



SUMMIT FOR DEMOCRACY

NEPAL'S YEAR OF ACTION

The Summit for Democracy (S4D) is an initiative to promote democracy and human rights worldwide, bringing together governments, civil society, businesses, journalists and other stakeholders in democratic reform. Nepal participated in the 1st S4D under the leadership of former Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba, and made a variety of commitments to strengthen democracy.

Nepal has also been co-leading the Youth Democracy Cohort of the S4D with the European Commission—a group that is focusing specifically on driving forwards the youth agenda within the S4D Year of Action (YoA). The Prime Minister's commitments made at the Summit for Democracy were a step forward, but progress has been mixed and there is still much to do to ensure Nepal becomes a full democracy.



In January 2023, [Accountability Lab](https://www.accountabilitylab.org/) facilitated a dialogue with over 50 civil society leaders in Kathmandu to map specific ways forward on Nepal's S4D commitments. In February 2023, with [International IDEA](https://www.internationalidea.org/), we validated these ideas around the country in smaller focus groups of young people. The following is a summary of what emerged as key next steps for the Nepali government ahead of the 2nd Summit for Democracy (S4D2) in March 2023.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Progress

- The parliament is currently considering the Federal Education Bill, which aims to secure equal educational opportunities for everyone.

Specific Next Steps for S4D2

- Ensure the voting rights of Nepali migrant workers around the world before the next elections;
- Ensure timely access to justice – by mandating that all legal cases be solved within two years;
- Protect Freedom of Expression and Access to Information by including these issues in the National Cyber Security Law



EQUAL RIGHTS FOR WOMEN, AND GENDER AND RELIGIOUS MINORITIES

Progress

- The parliament has approved a protocol for the care of acid attack survivors, allowing them to receive treatment without cost at four healthcare facilities;
- The time frame for filing a rape case has also been extended, with a 2-year limit for adults and a 3-year limit after reaching the age of 18 for minors.

Specific Next Steps for S4D2

- Ensure participation in governance from LGBTQI+ communities by allocating quotas of 10% in the bureaucracy and 10% for elected seats at all levels;
- Reform the laws against violence and rape to be more inclusive by including provisions for rape against all genders, not just females.
- Legislate that no tradition, custom, or religious considerations may be invoked to justify gender-based violence.



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HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Progress

- The action plan to address human trafficking is being drafted, but details are not yet public.
- The government is revising several laws to align with the Palermo protocol.

Specific Next Steps for S4D2

- Sign an MoU with gulf countries ensuring safe migration for female workers from Nepal, effectively diminishing illegal migration (which leads to trafficking).
- Lobby the Indian government to tighten security along the India-Nepal border.
- Include awareness programs on human trafficking at the school and community level on a regular basis in the five most risky districts in Nepal, with plans to replicate across the country in the future.

TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE

Progress

- The government has completed consultations with war victims across Nepal.
- The proposed bill for the "Enforced Disappearances Enquiry, Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Act 2014" has been presented to parliament and is currently under examination by the Committee on Law, Justice and Human Rights.

Specific Next Steps for S4D2

- Immediately amend the transitional justice law in line with the Supreme Court verdict.
- Ensure independence of the TRC mechanism by mandating financial authority.
- Finalize the Comprehensive Peace Agreement with all the involved parties.



ANTI-CORRUPTION EFFORTS

Progress

- No progress to date

Specific Next Steps for S4D2

- Put in place a conflict of interest policy for all elected politicians.
- Publicly announce government tenders, providing at least a month for third-party companies to bid, and make the selection process for these tenders public;
- Expand the jurisdiction of the Commission for the Investigation of the Abuse of Authority to investigate government policy decisions and revoke the current practice through which the Cabinet's decision is a policy decision.



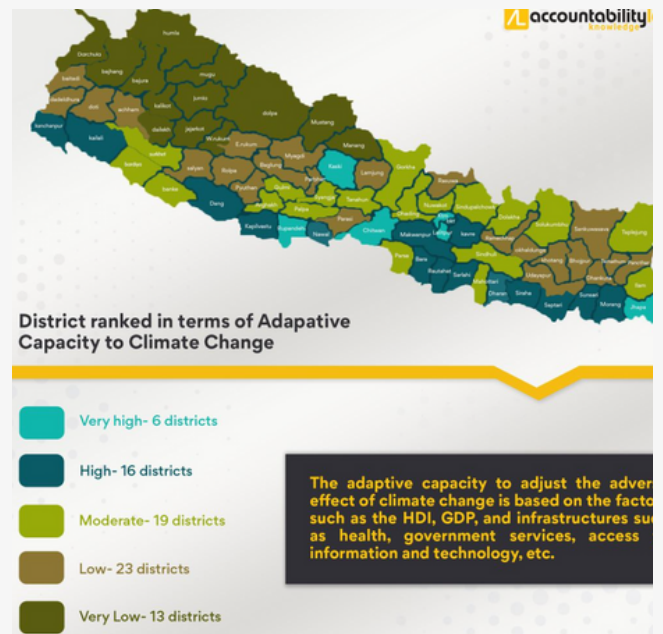
CLIMATE CHANGE

Progress

- 50 local governments have developed gender-responsive and climate-resilient adaptation plans.

Specific Next Steps for S4D2

- Reduce electric vehicle taxes and mandate all fuel stations have charging spots.
- Conduct meaningful Environmental Impact Assessments and ensure results are reflected in decision-making.
- Promote and provide tax incentives for bio-degradable products that can replace plastic use (bamboo and paper products).



Put in place a conflict of interest policy for all elected politicians

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

Progress

- The government has drafted new bills, including the Electronic Transactions Act and the Media Council, Information Technology, and Mass Communication Act. These will now be reviewed by parliament.

Specific Next Steps for S4D2

- Immediately re-draft these bills in consultation with human rights organizations.
- Mandate that all government ministry and agency websites are updated weekly with relevant information.
- Mandate that social media companies register and set up offices in Nepal, and enforce efforts to counter mis and dis-information online.



PROCESS RECOMMENDATIONS

- The Nepali government should not make additional, new commitments at S4D2- it should focus on concrete next steps related to existing commitments;
- The government should establish a central coordinating unit within the Prime Minister's Office to oversee, coordinate, and assist the agencies responsible for fulfilling S4D commitments. This unit should publicly and comprehensively report on progress on the S4D commitments annually.
- Nepal is eligible for the [Open Government Partnership \(OGP\)](#). The government should commit at S4D2 to joining OGP and integrating S4D commitments into the 1st OGP National Action Plan.



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