizenship Bill, paving the way for about 400,000 third-generation Nepalis to receive citizenship by descent.

August 17, 2023: The Nepal government revised the minimum monthly wage of workers from NRs. 15,000 to NRs. 17,300. The daily minimum wage and the hourly wage have been raised to NRs. 668, and to NRs. 80 respectively.

October 12, 2023: The Election Commission drafted a procedure to create a voter list of eligible Nepali citizens living overseas. It allows non-registered Nepali individuals to join the voter registry from abroad through an online system.

March 17, 2024: The Supreme Court directed the government to establish juvenile courts by mid-July 2024, as mandated by the Act Relating to Children, 2018. It emphasizes the need for dedicated courts with judges who can handle the sensitivity of children's cases.

May 13, 2024: The Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security revised the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 2000 adding the list of professions where the children shouldn't be engaged.



EQUAL RIGHTS FOR WOMEN, GENDER AND RELIGIOUS MINORITIES, AND DISADVANTAGED GROUPS

June 30, 2023: The Supreme Court issued an interim order to put in place a transitional mechanism to register the marriage of same-sex couples and other non-traditional heterosexual couples. Following this, Dordi Rural Municipality in Lumjung registered the first same-sex marriage in Nepal.

February 14, 2024: The Ministry of Women, Children, and Senior Citizens formulated a strategy to end child marriage in Nepal. The strategy aims to eliminate child marriage in Nepal by 2030 and includes awareness programs and activities through local and provincial governments.

May 24, 2024: The Commission for the Investigation of Irregular Transactions, within the Ministry of Home Affairs, urged all loan shark victims to submit their applications with their details to the respective District Administration Office for investigation.

May 28, 2024: The government declared 2081/82 BS as Women Investment Year in the budget, and has also introduced the "Prime Minister Daughter Self-Reliant Program," aiming to provide employment-oriented education and skills to young females in coordination with local and provincial governments.



HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The latest data suggest about 200 Nepalis are employed in the Russian Army fighting the Russian-Ukraine war, and about 19 Nepalis have lost their lives. However, the exact number is unavailable and the government has not been able to rescue those seeking help.

Meanwhile, the government has opened the path for Nepalis to go to Russia by providing labor permit renewal and for those going through recruitment companies.

May 28, 2024: In the 2081/82 budget, the Nepal government has introduced the Returnee Entrepreneurship Program to foster entrepreneurship among returnees by utilizing their skills, knowledge, and capital. The initiative aims to secure employment for 100,000 returnees.



TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE

There are about 63,718 complaints lodged with the TRC and around 2,400 cases with the CIEDP. Despite, the significant number of victims awaiting justice, the commission has been dysfunctional since July 2022 due to the lack of executive heads to carry out its task. This raises a serious question about the commission's performance whose tenure will close in July 2024.

May 28, 2024: In the 2081/82 BS budget, the government announced the establishment of a Peace Fund of NRs. 1 billion to provide compensation and financial support to the families of the civil war victims.



ANTI-CORRUPTION MEASURES

April 12, 2024: The president approved an Act amending various laws, including the Disbursement Act, Tourism Act, and Money Laundering Prevention Act, to enhance asset (money) laundering prevention and business promotion measures.

CLIMATE CHANGE

July 7, 2023: The Nepal Government decided to ban the use, production, import, and distribution of single-use plastic below 40 microns, as mentioned in the action plan on the plastic bag ban-2078.

November 30, 2023: A team led by Prime Minister, Pushpa Kamal Dahal represented Nepal at the 28th Conference of the Parties (COP-28) in Dubai, UAE, where it hosted a high-level side event “Call of the Mountain: Who Saves Us from the Climate Crisis?” to bring to light the impacts of climate change on mountains.

May 22, 2024: Nepal hosted an international dialogue titled “Mountains, Humans, and Climate Change: International Dialogue of Experts” with experts from 25 countries—the program aimed to draw the international community’s attention to climate change’s impacts on the Himalayas.

May 28, 2024: In the 2081/82 budget, the government has introduced a green tax targeting fossil fuels and environmentally harmful sectors. This tax applies to coal, coal-derived products, petrol, diesel, and soft beverages like Coke.





FIGHT AGAINST DISINFORMATION AND HATE SPEECH AND PROTECTION OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

October 13: The Nepal government banned Tiktok on the pretext that it violated social harmony. However, it received widespread criticism as violating the citizens' freedom of expression and impacting the livelihoods of individuals sustained through TikTok.

December 5: The Ministry of Communication and Information Technology published a Directive for "Managing the Use of Social Media Platforms" to regulate the operation of social media platforms. As part of it, the companies are mandated to either have an office or establish a point of contact as an arrangement to handle complaints.

January 19: The Council of Ministers has approved the enactment of the E-Governance Commission Bill which aims to streamline the operation of the recently formed E-Governance Commission. The Commission will develop operation strategies for the integrated data centers and financial transactions, map risks in e-governance, etc.

23 May 2024: The Nepal government has established a National Cyber Security Center to fulfill its Digital Nepal Framework 2076 objective. It will conduct research and development, identify challenges and prevention measures, respond, recovery, and conduct a digital forensic investigation.