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National report submitted pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21*

Nepal

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



I. Process for the preparation of the report

1. The Human Rights and International Treaty Division under the OPMCM constituted a committee¹ led by the Secretary to liaise with relevant Ministries, NRIs, the Constitutional Bodies, and Parliamentary Committees. The Committee serves as the principal coordinating body for enforcing HR obligations, compiling information for related reports, and assessing the implementation of HR treaties.
2. This report has been prepared pursuant to UNHRC Decision 17/119, and it focuses on the 196 recommendations accepted by Nepal following the previous review cycle. Efforts have been made to categorize the measures implemented, progress achieved, and the challenges faced in advancing the realization of HR in the country, in accordance with the internationally accepted thematic categories.
3. Prior to the finalization of this report, several consultations were held with federal line ministries, relevant parliamentary committees, provincial and local government agencies,² NRIs³ And CSOs.

II. Implementation of recommendations from the previous cycle

4. Regarding the recommendations from the third UPR cycle⁴ (2021), Nepal presents the following observations.

A. International instruments

1. Acceptance of international norms

5. During Nepal's third UPR cycle in 2021, Nepal received 233 recommendations, accepted 196 and noted 37. Most of the recommendations were focused on strengthening the NHRC, establishing transitional justice mechanisms, and improving cooperation with treaty bodies.
6. Nepal is a party to 24 HR treaties, 11 ILO conventions, 4 Geneva Conventions on IHL, and 2 regional conventions.⁵
7. Although Nepal is not a party to the ICPPED, it has strengthened its national laws to include enforced disappearance as a punishable act. Section 206 of the NPC contains provisions regarding offences relating to Enforced Disappearance.
8. Nepal is not a party to the Rome Statute on ICC, 1998. However, in line with international laws and standards, the NPC⁶ includes provisions to address crimes against humanity.
9. With support of the UNHCR and core group of countries, approximately 113,000 Bhutanese refugees were resettled under third-country resettlement programs. MoHA issues travel documents⁷ upon the request of Refugees for travel to third countries. More than 4,000 travel documents have been issued so far (42 issued in 2024).⁸
10. The National Planning Commission has published the VNR of implementation and achievement of SDGs in June 2024. The VNR has identified that the national average progress of mid-term (2022) and long-term (2030) targets has reached 58.6 % and 41.7 % respectively. The report highlights the areas of national strategic vision for accelerating the implementation of SDGs in Nepal, which has been reflected in the 16th Periodic Plan of Nepal (FY 2024/25–2028/29). As of 2022, among the assessed indicators, 41% of indicators had exceeded their targets, 35% had shown positive progress, 20% had demonstrated negative progress, and 3% remained unchanged.
11. Nepal continues to emphasize the early conclusion of negotiations on the Right to Development⁹ in favour of Global South countries, aiming for universal recognition and advancement of this crucial agenda.

12. Nepal has acceded to the UNCTOC and the Palermo Protocol. Nepal regularly attends meetings of the BIMSTEC Sub-Group on Human Trafficking.

13. Government of Nepal (GoN), with the support of all its stakeholders, effectively implemented its 5th NHRAP along with the 3rd Cycle of UPR Implementation Action Plan and has initiated the 6th NHRAP for the next phase.¹⁰

14. The Protection of Human Rights Defenders' Directive, 2020, is being implemented and monitored.¹¹

2. Cooperation with international mechanisms and institutions

15. Nepal actively served as the HRC member (January 2020 to December 2023) and is a member of ECOSOC (since January 2024) and its current chair (2025-2027). Nepal is also leading as the coordinator of the LDCs and a member of the Peace Building Commission. Nepal has presented its candidature for membership of the HRC (2027-2029), ECOSOC (2029-2031), UNICEF (2027-2029) and Commission on Narcotic Drugs (2028-2031).¹² Nepal is currently the chair of SAARC.

16. In 2024, Nepal was elected as the Chair of the Committee on Trade and Development of the WTO for a one-year term and as a member of the Governing Body of the ILO for a three-year term. Ms Bandana Rana from Nepal was elected for her third tenure to the CEDAW Committee in 2024.

17. Nepal has been working with the Food and Agriculture Organization for the development of the agricultural sector in Nepal.

18. Nepal has continued its close cooperation with international HR mechanisms to reduce the impact of COVID-19.¹³ A total of 28 agreements with development partners amounting to USD 1,019,423,926 were concluded during the reporting period. UN Secretary-General H.E. Antonio Guterres visited Nepal from 29 October to 1 November 2023. The Secretary-General of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue, Dr Pornchai Danivathana, also visited Nepal from 31 July to 2 August 2024. GoN has invited, for a country visit, two UN Special Rapporteurs- on minority issues, Mr Nicolas Levrat on 6-17 October 2025; and on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence, Mr Bernard Dukhaime on 10-20 March 2026.¹⁴

19. Nepal has diplomatic relations with 183 UN member states of the UN. It has also concluded BLMA with 12 major foreign employment destination countries¹⁵ for safe, secure, orderly and dignified foreign employment.¹⁶

B. National instruments

Institutional arrangement

20. OPMCM serves as the key responsible agency for the coordination and follow-up of the implementation of Nepal's national and international commitments on HR. NHRC¹⁷ complies with the Paris Principles of 1993 and has been continuously accredited with 'A' status by the GANHRI. To align with Constitutional provisions and to ensure coherence with the Paris Principles, a new bill has been drafted to replace the NHRC Act, 2012.¹⁸

21. A committee comprising representatives from the NHRC, MoHA, MoF, NP, and APF has been formed to facilitate the implementation of NHRC's recommendations.¹⁹

22. The NWC²⁰ is mandated to protect and promote women's rights.²¹ Likewise, the NDC,²² NIC,²³ INC,²⁴ Madhesi Commission,²⁵ Tharu Commission²⁶ and the Muslim Commission²⁷ each has a thematic mandate.²⁸

23. The Federal Parliament enacted various laws to implement the fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution of Nepal (the Constitution) and to fulfil the international commitments of Nepal.²⁹ It also enacted the Legislation Act, 2025, to ensure post-legislative scrutiny of all laws enacted by Parliament within five years of their implementation³⁰ along with some specific laws³¹ providing such provision.

24. The Land Act, 1964, has been amended³² to ensure equitable land distribution and resolve issues of landless Dalits, squatters, and informal settlements. The formation of the Land Issue Resolving Commission is another milestone towards ensuring the fundamental rights of the citizens.

25. The SC under its extraordinary jurisdiction conferred by the Constitution³³ may issue appropriate orders and writs.³⁴ All ministries have a separate section designated for the implementation of the court orders and decisions.³⁵

III. Cross-cutting issues

A. Equality and non-discrimination

26. The Constitution ensures economic equality, prosperity and social justice by eliminating discrimination.³⁶ The state shall not discriminate against citizens on any grounds.³⁷

27. Legal arrangements have been made to prohibit and punish any act of discrimination against anyone. An act of discrimination falls under a criminal offence and is investigated by the police and prosecuted by the government attorneys. A total of 312 cases related to CBD were registered and investigated during the reporting period.³⁸ A dedicated Dalit Desk has been instituted within the District Police Office to address issues concerning Dalit communities. Various agencies, including concerned Constitutional Bodies, the MoHA, including NP, conduct awareness-raising campaigns through various publicity means.³⁹

28. Preventive, protective, and curative measures have been taken to eliminate all forms of violence, discrimination, and harmful practices against women.⁴⁰ There is an operational fund⁴¹ to support the victims of GBV.⁴² The Single Women Protection Fund has been established to provide rescue, relief, and livelihood support. The Gender Responsive Budget Code has been approved and is in operation. A strategic and working policy on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment is under implementation.⁴³ The GBV Elimination Fund operating at all three levels of the Government, the Rehabilitation Fund established under HTTCA, and the Service Fund under the Domestic Violence (Offence and Punishment), Act are in operation.

29. Various Laws⁴⁴ prohibits torture, cruelty, and degrading treatment of persons accused of witchcraft and *Chhaupadi*⁴⁵ with the provisions of victims' support and compensation. GoN has been promoting the Anti-Sexual Harassment Code of Conduct at the Workplace to be endorsed and implemented by the concerned authority, allowing the NWC to inspect compliance by managers.⁴⁶

30. Specific operational strategies have been adopted to achieve SDG Goal 5, which entails 36 indicators to achieve gender equality and empowerment of women and girls.⁴⁷ Investigations into cases of violence against women are prioritized in police offices, and perpetrators are prosecuted. WCSCSD (Women Cells) have been set up in police stations to facilitate fast-track support for victims. Nearly 6,000 cases of violence against women were filed in WCSCSD and investigated during the reporting period.⁴⁸

31. From FY 2018/19 to FY 2022/23 a total of 95,694 cases of violence against women were registered in the NP offices across the country, of which domestic violence accounted for 77.6%, rape 12.2%, polygamy 4.3%, attempt to rape 3.53%, child sexual abuse 1.44%, child marriage 0.35%, witchcraft allegation 0.24%, untouchability and abortion 0.16%. MOWCSC is supporting 21 short-term rehabilitation centres operated at the local level; constructing three long-term rehabilitation centres for GBV victim women in Madhesh, Sudur Pashchim and Lumbini Province. 96% of the registered cases were resolved, and the remaining 4% of cases are in the process of being settled. All cases except domestic violence have been prosecuted against the perpetrators with claims for imprisonment, penalty and compensation to the victims as provided in the NPC.

32. There is a specialised section for complaint handling⁴⁹ in NWC, which is responsible for registering and handling complaints received through the toll-free helpline No. 1145.

33. NP has been working in collaboration with other agencies to combat cross-border trafficking of women and girls. Safe houses have been established in most district centres for victims of violence against women and girls. Comprehensive rehabilitation services are provided for victims of sexual violence, encompassing immediate rescue, medical treatment, legal assistance, and counselling, as well as access to an immediate and interim relief fund. Additionally, male leader networking initiatives have begun to prevent GBV. The Entrepreneurship Development Fund has been set up to provide production loans for promising women entrepreneurs without collateral. The President Women Upliftment Programme provides skills and entrepreneurship development to poor and marginalized women, enabling them to access work and employment opportunities.⁵⁰

34. As a national flagship programme of the GoN, the Provincial and Local Governance Support Programme is under implementation to strengthen provincial and local governance systems, mainstreaming and institutionalizing gender equality and women's empowerment.⁵¹ School Sector Development Programme (2016/2023) also focuses on equity, quality, efficiency, and resilience to achieve gender equality in education. INGOs and NGOS support, promote networking, and self-reliance among Nepali women through education, advocacy, and collaboration with similar groups globally.

35. The SC has made landmark decisions on various areas of HR on writ petitions. These include:

- Equality of both sexes in marriage and in the right to spousal and parental property;⁵²
- Eliminating the dowry system;
- Establishment of marital rape as a criminal offence;
- Elimination of bonded labour like '*Kamlari*' and child labour in a more substantive manner;
- Recognition of women's right to reproductive health as an inalienable right.⁵³

36. NP has launched various targeted programs for women and children. During the reporting period, a total of 304,388 children benefited through 9,349 programs against child marriage prohibition awareness; 26,074 benefited from 847 Programs against *Chhaupadi* Custom; 48,385 benefited from 1,479 programs against dowry; 56,981 benefited from 2,149 anti-polygamy programs; 35,024 benefited from 1,095 programs against witchcraft, and 798,278 benefited from 14,610 GBV-related programs.⁵⁴

B. Right to development

37. An HR based approach to development has been incorporated into development planning through a participatory model.⁵⁵ Human rights-friendly development, environmental protection, participatory approaches to infrastructure planning and execution, and corporate social responsibility, among other aspects, are integrated into sectoral plans, policies, and laws.⁵⁶ As of the FY 2024/25, a total of 886,801 households received poverty identity cards.

C. Environmental issues

38. The Climate Change Policy, 2019, the National Adaptation Programme, 2019, the LAPA, and the NAPA were developed through broad-based consultation and have guided national adaptation initiatives. Building on these frameworks, the NAP (2021-2050) has been approved. A framework on LAPA has been formulated and implemented for climate change risk management with the participation of the local community. A provincial climate change strategic plan has been prepared to guide climate action and adaptation initiatives at the provincial level. With Financial support from the Global Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility, Adaptation Funds, including the LDC Fund, projects are being implemented through international financial mechanisms. Efforts are underway to access and benefit from the Factors of Rural Livelihood Diversification.

39. The National Framework on Climate Change Induced Loss and Damage, the Second National Contribution Implementation Plan, Nepal's Climate Finance Strategy and Action Plan (2022-2023), and a long-term strategy for net-zero emissions are in the implementation phase. A climate change budget code is implemented within the Mid-term Expenditure Framework and annual budget/programmes.⁵⁷

40. Nepal hosted the first *Sagarmatha Sambaad*⁵⁸ in May 2025 on the theme 'Climate Change, Mountains, and the Future of Humanity'. On this occasion, Nepal also presented its third Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0), committing to achieve net-zero emissions by 2045 with mountain-focused adaptation and mitigation measures.

IV. Civil and political rights

A. Right to life, liberty and security of person

41. The Constitution ensures the right to life with dignity as a fundamental right and prohibits the enactment of laws allowing the death penalty.⁵⁹ It also guarantees the right against preventive detention⁶⁰ and the right against torture.⁶¹ The Suicide Reduction and Management Action Plan 2024 has been approved and is in operation.

42. Training on the UN Principles on the Use of Force has been provided to 65,542 NP personnel, 17,143 APF personnel and crowd management.⁶² Training on IHL, HRL and law enforcement has been provided to 5,401 APF personnel through various training centers and institutions.

43. The Constitution ensures the right to communication.⁶³ GON's "IT Decade"⁶⁴ vision, while aiming to modernize the digital landscape, has introduced legislative proposals such as the Social Media Bill and the Media Council Bill. The National Cyber Security Policy, 2023, Guideline to use social media systematically, 2023, Social Media Management Guidelines, 2023 and YouTube regulation guideline, 2023 have been approved and are in operation. During the FY 2024/25, a total of 340 complaints and 10 public grievances were registered, and 202 (59.19%) were adjudicated, while 363 media contents were subjected to self-monitoring. Likewise, out of 120 complaints carried forward from the previous FY 2023/24, 118 were adjudicated during FY 2024/25.⁶⁵

B. Administration of justice, including impunity and the rule of law

44. The Constitution ensures the right to a fair trial under the right to justice⁶⁶ by a competent court or judicial body in criminal prosecution. Cases listed in Schedules 1 and 2 of NCrPC are prosecuted in courts as government cases. The police are required to produce the arrested person before the adjudicating authority⁶⁷ within 24 hours of arrest.⁶⁸

45. The OAG has been playing the primary role in protecting victims of crimes and their witnesses during and after investigation, prosecution, and litigation processes. The NCrPC has provisions for the protection of witnesses and victims of crime, along with travel and subsistence allowances for court appearances during legal procedures.⁶⁹

46. Within the NP, the WCSCS Directorate has been established under CIB, and a Human Rights Violation Monitoring Unit has been instituted under the Inspector General's Secretariat. A total of 260 police offices, 253 Dalit Cells and 408 women help desks have been established and are in operation to deal with women, children and senior citizens.⁷⁰

47. Nepal has adopted the Integrated Legal Aid Policy, 2019⁷¹ to ensure access to justice for all indigent persons. DLA Officers are working in 74 out of 77 districts, providing free legal aid in coordination with the Central Legal Aid Committee.⁷² Legal Aid Bill is being drafted to update the existing Act Relating to Legal Aid, 1997. MoLJPA, through DLA Committees, has been providing free legal aid services. During 2018-2022, free legal aid services were provided to 13,000 litigants. During 2019-2022, they have provided free legal aid services to 115,438 litigants.

48. With the development of an integrated legal aid reporting system, a total of 1,829 cases have been registered, of which 873 cases have been decided and 956 cases are under consideration. For legal consultation services, 1,170 cases have been registered, 1,432 consultations are ongoing, and 1,170 consultations have been completed in FY 2024/25.

49. The Central Prison of Nuwakot has been constructed and is operational, having the capacity of 1,370 inmates, with 732 inmates currently accommodated. The prison of Naubasta, Banke, became operational in 2024 with a designated capacity of 1500 inmates. As of the reporting period, the facility accommodates 731 prisoners, including 708 men and 23 children; no female prisoners are currently held in this facility. Similarly, at Nepalganj Prison, the official capacity is 350 inmates, while the present occupancy stands at 759. A child reform home with a 120-person capacity block is also in operation in Morang, and 8 prison offices are under construction.⁷³ A total of 7,869 detainees and prisoners have been trained in skill-based training for income generation. A total of 2,857 prisoners are covered under the health insurance scheme, of which 277 are housed in prisons located within the Kathmandu Valley and 2580 prisons located outside the valley.

50. National identity cards are being prepared and distributed to all prisoners. During the last election in FY 2022, prisoners were granted temporary voting rights.⁷⁴ With respect to parole, 2,075 prisoners have been recommended (2,046 from prisons and 29 from child reform homes). Of these, 1,739 have been granted parole (1,718 from prisons and 21 from child reform homes).

51. In FY 2024/25 Juvenile justice training curriculum developed by the National Judicial Academy has provided in-service training to 163 CDOs, 35 section officers and 37 under-secretaries from the government attorneys and 59 officers and 61 under-secretaries from the judicial service.⁷⁵

52. The SC has developed jurisprudence on the perpetrators-pay-principle through its various judgments.⁷⁶ It has also issued orders to ensure child protection and well-being through settlement of cases within 120 days and to establish a social security board with branches up to the local level.

C. Fundamental freedoms and participation in public and political life

53. The Constitution⁷⁷ ensures one-third of seats in the Federal Parliament and Provincial Assembly, and 40% of seats in the Local Assembly for the inclusion of women.⁷⁸ The principle has been applied successfully in the elections held in 2022, ensuring at least 33% women's representation at the federal and provincial levels and 40% at the local level. The representation of Dalits in the provincial assembly and the federal parliament averaged 6% and 8% respectively.

54. Civil Service Act, 1993, ensures affirmative action in the civil service by reserving 45% of open competition seats for women and other historically marginalized groups. There has been a progressive rise in the participation of various disadvantaged groups in public sector jobs over the years. For example, women constituted only 11% of total civil service employees in FY 2008/09, while their share in 2022 increased to 27% and 29.2% in 2024.⁷⁹ Since 2011, policies of inclusion through reservation and quota systems have been introduced in NP and APF as well. In addition to the 45% inclusive quota, 2% reservation is designated for children of martyrs and personnel with disabilities, which encourages and provides support to the families of conflict victims.

D. Right to information and communication

55. Right to communication through any means without censorship,⁸⁰ and the right to information are fundamental rights under the Constitution.⁸¹ MoCIT is developing an integrated ICT Policy for the communication sector, also for regulating and managing social networks.⁸²

56. The Electronic Transaction Act, 2006, ensures the reliability and security of electronic transactions, including the control of unauthorized use or alteration of electronic records.⁸³

57. Management, Listing and Record of the YouTube Procedure, 2023, and the Social Media Guidelines, 2023 have been enacted and are in operation.⁸⁴ The Bill relating to Information Technology and Cyber Security, 2025⁸⁵ is currently under consideration in the Parliament. The National Cyber Security Policy, 2023, the National AI Policy, 2025, and other related policies are under implementation.⁸⁶

58. The GoN effectively implemented the Constitutional provisions and right to expression of opinion and privacy-related laws.⁸⁷ An online school education program was conducted during the Covid-19 lockdown through radio and TV, distributed a Closed User Group SIM card on a subsidized price.⁸⁸

59. Zero tolerance policy against GBV has been implemented through the concerned Ministries⁸⁹ and awareness program is being conducted to control hate speech and CBD through national media regularly.⁹⁰

E. Right against torture and other cruel, inhuman treatment or punishment

60. Nepal has taken legislative measures to criminalize torture in line with its Constitutional and international obligations.⁹¹ Data reflects investigations into complaints of torture and extrajudicial killings, with 25 individuals prosecuted as of 2025. Nepal Police recorded 58,472 cases relating to killings, deaths, rape, and other offences in FY 2024/25, 59,204 cases in FY 2023/24, 56,323 cases in FY 2022/23, and 46,902 cases in FY 2021/22.

F. Prohibition of all forms of slavery

61. NPC,⁹² Labour Act, 2017,⁹³ HTTCA, and the Bonded Labour (Prohibition) Act, 2002, are key enabling legislations that prohibit all forms of slavery and servitude. Offenders are liable for the punishment of both fines and imprisonment, along with the liability to pay compensation to victims.

62. The National Gender Equality Policy, 2020, GESI, and Gender Equality Policy Implementation Action Plan, 2023, are being implemented.⁹⁴ The Bill to amend the HTTCA, with a view to aligning it with the Palermo Protocol, was revised and registered in the HoR⁹⁵ on 24 March 2025.⁹⁶ GoN has also expedited its efforts to amend a number of laws to make them compatible with the Protocol.⁹⁷ The Bill related to the Human Burn Control and Punishment was registered in the HoR on 15 August 2024, as a private Bill.⁹⁸

63. The Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, 2024 by UNODC highlights a concerning 7% drop in victim detection in Nepal from 2020-2023⁹⁹, impacting victim protection measures.

G. Right to privacy and family life

64. The Privacy Act, 2018 and its Regulation, 2020, have been enacted. The Journalist Code of Conduct Complaints and Action Procedure, 2018¹⁰⁰ is also in force for the protection of privacy rights. NCC and NPC also contain general provisions relating to the protection of personal data in Nepal.

V. Economic, social and cultural rights

A. Right to work and just favourable conditions of work

65. The right to employment¹⁰¹ and fair labour practice a fundamental right.¹⁰² The National Employment Policy, 2015¹⁰³ ensures full and productive employment and decent work for all.¹⁰⁴ GoN has ratified 11 ILO Conventions¹⁰⁵ and enacted various laws¹⁰⁶ to implement them.

66. Bonded Labour (Prohibition) Act, 2002, specifically provides for the GoN to fix the minimum wage for agricultural workers.

67. Nepal has enacted the Contributions-Based Social Security Act, 2017, which allows informal sector workers¹⁰⁷ and self-employed persons to participate in the scheme, with 23,80,180 individuals benefiting in the current FY 2024/25. The Labour Audit Standard, 2018, and the Integrated Labour Inspection Manual and Framework are in the implementation phase.

68. National Policy on Occupational Safety and Health, 2018, is also being implemented for proper workplace management. The National Master Plan on Reduction of Child Labour (2017-2027) is being implemented, and the Inter-Agency Working Group on Child Labour conducts regular discussions on reducing child labour. Similarly, the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights (2024-2028) has been implemented. GoN enlisted 37 diseases related to occupational health and safety.¹⁰⁸

69. Procedure for Reconciliation and Recommendation of Complaints regarding Foreign Employment Fraud, 2023, Training Guidelines for the Foreign Employment Service Agencies 2023, and the online system for labour approval is in operation. At least 50 trade unions or 5,000 workers of similar enterprises may form an association of trade unions, and at least 10 trade union associations may form a confederation of trade unions.¹⁰⁹

70. There are national programmes to address unemployment.¹¹⁰ Employment Service Centres are established in each of the 753 local governments and are in operation. During the reporting period, the National Employment Promotion Programme generated jobs for 53,416 people and trained 2,484 people on skill development.

71. The 16th Periodic Plan ensures a scheme to promote self-employment through subsidized loans¹¹¹ and skill-based training. 8.26% of the population is covered by basic social security to date.¹¹²

72. GoN has approved 110 countries as destinations for foreign employment, and Nepali workers have migrated to 178 countries for foreign employment on an individual basis. It is estimated that 3,042,000 jobs have been generated from micro, small and cottage, medium, and large-scale industries during the reporting period for Nepali workers.

73. Life insurance, relief and scholarship are provided to the family members of the workers in alignment with ICRMW.

74. The Employers Council formed in the Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce and Industries has adopted a code of conduct related to workplace harassment, related to the Convention on Violence and Harassment, 2011-C190. A Tripartite Action Group has been formed to collaborate in this sector.

B. Right to social security

75. The Constitution provides the right to social security.¹¹³ There are 87 types of schemes for social security. A total of 3,829,473 people received social security allowance.¹¹⁴

76. Working Procedure for Enlisting Employers and Employees, 2018, has been issued and implemented. The Social Security Plan for Workers in Foreign Employment and Self-Employed People Abroad, 2023, was adopted to expand the Social Security Scheme to foreign migrant workers.

77. A Poor Household Management Information System has been developed and is in operation. 8,86,801 poor households have received ID cards, and 94,572 households are in process for the ID card distribution.

C. Right to an adequate standard of living

78. The Constitution,¹¹⁵ The Right to Food and Food Sovereignty Act, 2018,¹¹⁶ and the Right to Food and Food Sovereignty Regulation, 2023 provides that every citizen shall have the right to food¹¹⁷ and food security.¹¹⁸

79. Nepal has implemented the National Agriculture Modernization Project, Project for Income Raising of Small and Medium Farmers, Agriculture Insurance Programme, and Minimum Support Price Programme to ensure food and nutrition security.¹¹⁹

80. A total of 93,298 households have benefited from agricultural production programmes for self-reliance, and local food storage systems have been operated in remote areas.¹²⁰ GoN has initiated the drafting of the National Food Plan.¹²¹ Multiple governmental programmes are in operation.¹²²

81. The Constitution ensures the right to appropriate housing for every citizen.¹²³ Government policy¹²⁴ seeks to support landless people through housing, land or employment opportunities.

82. GoN has enacted various policies¹²⁵ regarding the right to housing.¹²⁶ Nepal implemented the Janata Awas and Safe Citizen Housing programmes, making notable progress by constructing thousands of homes for marginalised communities.¹²⁷ The National Housing Policy, 2011 and Plan, 2014 are in place.¹²⁸ Under the Janata Awas Programme, 38,931 out of the targeted 55,970 houses have been built. Emergency shelters have been established in disaster-prone areas under the Integrated Modern Safe Settlement Programme¹²⁹ under the Safe Housing Programme.¹³⁰ GoN completed the National Housing Plan, 2014-2024, spanning 10 years.¹³¹

83. Nepal has adopted various policies¹³² for the protection of water sources. GoN's Policies and Programmes include a target to achieve 100% access to basic drinking water facilities by 2026. The country was declared 100% ODF¹³³ in 2019.¹³⁴ Access to basic drinking water reached 96.85% while access to high and medium-level drinking water services has reached 28.5% and the basic level sanitation coverage is 95.5%.¹³⁵

84. The Land Acquisition Act, 1977, has special provisions for land acquisition, compensation for losses, notification of land acquisition, and stakeholder consultation. GoN has approved the Land Acquisition, Resettlement, and Rehabilitation Policy, 2016, for infrastructure development projects. The Land Issue Resolving Commission has collected 11,40,659 applications from landless Dalits, slum dwellers, and scattered residents, and distributed 7,829 land ownership certificates in FY 2023/24. Through the training programme on land management, cadastral mapping, and land use planning, the capacity of 12,820 trainees has been enhanced.¹³⁶ A total of NPR 4,31,56,88,844 registration fee discounted for women, Dalits, ethnic communities, members of martyrs' families, PWD and others during the FY 2024/25.¹³⁷

D. Right to health

85. The Constitution¹³⁸ and key legal documents¹³⁹ ensure health-related rights.¹⁴⁰ GoN is committed to achieving UHC and has made notable progress in healthcare access.¹⁴¹ It expanded Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care sites were expanded to all districts.¹⁴² Antenatal, postnatal, and delivery healthcare services are provided free of cost at public healthcare facilities. Health insurance is a key to achieving UHC nationwide. Efforts are underway to achieve 100% immunization of mothers and children. There are 215 hospitals, 201 primary healthcare centres, 3,820 health posts, 426 Aayurved Dispensaries, and 3,196 sub-Health posts nationwide. Additionally, there are 6,138 Doctors, 27,683 Nurses, 674 Kaviraj, 693 Baidya, 15,896 Health Workers, and 51,423 Women's Health Volunteers.

86. PCMTP provides free Health services for eight types of critical diseases for poor citizens.¹⁴³ The Free Newborn Care Programme has been in operation since FY 2015/16. Postnatal care within 24 hours of discharge has increased, supported by postnatal home visits initiated by nursing staff since FY 2025/26. Skilled maternal care coverage has reached 80%, while child immunization and vitamin coverage also stand at around 80%. An Emergency and Disaster Management Unit, including psychosocial counselling services, has been established. A total of 36 health-related indicators have been adopted to monitor Nepal's progress on SDG Goal 3.

87. The SC of Nepal has made a landmark decision¹⁴⁴ for the protection of persons with mental illness and the improvement of mental health care.¹⁴⁵

E. Right to education

88. The Constitution¹⁴⁶ and other laws¹⁴⁷ guarantee every citizen the right to education.¹⁴⁸ The New Bill on School Education is in the final stage of discussion in the HoR.

89. Nepal implemented the School Sector Development Programme (2016-2022)¹⁴⁹ to enhance universal access to basic and secondary education.

90. As of 2023, 62 districts have been declared literate. Targeted scholarships¹⁵⁰ have been instrumental in expanding access, which benefited Dalit students, girls, children of martyrs, conflict victims, and children from marginalized communities on the verge of extinction. The Government has also provided daily meals to all primary students in public schools, and operated 33 special schools, 23 integrated schools, and 380 resource classes for Children with Disabilities. Under SDGs 4 and 5, initiatives such as the SESP 2022-2030¹⁵¹ have provided scholarships to 2.5 million students and supported 422 model schools. The literacy rate has reached 76.3 % (83.6% for men and 69.4% for women). The President's Educational Improvement Programme is underway, alongside an online learning portal, additional teaching grants, and vocational training expansion. Braille books, sign language facilities, and mother-tongue education, including Gurukul, Madrasa, and Gumba have been promoted. Higher education scholarships have supported 7,090 disadvantaged students, including those with disabilities, freed bonded labourers, Muslim women, and conflict-affected individuals. Teaching grants have been provided for 7,194 teachers. Scholarships have been distributed to 1,143,631 students at the school level. A total of 10 new education institutions were permitted to conduct vocational training, 28 modular curricula were developed, and 254 trainers have been trained for vocational education.

91. Out of the total students, 49.4% are enrolled in the basic level (Grades 1-5), 25.8% in the basic level (Grades 6-8), 13.9% in the secondary level (Grades 9-10), and 9.5% in the secondary level (Grades 11-12). In the academic year 2024/25, among the total enrolled students, 48.1% were girls and 51.9% were boys.¹⁵² In the academic year 2024/25, the total number of schools in the country was 35,447.¹⁵³

92. Across all types of schools, female teachers constitute 46.6% of lower basic level teachers (up from 44.6% in the previous school year), 29.1% at the upper basic level (down from 30.5%), 19.1% at the secondary level (down from 19.2%), and 18.6% at the secondary level.¹⁵⁴ E-Shikshya and Happy Learning packages provide internet access at concessional rates to students for online study.

93. The Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training has adopted the GESI for its technical education and vocational training system. The Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology has approved the Ten-Year School Sector Plan¹⁵⁵ 2022/23 to 2031/32.¹⁵⁶

VI. Right of specific persons and groups

A. Women

94. The Constitution¹⁵⁷ and numerous legislations¹⁵⁸ are effectively implemented to ensure the rights of women. The Second National Action Plan¹⁵⁹ the implementation of UNSC Resolutions 1325 and 1820 on Women, Peace and Security, FY 2022/23-2023/24 is implemented.

95. To advance inclusion, the Constitution ensures that either the Speaker or Deputy Speaker of the HoR and Provincial Assembly, and either the Chair or Vice-Chair of the National Assembly, shall be women. Article 215(4) requires rural municipalities to elect at least four women members, whereas Article 216 (4) requires municipalities to elect at least five women members. The 16th Periodic Plan (2024/25-2028/29) introduced a strategic

policy for gender equality, social justice, and an inclusive society. In addition, the Scholarship Regulations, 2003 provide reserved quotas for women, Dalits, indigenous peoples, and residents of disadvantaged areas.

96. NPC criminalizes rape, sexual assault, domestic violence, and other forms of GBV. GESI outlines a comprehensive framework to advance women's rights and ensure equal participation. The Acid and Other Harmful Chemical Materials (Regulation) Act, 2022, has been enacted to prevent and address gender-based violence caused by acid attacks.

97. A total of 94 hospital-based One-Stop Crisis Management Centres (OCMCs) are operational across 77 districts, providing substantial support to victims. Safe Shelters have been established in 10 trafficking-prone districts in collaboration with NGOs.¹⁶⁰ It has also taken comprehensive steps to address GBV, human trafficking, and women's empowerment.¹⁶¹

98. The Gender Responsive Budget progressively increased from 11.03% of the total allocation in FY 2007/08 to over 38% in FY 2019/20, to 42% in FY 2023/24, and further increased to 44.28% in FY 2024/25. A gender audit of 10 federal ministries has been done, and the GESI audit at the provincial and local government is underway.

99. The female literacy rate,¹⁶² female ownership of property,¹⁶³ and the number of female-headed households has increased over the past decade.¹⁶⁴ Currently, women constitute 29.2% of the civil service,¹⁶⁵ 39.78% in the banking and financial sector,¹⁶⁶ 23.22% in the judiciary,¹⁶⁷ 23% at the local level, 33.83% in the federal parliament, and 36.36% in the provincial assembly (from the 2022 election).¹⁶⁸

100. The Citizenship (First Amendment) Act, 2022, provides for children of Nepali mothers to obtain citizenship even without the father's identity made in line with CEDAW. A total of 2,498 individuals have obtained Nepali citizenship in the name of their mother without tracing the father.¹⁶⁹ The Citizenship (Second Amendment) Bill, 2025, has been tabled in the Federal Parliament.¹⁷⁰

101. A total of 7,000 accused were arrested in cases of rape, trafficking, abuse, and kidnapping during 2021-2023. NP launched the 'CPP Programme' in 2020.¹⁷¹ Police units nationwide are connected to community mechanisms, schools, NGOs, and the local level, as guided by the Operational Procedure of CPP. A capacity development programme for police personnel on gender-responsive investigation and communication skills has been launched.

102. Harmful traditional practices¹⁷² are defined as punishable acts under various laws. A zero-tolerance policy has been implemented against such harmful practices.¹⁷³ All cases are promptly investigated and adjudicated. During the review period, 114 cases related to child marriage were registered, and 241 individuals were arrested. Street dramas and awareness programs like *Samata Sambaad* and *Soch Series* have been broadcast through National Television, and street dramas are conducted as a preventive measure.¹⁷⁴

103. NP Headquarters has a 'WCSCS Directorate'. Under its supervision and monitoring, 232 WCSCS Centers have been established nationwide.¹⁷⁵ More than 6,000 GBV control network committees have been formed in collaboration with other stakeholders and are chaired by heads of local police units.

104. The Local Judicial Committee is headed by the Deputy Mayor or Vice-Chairperson, who are predominantly women (over 72%), ensuring easier access for GBV victims.

105. Free Women Service Cells, Rehabilitation Centres, and helplines are operational, distributing dignity kits and organizing awareness programmes have been launched on all media platforms, alongside confidential reporting provisions for children. Similarly, NWC operates a 24-hour helpline, '*Khabar Garau 1145*', which serves as a GBV helpline providing integrated services from a single platform.¹⁷⁶

106. A committee has been formed for the eradication of all forms of discrimination against women and GBV.¹⁷⁷ Cases related to women and children are handled while maintaining privacy.¹⁷⁸ A total of 2312 cases were investigated, and 3096 persons were punished in FY 2024/25.

107. A draft national action plan has been prepared for the operation of long-term rehabilitation centers developed in Bagmati and Koshi provinces, while centers are under construction in Madhesh, Lumbini, and Sudur Paschim provinces. Centers are in operation in 10 districts, and the establishment of such centers in the remaining four provinces is underway.¹⁷⁹

108. Male Leader Network Procedure 2017 is in operation.¹⁸⁰ The Gender Audit Procedure, 2023 is being implemented, and a manual relevant to the foregoing has been drafted.¹⁸¹ The Beijing Platform for Action Plan, 2023 is being implemented for the empowerment of women. Likewise, awareness programs, livelihood development, income generation training, and seed money¹⁸² and technology support is also being provided.¹⁸³

B. Children

109. The Constitution guarantees the rights of children, with supplementary laws in place.¹⁸⁴ Juvenile benches have been established in all 77 District Courts. A dedicated Juvenile court has also been established in the Bhaktapur district. Similarly, 9 Child Reform Homes to manage the children in conflict with the law have also been established.

110. The Vital Registration Act, 1976, has been replaced by the National ID and Civil Registration Act, 2020, enabling both male and female family members to register births, while also allocating a budget to improve child-care for poor and highly marginalized families. The 104 hotline is operational 24/7 in NP for children at risk.

111. Section 37 of the Act Relating to Children, 2018, provides that cases involving children shall generally be adjudicated within 120 days.¹⁸⁵ The Children (First Amendment) Bill 2025 has been presented in the HoR.¹⁸⁶

112. GoN is initiating a child-responsive budget coding system in all three tiers of government. Child fund has been enacted for assisting children with special needs.

113. GoN has recently adopted a National Strategy for Ending Child Marriage, 2024 to end child marriage. National Child Policy, 2023, is also in place, and its national plan of action is being formulated.

114. Currently, 422 local levels have child welfare officers with plans to expand to all 753, child rights committees are established at provincial and local levels, and child-friendly local governance guidelines have been enacted to support the declaration of child-friendly local governments.

115. Nepal combats child labour, slavery, and trafficking through multiple institutional and legal measures, including the NCRC, the promotion of child-labour-free municipalities, and the enforcement of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 2000, together with its 2006 Rules. To strengthen protection and facilitate access to justice, dedicated helpline numbers 1145 (National Women Commission), 100 (Nepal Police), 104 (NCRC Missing Children Alert Helpline), and 1098 (Child Helpline) have been made operational for complaint registration and rapid response.¹⁸⁷

116. The Constitution, NPC, NCC, National Children Policy, 2023, Strategy against Child Marriage, 2016, and National Master Plan for the Eradication of Child Labour (2018-2028) have been implemented to end child marriage by 2030.¹⁸⁸ Psychosocial counsellors have been mobilised at the community level. Additionally, 24-hour toll-free Women Service Cells, Rehabilitation Centers, and awareness campaigns have been launched through all media platforms alongside confidential reporting provisions for children.

117. A total of 12,171 children are registered as victims of GBV, and 1720 are in the investigation process. A total of 81,529 are registered as the victims of domestic violence, and 96,194 perpetrators are punished.¹⁸⁹ There are 5,708 children in custody and 1357 in child reform homes during the reporting period.¹⁹⁰

C. Persons with disabilities

118. The Constitution ensures the rights of PWD as fundamental rights. Non-discrimination¹⁹¹ and affirmative actions¹⁹² are permitted to ensure these rights. The Rights of PWD Policy, 2023, and the Gender Equality Policy, 2023, are operational.

119. Nepal has ratified the CRPD and its Optional Protocol. The Constitution has ensured rights to representation for PWD.¹⁹³ The Disability Control and Rehabilitation Partnership Program is being conducted. An accessibility audit of 17 federal ministries has been completed, and the recommendations are being implemented.

120. More than 150 self-help groups¹⁹⁴ have been formed and are actively supported by GoN. The Leprosy Control and Disability Management Section under the Department of Health Services, MoHP, has ensured the participation of leprosy-affected people in designing, implementing, and evaluating leprosy and disability-related plans, policies, activities, and sharing their experiences.

121. The National Planning Commission has conducted consultation services on the National Work Plan for PWD, 2021 and the National Policy 2021. Various rehabilitation services have been provided to PWDs. Local governments are providing supporting equipment such as wheelchairs, artificial legs and arms, hearing aids, white canes, and Braille books for PWD. A total of 10,607 PWDs received support materials, 36,865 received physiotherapy service by National Disability Fund.¹⁹⁵

122. GoN is providing seed capital along with income-generating training to PWDs. Scholarships are provided for students with disabilities. Free education is also provided to PWDs. Persons with visual impairments are provided with study materials in Braille script and sign language for deaf.¹⁹⁶

123. In 77 districts, 86 government hospitals provide free health services to PWDs with some offering discounted services depending on the severity of disability. Prevention of disability and rehabilitation in four provinces, production and distribution of assistive devices in 7 provinces and disability allowance schemes are being implemented. A number of health services and benefits have been made available to women and girls with disability.¹⁹⁷

D. Indigenous people, Dalits and minorities

124. The INC and NDC has been established as a Constitutional Body.¹⁹⁸

125. National Foundation for Development of Indigenous Nationalities exists as a statutory body for the empowerment of indigenous peoples.

126. There is a provision of 27% and 9% of vacant positions reserved for indigenous nationalities and Dalit in the civil service respectively.¹⁹⁹ HoR Election Act, 2017, requires every political party to reserve 28.7% seats for indigenous nationalities and 13.8% for Dalit in the list of candidates for proportional representation in the HoR. Several laws guarantee representation for women, PWD, indigenous nationalities, Dalit, and minority communities.²⁰⁰ Furthermore, there is a provision within various laws that guarantee representation for women, persons with disabilities, indigenous nationalities, Dalit, and minority communities.²⁰¹

127. The Constitution, the Caste and Other Social Untouchability and Discrimination (Offence and Punishment) Act, 2011, and its rules restrict any act of untouchability and discrimination. The Constitution has guaranteed the representation of Dalit through the principle of proportional representation in all state bodies, with special provisions for participation in public services and other employment sectors.²⁰² Section 6 (2) of the Local Level Election Act, 2017 provides for reserving two seats for women, in which one Dalit woman is compulsory at the ward communities. As a result, 6,620 Dalit women were elected to the Local Level in the 2022 election.

128. A budget has been allocated to develop an action plan and conduct an awareness campaign for the eradication of CBD.²⁰³ Zero tolerance policy is being implemented,²⁰⁴ and a strong institutional arrangement has been developed for the effective implementation of the

policy.²⁰⁵ A total of 312 cases registered and investigated underscores awareness and action taken against discrimination.

129. Nepal stands out for its progressive legal stance on LGBTIQA++ rights, reinforced by the Constitutional protections and landmark SC rulings.²⁰⁶ MOWCSC, provincial ministries, and local levels set aside an annual budget to carry out activities that ensure gender equality and empowerment of women, as well as improvement of the general situation and inclusive development of other vulnerable segments, such as PWDs, sexual minorities. The LGBTIQA++ communities have been recognized through provisions in identity documents, and their right to live with dignity is honored. A total of 6 complaints against the breach of minority rights and 788 cases related to LGBTIQA++ were registered and investigated.²⁰⁷

E. Migrants

130. GoN introduced measures such as a National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights (2024-28)²⁰⁸ and online services²⁰⁹ to facilitate migrant workers. While Nepal's "Free Visa, Free Ticket" policy²¹⁰ officially limits migration costs to around \$75.

131. Several legal instruments are in force protecting the rights and interests of migrant workers.²¹¹ Foreign Employment Board and Foreign Employment Tribunal effectively contribute to promoting governance for labour migration. A FEIMS, designed to keep records of migrant workers is operational. The labour permit process has been digitalized.

132. Nepal has concluded BLMA with 12 labour destination countries with the aim of secured, ethical, managed, and decent labour migration and foreign employment. GoN has undertaken efforts to expand bilateral cooperation by negotiating MoUs with additional labour destination countries.

133. The Mangala Shahana Rehabilitation Centre has been established in Kathmandu to provide rehabilitation support specifically for rescued women returnees from foreign employment.

F. Statelessness

134. The Constitution guarantees every Nepali the fundamental right to citizenship. The Bill to Amend the Nepal Citizenship Act, 2006 upon coming into force aims to ensure full equality between men and women regarding granting citizenship to their children and spouses. Nepal is committed to strengthening the citizenship delivery process, advancing inclusive interpretations of citizenship laws, and safeguarding a mother's right to confer citizenship to her child. To ensure fairness and efficiency, the MoHA issued circular to District Authorities to expedite the process. Over 2,000 people have obtained citizenship through their mother's name.

135. The existing legal framework recognizes three gender categories: female, male, and other ensuring inclusion of gender-diverse individuals. To date, 1,637 people have obtained citizenship under the 'other' category."

VII. Transitional justice

136. CIEDP and TRC have been mandated to investigate matters relating to enforced disappearances and to investigate matters relating to other incidents of gross violations of HR respectively.²¹² The chair and members of both Commissions have been appointed.²¹³

137. The third amendment to the CIEDPTRCA classified incidents that occurred during the armed conflict as HRV and serious HRV. Section 29(a), of the Act has stated that GoN shall, by notification publish in the Nepal Gazette, constitute a three-member Special Court in consultation with JC to try and settle the case to be filed under this Act. The GoN has recently reconstituted the leadership of both the TRC and the CIEDP in line with the amended (Section 3) on 29th August 2025. The formation of these new leadership teams represents a significant step in advancing Nepal's long-delayed TJ process and reflects the government's

commitment to addressing conflict-era violations through credible and accountable institutions. Pursuant to Section 13, sub-section 6(a)(b) of the CIEDPTRCA, the Commission invited and registered complaints nationwide through a three-month public call.

138. The amendment defined gross violation of HR as conducts of rape or gross sexual violence and other systematic acts of arbitrary killings, enforced disappearance, inhumane or cruel torture. It has addressed that exemption from prosecution of perpetrators of gross violation of HR have been outlawed. It also incorporated provisions for truth seeking and identifying the root causes of the conflict and also root causes of HRV. Furthermore, this amendment also creates a fund to be spent in the process and providing reparation to the victim.

139. The handbook required for the Local Investigation Teams is in the final stage of preparation and Regulation on the Investigation of Disappeared Persons, Truth Verification, and Operation of the Reconciliation Fund is in the making. Furthermore, ensuring confidentiality, registration, and record-keeping of incidents related to rape and other forms of sexual violence, providing necessary counseling services to victims are underway. In addition, consultations are ongoing on the draft of Truth and Reconciliation Commission Regulation, and Organization and Management, processes are being carried out to arrange the human resources required for the effective functioning of the Commission.

VIII. Anti-corruption

140. Nepal is party to UNCAC and has introduced the National Strategy and Action Plan to implement the Convention in 2013. Nepal has submitted its self-assessment report for first and second cycle peer review to the UNODC. Nepal has also developed “Second Anti-Corruption Strategy and Action Plan” to prevent corruption. Governance is one of the key indicators for the happy Nepali as per the 16th Periodic Plan and it is expected to bring corruption control index up to 0.4 and corruption reduction feelings index up to 43 by FY 2028/029.

141. The Constitution ensures good governance while making public administration fair, competent, impartial, transparent, free from corruption, accountable and participatory.²¹⁴ JC may investigate into the matter and institute a case in accordance with law.²¹⁵ CIAA, as an independent and autonomous constitutional body, has the mandate for the investigation of any abuse of authority committed to corruption by any person holding public office.²¹⁶ The AG has mandate to check the accounts of all Federal and State Government Offices.²¹⁷

142. Numerous laws are in force to control corruption.²¹⁸ The Prevention of Corruption (First Amendment) Act, (2024) expands the definition of public institutions and public officials by bringing such definition within the scope of additional matters related to irregularities in public procurement, such as bribery, misuse of position and status, failure to make timely decisions resulting in loss or damage, have been incorporated into the definition of corruption, with provisions for action against such conduct. Likewise, to make the investigation of corruption more effective, the amended Act has introduced provisions for the use of special investigative methods and modern technologies.

143. Public Procurement Monitoring Office, Department of Money Laundering Investigation, Department of Revenue Investigation and OAG have been capacitated to date and the GoN has planned to enhance the capacity of remaining other institutions including SC, Special Court, CIAA, National Vigilance Center, AG and Office of the Comptroller General.

IX. Emerging problems

144. Despite contributing only about 0.1% of global GHG emissions, Nepal is suffering escalating, externally-driven climate harms rapid Himalayan cryosphere loss, more hazardous precipitation, and cascading GLOFs and flood disasters that endanger rights to life, health, housing, water, and livelihoods.²¹⁹ IPCC AR6/WGI and recent HKH assessments document shrinking snow cover and retreating glaciers across the region, increasing multi-

hazard risks for downstream communities and infrastructure.²²⁰ *Thame (Solukhumbu)* GLOFs, 16 August 2024, and the *Rasuwagadhi* flood, 8 July 2025 destroyed bridges, roads and hydropower assets, underscoring Nepal's high vulnerability and low readiness.²²¹ On equity grounds and common but differentiated responsibilities, Nepal seeks scaled, predictable finance for adaptation and loss & damage, consistent with the COP28 operationalization of the Loss & Damage Fund.²²² ND-GAIN rankings further evidence urgent support needs. Erratic monsoon patterns have led to floods, landslides, and prolonged droughts, directly affecting agriculture and food security. Farmers are experiencing declining productivity of staple crops, while new pests and plant diseases are emerging due to rising temperatures. Climate change has also disturbed Nepal's rich biodiversity, species like the snow leopard and red panda.

145. Water Scarcity is another growing concern to Nepal, with many springs and rivers drying up, especially in the mid-hills. Prolonged droughts including the frequency of forest fires have increased. Human health is equally at risk with vector borne illnesses rising in both urban and rural areas. Moreover, climate change is intensifying livelihood, insecurity and migration. In addition, hydropower projects, roads, and irrigation systems are highly exposed to climate induced disasters, raising concern about long-term development and economic prosperity of Nepal.

X. Key achievements

146. The Law, Justice and Human Rights Committee has provided opinions, recommendations, and directives to the Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers for the preparation of the draft of the Sixth National Human Rights Action Plan and its submission to the Committee.

147. Nepal has made notable progress in the fields of inclusive and participatory political representation, social inclusion, social security, environment and biodiversity protection. Over 46 % of Nepal's land is under forest cover, with community forestry programs recognized globally as a model of participatory management. Protected area covers more than 23.4 % of the country, safeguarding endangered species such as tigers, rhinos, red pandas, and snow leopards.

148. Implementation of NAPA (2021-2025) and LAPA involving local communities is another key achievement. Participation in Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) Programmes and promotion of renewable energy supports Nepal's Low-emission development path.

XI. Challenges

149. Most of the recommendations made by the member states during 3rd cycle have been achieved; however, it is still a challenge for fact-based reporting due to lack of uniform data-based mechanism.

150. The protection and promotion of Nepal's social, economic, and cultural rights, and the attainment and utilization of internal and external resources for the holistic development of the State in line with public aspirations, demand the adoption of the principles of good governance, fiscal prudence, rule of law, enhanced revenue mobilization, and strengthened national and international cooperation, coordination, and collaboration. Equally essential are the establishment of an effective one-window information system, a people-responsive government, and an independent and competent judiciary.

151. Challenges have been noted in relation to recent developments in information technology, including potential risks from the growing use of artificial intelligence, risks of data duplication, and the impact of geographical difficulties on the effective delivery of public services.

152. Youth migration for better opportunities abroad, and internal migration from villages to towns have also posed problems for internal labour supply and productivity creating additional pressure on services and facilities in urban centres.

153. Implementation of economic, social and cultural rights requires huge amount of resources. International support from development partners through bilateral and multilateral window is shrinking due to unrest situation in other parts of the world.

154. Further, the shift in the prioritization of development partners from grants to loan has put additional pressure to financing for development. Therefore, enhanced international support as per the international commitment for scaling up investment is important.

155. In early September 2025, while this Report was getting its final shape, Nepal witnessed a powerful anti-corruption movement-largely led by Generation Z (Gen Z) youths that quickly transformed an online dissent into a violent street protest. Though the immediate cause of the movement was government's ban on the social media platforms for their reluctance to get registered as required by the government, the deep-rooted frustration over alleged corruption, nepotism, unemployment and weak governance boiled over. The protestors demanded for ensuring accountability, transparency and bringing an end to impunity.

156. Addressing all the concerns raised by the Gen-Z groups at a time may be challenging. However, in the wake of that upheaval, an interim government has been formed on 12 September 2025 and it is expected that the new government, the main mandate of which is to hold fresh parliamentary election in March 2026, will be instrumental in better protection and promotion of human rights, controlling corruption and ensuring good governance as aspired by peoples, including the Gen Z groups.

Notes

¹ UPR Fourth Cycle National Report Preparation Committee.

² To facilitate the preparation of Nepal's national report under the Fourth Cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), the Human Rights and International Treaty Division (HRITD) of the Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers (OPMCM) constituted a Committee chaired by the OPMCM Secretary with joint secretaries from MoJPA, OPMCM, MoHA, MoFA, MoWCSC, and an under-secretary from OPMCM's International Law and Treaties Section, supported by an expert consultant, and carried out nationwide multi-tier consultations involving federal ministries, Parliament, judiciary, justice- and security-sector institutions, provincial and local governments, constitutional commissions, and civil society organizations, pursuant to Human Rights Council Decision 17/119.8.

³ The Constitution adopted eight human rights commissions as Constitutional Bodies, including the National Human Rights Commission (Related to Part 25 of the Constitution), the National Women Commission, the National Dalit Commission, the National Inclusion Commission, the Indigenous Ethnic Commission, the Madhesi Commission, the Tharu Commission and the Muslim Commission (Related to Part 27 of the Constitution).

⁴ Related to report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review – Nepal, A/HRC/31/9.

⁵ Related to recommendation 159.1.

⁶ Section 38 of the NPC aims to ensure that those responsible for such crimes are held accountable, which is in line with international law and standards.

⁷ Total 42 travel documents issued in 2024.

⁸ Related to recommendations 159.129, 159.130, 159.131, 159.132 and 159.133.

⁹ It was first mooted in 1986.

¹⁰ Related to recommendations 159.22, 129.26, 159.28 and 159.29.

¹¹ Related to recommendations 159.30, 159.77 and 159.83.

¹² Related to recommendation 159.10.

¹³ Related to recommendations 159.5 and 159.53.

¹⁴ Related to recommendation 159.10 (UN Special Rapporteur on Minority, Nicolas Levrat, Rights of Indigenous People, Albert K. Barume, Promotion of Truth, Justice, Reparation and Guarantees of non-recurrence and Extreme Poverty and human rights, Oliver De Schutter).

¹⁵ With Governments of the United Kingdom (2022), Israel (2020), UAE (2007/2019), Mauritius (2019), Japan (2019), Malaysia (2018), Jordan (2017), Japan (2009), Bahrain (2008), the Republic of Korea (2007), Qatar (2005).

¹⁶ Related to recommendation 159.10.

¹⁷ Related to Articles 248 and 249 of the Constitution.

¹⁸ Related to recommendations 159.23, 159.25.

¹⁹ Under the initiative of the Head of Human Rights and International Treaty Agreement Division,

OPMCM, the decision dated July 20, 2022.

²⁰ Articles 252, 253 and 254 of the Constitution.

²¹ NWC reviews existing laws, monitors institutions, conducts research and awareness on issues affecting women and makes recommendations to the government and monitors and integrates gender equality norms into mainstream development.

²² Related to Article 255-257 of the Constitution (NDC is mandated for protecting and promoting Dalit rights, and for facilitating the government in ending CBD and empowering the Dalit community).

²³ Article 258-260 of the Constitution.

²⁴ Article 261 of the Constitution.

²⁵ Article 262 of the Constitution.

²⁶ Article 263 of the Constitution.

²⁷ Article 264 of the Constitution.

²⁸ National Human Rights Commission Act, 2012; National Women Commission Act, 2017; National Dalit Commission Act, 2017; National Inclusion Commission Act, 2017; Indigenous Nationalities Commission Act, 2017; Madhesi Commission Act, 2017; Tharu Commission Act, 2017; Muslim Commission Act, 2017.

²⁹ Key legislations enacted during the reporting period are: Public Service Broadcasting Act, 2024; Food Cleanliness and Quality Act, 2024, Drinking Water and Sanitation Act, 2022; Town Area Integrated Public Transportation (Management) Authority Act, 2022; Radioactive Material (Utility and Regulation) Act, 2020, Environment Protection Act 2019, Forest Act, 2019, Pesticides Management Act, 2019, National Medical Education Act, 2018, Consumer Protection Act 2018; Safe Motherhood and Reproduction Health Rights Act, 2018, Crime Victim Protection Act 2018; Children Act, 2018, Public Health Service Act, 2018, Right to Housing Act, 2018, Food Rights and Food Sovereignty Act, 2018, Individual Privacy Act, 2018, Compulsory and Free Education Act, 2018, Social Security Act, 2018, Right to Employment Act, 2018, Amendment on the Enforced Disappearance Enquiry, Truth and Reconciliation Commission Act, 2014.

³⁰ Section 36 of the Legislative Management Act, 2024.

³¹ Section 46 of the Security Printing Act, 2024 and Section 31 of the Public Service Broadcasting Act, 2024, provide for the measurement of their implementation.

³² The Land Act, 1964, has been amended through “An Act to Amend Some Nepal Acts Related to Investment Facilitation, 2024”.

³³ Article 133 of the Constitution.

³⁴ It includes Habeas Corpus, Mandamus, Certiorari, Prohibition, and Quo Warranto.

³⁵ Adv. Meera Dhungana Vs. OPMCM et. al, NKP 2064, Decision no. 1074.

³⁶ Paragraph of the Preamble of the Constitution.

³⁷ Article 18(3) of the Constitution.

³⁸ Related to recommendations 159.32, 159.33, 159.34, 159.35.

³⁹ Related to recommendations 159.132, 159.39, 159.40, 159.41, 159.42, 159.43 and 159.44.

⁴⁰ Article 133 of the Constitution.

⁴¹ The operational fund provides legal aid, health services, psychosocial counselling, emergency support, and income-generation.

⁴² Related to recommendations 159.162, 159.163, 159.165.

⁴³ Related to recommendation 159.168.

⁴⁴ Constitution; NPC; Witchcraft-Related Accusation (Offence and Punishment) Act, 2015.

⁴⁵ Keeping women in isolation during menstruation (Refer Section 168 of NPC).

⁴⁶ Related to recommendations 159.94, 159.95 and 159.96.

⁴⁷ Related to recommendations 159.51 and 159.141.

⁴⁸ Related to recommendations 159.162, 159.165 and 159.171.

⁴⁹ The service structure of the NWC's Complaint Handling Section allows the victims of GBV from all over the country to report their problem by telephone or any other medium of communication. The section also provides legal counselling, free legal aid, psychosocial counselling and maintains a record of violence against women.

⁵⁰ Related to recommendation 159.164.

⁵¹ Related to recommendation 159.63.

⁵² *Narayan Sapkota Vs. Pramisha Dawadi*, Supreme Court of Nepal, June 14–16, 2025. Legal update summarizing the holding: spouse's partition claim over marital property can proceed even if a foreign divorce case is pending or concluded; claims under Civil Code; *Full Bench “Mudbhari family partition case”*, Supreme Court of Nepal (five-judge bench), decision of 17 July 2025. The Court held that only daughters married on or after 14 Ashoj 2072 (1 October 2015) enjoy full constitutional coparcenary and ancestral property rights, while marriages before that date remain governed by prior law; *Adheep Pokhrel & Tobias Volz Vs. Ministry of Home Affairs, Department of Immigration*, Supreme Court of Nepal, Writ No. 079-WO-0198. The Court held that restrictive immigration

practices discriminating against foreign spouses of Nepali citizens violated constitutional equality (Articles 18 and 38) and the right to family life and directed the State to revise visa regulations in line with international HR obligations.

⁵³ *Adv. Roshani Paudyal & Adv. Saroj Raj Ghimire Vs. Government of Nepal (Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers & others)*, Supreme Court of Nepal, Writ No. 076-WO-0962, decision of 5 August 2020. The Court held that women's safe motherhood and reproductive health are fundamental rights under the Constitution Articles 35 and 38(2), and issued mandamus requiring uninterrupted access to ANC, lawful abortion, delivery care, PMTCT, neonatal vaccination, and inclusion of SRH services in the essential health package.

⁵⁴ Related to recommendations 159.195, 159.196, 159.163, 159.200, 159.204 and 159.206.

⁵⁵ *Case concerning violations by Upper Solu Hydroelectric Co. Pvt. Ltd.*, Supreme Court of Nepal, Writ No. 074-WO-1031. The Court issued mandamus requiring the Government to implement ILO Convention No. 169, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007), the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (2011), and the UN Declaration on the Right to Development (1986) in relation to the hydropower project. It directed the State to center free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC), provide effective remedies, and ensure Indigenous safeguards in hydropower development.

⁵⁶ *Sailendra Ambedkar et al. Vs. Office of the Prime Minister & others*, Supreme Court of Nepal (Constitutional Bench), Case No. 077-WC-099. The petition challenged budget provisions for FY 2021/22 permitting large-scale extraction of stone, gravel, and sand in the Chure range. The Court upheld the petition, holding that such excavation amounted to "ecocide" and violated Article 30 of the Constitution (right to clean and healthy environment) and the Directive Principles, and ordered a halt to export of aggregates until legislation consistent with constitutional environmental protection is enacted; *Amarnath Jha Vs. Office of the Prime Minister*, Supreme Court of Nepal, NKP 2022 (2078), Decision No. 10743, The Court connected disaster risks to climate change and environmental degradation, invoking constitutional rights to life with dignity (Article 16), health (Article 35), food (Article 36), and shelter (Article 37), as well as principles of sustainable development, precaution, and basin planning. The Court ordered the Government to adopt both immediate relief measures and long-term structural solutions such as embankments and flood-resilient infrastructure; *Explore Nepal Vs. Government of Nepal & others*, Supreme Court of Nepal, Case No. 075-WO-0072, decision of 2 May 2022. The NGO petitioner challenged the policy shift reducing the plastic bag ban from less than 40 microns to less than 30 microns in the Kathmandu Valley. The Court upheld the petition, reinstating the stricter 40-micron ban. It highlighted the environmental and human health risks of plastic waste, including impacts on soil, drainage, marine ecosystems, and vulnerable communities such as farmers, women, and children. The Court invoked environmental justice, HR, and the principle of *in dubio pro natura* when in doubt, decisions must strongly favour environmental protection, affirming the constitutional duty to protect a clean and healthy environment (Related to recommendation 159.122).

⁵⁷ Related to recommendation 159.54.

⁵⁸ The Dialogue, designed as a biennial global forum, convened Heads of State and Government, experts, civil society, youth, and indigenous representatives to discuss the vulnerabilities of mountainous regions and least developed countries. It concluded with the adoption of the 'Sagarmatha Call for Action,' which includes 25 commitments to strengthen climate ambition, protect fragile ecosystems, promote equitable climate finance, and enhance international cooperation. The next edition of the Sagarmatha Sambaad is scheduled for 2027.

⁵⁹ Article 16 of the Constitution.

⁶⁰ Article 23 of the Constitution.

⁶¹ Related to Article 22 of the Constitution and Recommendations 159.57, 159.58 and 159.59.

⁶² Related to recommendations 159.22, 159.60.

⁶³ Article 19 of the Constitution.

⁶⁴ A committee has been formed to prepare a strategic road map for the attainment of the objectives of the "IT Decade," and the committee is currently in the initial phase of commencing its work.

⁶⁵ Related to Recommendations 159.173, 159.174, 159.175, 159.177, 159.178, 159.179, 159.181, 159.182 and 159.184.

⁶⁶ Article 20 of the Constitution.

⁶⁷ Section 14 of the of NPCrC.

⁶⁸ Article 20 of the Constitution.

⁶⁹ Section 113 of the NCrPC.

⁷⁰ Related to recommendation 159.188.

⁷¹ The policy aims to provide free legal assistance to those who cannot afford it, and to promote legal awareness and education among deprived and marginalized communities.

⁷² Related to recommendation 159.61.

⁷³ Related to recommendation 159.55.

⁷⁴ The SC has, through *Nishant Pokhrel Vs. Office of the Prime Minister & others*, Supreme Court of Nepal, Writ No. 078-WO-1488, and *Pradikshya KC Vs. Office of the Prime Minister & others*, Supreme Court of Nepal, Writ No. 078-WO-1595. Both petitions challenged provisions of the Act on the Voters' Register, 2016, which excluded temporary voters such as army personnel in barracks, prisoners, and residents of old-age homes. The Court examined whether such exclusions were consistent with constitutional guarantees of equality and the right to vote, directing the State to ensure broader inclusion of marginalized and institutionalized groups in the electoral roll.

⁷⁵ Related to recommendations 159.60, 150.69, and 159.208.

⁷⁶ Related to recommendations 159.95, 159.96, 159-97, 159.100, 159.102 and 159.91(7) (Decision No. 9868, 10025 and 10697).

⁷⁷ The Constitution also ensures proportional inclusion in the state organs, including constitutional bodies. It allows special provisions to be made by law for the protection, empowerment, and development of disadvantaged and marginalized groups, with a long list of beneficiaries including women and persons with disabilities.

⁷⁸ Paragraph 4 of the Preamble and Article 38(4) of the Constitution.

⁷⁹ Economic Survey 2081/82, MoF.

⁸⁰ Article 19 of the Constitution.

⁸¹ Article 27 of the Constitution.

⁸² Related to recommendation 159.73.

⁸³ Related to recommendation 159.89.

⁸⁴ Related to recommendation 159.77.

⁸⁵ Registration date 10 June 2025, registration no. 8.

⁸⁶ Related to recommendation 159.74.

⁸⁷ Related to recommendations 159.81, 159.82 and 159.88.

⁸⁸ Related to recommendation 159.181.

⁸⁹ Related to recommendations 159.169, 159.187, 159.216.

⁹⁰ Related to recommendations 159.32, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 47, and 48.

⁹¹ Related to Section 167(2) of NPC and recommendations 159.14, 159.57, 159.58, and 159.59.

⁹² Sections 162, 163, 164 of NPC.

⁹³ Related to Section 4 of the Labour Act, 2017.

⁹⁴ Related to recommendation 159.179.

⁹⁵ The Bill to amend the HTTCA's general deliberations has been concluded. The Bill has been further tabled and transmitted by the HoR to the Women and Social Affairs Committee for consideration.

⁹⁶ Related to recommendations 159.90, 159.92, 159.93, 159.196, 159.101, 159.189, 159.198, and 159.103.

⁹⁷ GoN has formulated an Action Plan for the implementation of the additional obligation created by the protocol. Regarding the implementation of Goals 5, 8, and 16 of SDGs, MOWCSC has a Human Trafficking and Transportation Control Division under the department designated for Women's Empowerment. GoN has also prepared a draft amendment to revise the National Policy against Trafficking in Women and Children and Sexual Exploitation, 1995, along with the revised draft of the National Plan of Action against Human Trafficking and Transportation, 2011. Additionally, a bill to amend various Nepali laws related to anti-money laundering and business environment promotion is under consideration. A draft law is being developed to address forced labour, including traditional bonded labour systems such as *Haruwa* and *Charuwa*.

⁹⁸ Related to recommendation 159.199.

⁹⁹ UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2024; Available at: https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/glotip/2024/GLOTIP2024_BOOK.pdf.

¹⁰⁰ Related to recommendation 159.73.

¹⁰¹ Article 33 of the Constitution.

¹⁰² Article 34 of the Constitution.

¹⁰³ Sub Section 1.1 and 1.2 of Section 1 of the Policy; Available at: https://www.ilo.org/sites/default/files/wcmsp5/groups/public/@asia/@ro-bangkok/@ilo-kathmandu/documents/policy/wcms_539895.pdf.

¹⁰⁴ Related to SDG Goal 8.

¹⁰⁵ Available at: https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:11200:0::NO:11200:P11200_COUNTRY_ID:103197.

¹⁰⁶ Right to Employment Act, 2018, Right to Employment Regulation, 2018, Sexual Harassment at Workplace Prevention Act, 2015, Labour Act 2017 (It ensures equal pay for equal work, recognition of informal sectors to receive benefits from adequate wages and just and favourable working conditions, including working hours and health and safety measures. Under this Act, MoLESS fixes the minimum wage for workers in every two years, based on the recommendation of the minimum wage fixation committee. Social Security Act 2017, Labour Regulation 2018, The Act Relating to

Children, 2017; Trade Union Act, 1992; Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 2000; and Foreign Employment Act, 2007. Labour Audits Criteria 2018, Prime Minister Employment Program Manual 2075, Skill Development Procedure 2075.

¹⁰⁷ As per GoN, the formal implementation of including informal sectors in the parameter of the contribution-based social security system was planned from April 14, 2023. Efforts are underway to integrate all the informal sectors into the contribution-based social security system.

¹⁰⁸ It was published in the Nepal Gazette on 11 August 2025.

¹⁰⁹ Related to recommendation 159.121.

¹¹⁰ The Prime Minister Employment Program achieved 75.76% physical and 67.32% financial progress, with 6,21,137 individuals (17.6%) out of 35,31,555 registered beneficiaries receiving employment. 5% interest discount is available on loans in priority sectors. PMEP Operational Guideline-2018 was amended in January 2022.

¹¹¹ The 16th Periodic Plan (Fiscal Year 2024/25–2028/29) Chapter 10 Section 10.5. (State facility identity card distribution program, Production and employment-focused program, Empowerment and capacity development program).

¹¹² The 16th periodic plan.

¹¹³ Article 43 of the Constitution guarantees social security to indigent citizens, incapacitated and helpless citizens, helpless single women, citizens with disabilities, children, citizens who cannot care for themselves, and citizens belonging to tribes on the verge of extinction, in accordance with the law. Further Article 42(2) stipulates those indigent citizens and citizens from communities on the verge of extinction have the right to special opportunities and benefits in education, health, housing, employment, food, and social security for their protection, upliftment, empowerment, and development. Similarly, Article 34 (2) provides that every labourer has the right to an appropriate salary, benefits, and contribution-based social security.

¹¹⁴ It includes 1,689,196 senior citizens (above 68 years) and 156,161 Dalit senior citizens (above 60 years), 181,863 single women senior citizens above (60 years) and 16,840 senior citizens (as per segregated area), 389,210 single women (all ages) and 38,306 people with disabilities (all ages), 145,517 extremely incapable disabled individuals and 800,036 children as per segregated area (child protection grant), 360,311 Dalit children (below 5 years) and 22,393 endangered ethnic community members.

¹¹⁵ Article 36 of the Constitution.

¹¹⁶ Section 3 of the Right to Food and Food sovereignty Act, 2018 (The law incorporates provisions for identifying targeted households in terms of food security; provision of food assistance cards; maintenance of food supply during emergencies; protection of farmers' rights; prevention and control of famine; sustainable use of agricultural land; food supply at free or concessional prices; and promotion of local food systems, including climate change adaptation; implementation of targeted agricultural development programmes; preparation of National food plan.)

¹¹⁷ SDGs Goal 2 focuses on protecting the right to food for all persons, including those living in poverty and rural areas.

¹¹⁸ *Advocate Bishnu Luitel Vs. Office of the Prime Minister & others*, Supreme Court of Nepal, Writ No. 076-WO-0933 (6 April 2020), and *Advocate Pushpa Raj Poudel Vs. Office of the Prime Minister & others*, Supreme Court of Nepal, Writ No. 076-WO-0934 (6 April 2020); In both cases, the Supreme issued an interim order directing the Government to identify vulnerable groups and guarantee their right to food during the COVID-19 lockdown, affirming the enforceability of the constitutional right to food in emergencies; Related to recommendations 159.114, 159.115, 159.125, 159.128 and 159.129.

¹¹⁹ Related to recommendation 159.118.

¹²⁰ Food godowns are being operated at the local level of remote areas in FY 2022/23, with 50% conditional grant benefiting 100 families in Sarlahi and 900 families in Jhapa.

¹²¹ In accordance with Rule 21 of the Regulations on the Food Right and Food Sovereignty Regulation 2024.

¹²² Targeted food security and assistance programs have been implemented by setting nutritional and hygiene standards. Nutrition promotion programs and nutritious vegetable farming are being carried out.

¹²³ Article 37 of the Constitution (This Article stipulates that no citizen shall be evicted from their owned residence, nor shall their residence be infringed upon, except in accordance with law).

¹²⁴ The 16th Periodic Plan (FY 2024/25- 2028/29) Chapter 7, Section 7.5 (5). Landless and squatter settlements management program.

¹²⁵ Town Development Act, 1988; Right to Housing Act 2018, Kathmandu Valley Development Authority Act, 1988; Building Act, 1998; and National Housing Policy, 2012 and National Urban Policy 2025. (These laws prioritize appropriate, safe, adequate, and affordable housing for all citizens.)

¹²⁶ Related to recommendations 159.110, 159.112 and 159.121.

¹²⁷ GoN data: Over 7,100 for Dalits and Muslims in Koshi Province, also developing disaster-resilient settlements in Karnali.

¹²⁸ This policy aims to increase the production of appropriate, safe, and environmentally friendly housing for all income groups and to upgrade existing housing.

¹²⁹ The programme includes the upgrading of houses and the replacement of thatched roofs (till now 92,988 houses).

¹³⁰ 11 emergency shelters have been constructed across different parts of the country to provide immediate temporary housing to those displaced by natural disasters. In the current fiscal year, emergency shelters have been constructed in Jaleswar Municipality of Mahottari, Tilathi Koiladi of Saptari, Tilagufa Municipality of Kalikot, and Chandan Nath Municipality of Jumla. The Safe Housing Program has upgraded 6,982 houses and replaced over 88,000 thatched roofs. Out of 1,136 health facilities damaged in the 2015 earthquake, 1,011 have been reconstructed.

¹³¹ Related to Recommendations 159.108 and 159.109.

¹³² These measures include: the National Conservation Strategy, 1987; WR Development Policy, 1992; WR Act, 1992, Water Supply Corporation Act, 2007; Water Supply and Sanitation Act, 2022; Nepal Environmental Policy and Action Plan, 1993, Environment Protection Act, 2018, National Water Supply and Sanitation Policy, 2014; Kathmandu Valley Strategy on Water Supply and Sanitation Policy, 2000; WR Strategy, 2002; National Irrigation Policy, 2016; Sustainable Development Agenda, 2003; National Water Plan 2005; National Drinking Water Quality Standard, 2006 and Implementation Directives, 2006.

¹³³ Following the ODF declaration, a sanitation programme has been proposed for sustained sanitation, aligning with SDG Goal 6.

¹³⁴ Related to Recommendations 159.108 and 159.109.

¹³⁵ Economic Survey 2023/24, p. xviii, MoF.

¹³⁶ Related to recommendations 159.108, 159.109, 159.113, 159.116, 159.119 and 159.120.

¹³⁷ Related to recommendation 159.131.

¹³⁸ Article 35 of the Constitution. (This Article incorporates free basic health services, emergency health services, information about one's medical treatment, access to health services, and access to clean drinking water and sanitation).

¹³⁹ The Public Health Service Act, 2018; the Right to Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Act, 2018; the National Health Policy 2019; the Health Insurance Act 2016; and the Immunization Act, 2016 and SDGs Goal 3.

¹⁴⁰ *Habeas Corpus Petition concerning Juvenile Reform Home*, Supreme Court of Nepal, Writ No. 076-WH-0364, decision of 8 June 2020. The petition challenged the health and security risks to children in juvenile reform homes during the COVID-19 pandemic due to overcrowding and lack of safe distancing. The Court held that the State bears responsibility to protect the right to health of detainees, including juveniles, and must take measures to safeguard them in line with constitutional guarantees; *Keshar Jung KC & Lokendra Bahadur Oli Vs. Government of Nepal, Ministry of Health and Population*, Supreme Court of Nepal, Writ No. 077-WO-0130, decision of 1 October 2020. The Court affirmed that access to free emergency services and basic health care during the COVID-19 pandemic is a constitutional guarantee under Article 35, and directed the State to ensure such services are available without obstruction; Related to recommendations 159.110, 159.112 and 159.127.

¹⁴¹ Related to recommendation 159.144; Government data of FY 2022/23: 21% of the population is enrolled in health insurance, and 77% of households have health facilities within a 30-minute reach. 91.2% of children received 14 essential vaccines, 79% of children aged 12–23 months are universally immunized, and 80% of births were attended by skilled personnel. Over 622,000 pregnant women completed five rounds of vaccinations, and nearly 885,000 women accessed nutrition programs.

¹⁴² It provides family planning information and services and offers Short-Acting Reversible Contraceptive Methods through all Primary Health Care Centers, Health Posts, and primary healthcare outreach clinics nationwide.

¹⁴³ The eight diseases include cancer, heart disease, kidney disease, seropositivity, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, head injury, spinal injury, and sickle cell anaemia. As of March 2032, a total of 1,247 individuals benefited from this programme compared to 35,965 individuals in the previous year.

¹⁴⁴ *Matrika Devkota Vs. the Government of Nepal*, 077-wo-0035. In the writ petition No. 077-WO-0035, the Supreme Court, by its judgment dated December 2, 2024, issued a twelve-point directive order in the name of the Government of Nepal, holding that mental health must be treated as a matter of serious concern and accorded the same level of importance as physical health. The Court directed that necessary human resources, physical infrastructure, and budgetary arrangements be ensured, and that legislation guaranteeing these provisions be enacted. The decision has ordered the GoN to make a law, allocate a reasonable budget and treat it as a physical health issue. The substance of this directive has also been reflected in a Resolution of the United Nations General Assembly. The implementation

of the said order squarely falls within the responsibility of the Government of Nepal, and recommendations 159.29 and 159.30.

¹⁴⁵ The SC interpreted mental health as per the UN General Assembly resolution No. 46/119 principles.

¹⁴⁶ Article 31 of the Constitution.

¹⁴⁷ Supreme Court of Nepal, Decision No. 10652 (2021). The Court held that denying admission solely because a student lacked a citizenship certificate violated the constitutional guarantee of the right to education. It emphasized that when education is recognized as a fundamental right, administrative hurdles such as pending citizenship cannot arbitrarily bar access to study; the Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2018, and Free and Compulsory Education Regulations, 2021.

¹⁴⁸ Related to recommendations 159.147 to 159.156.

¹⁴⁹ The programme involves Informal and lifelong learning programmes have complement formal education, with community-based learning centres across the country.

¹⁵⁰ The Scholarship includes 100 % Girls' Scholarship, Scholarship for Ex-Kamlari Girls, Himali Hostel Scholarships, Dalit Scholarships, and Karnali Zone Scholarships.

¹⁵¹ The SESP 2022–2030 has been under implementation, including provisions for mother-tongue education, gender- and disability-friendly infrastructure, cash and non-cash scholarships, sanitary pad distribution, and daily meals. These interventions have contributed to improving enrolment and retention, particularly for girls from disadvantaged and marginalized groups.

¹⁵² Ministry of Finance, Economic Survey 2024/25, p. 169.

¹⁵³ *Id.*

¹⁵⁴ In all types of community schools, female teachers comprised 43.9% of teachers at the lower basic level (up from 41.0% in the previous year), 22.0% at the upper basic level (down from 25.4%), 15.8% at the secondary level (down from 15.9%), and 19.6% of all higher secondary teachers.

¹⁵⁵ It prioritizes female education and gender equality in school curricula as key intervention areas.

¹⁵⁶ Related to recommendations 159.150, 159.150 and 159.152.

¹⁵⁷ Article 38 of the Constitution (It includes: equal lineage rights without gender-based discrimination; proportional inclusion in all state bodies; special opportunities in education, health, employment, and social security through affirmative measures; and equal rights to property and family affairs for spouses).

¹⁵⁸ Civil Code, 2017; Civil Procedure Code, 2017; Crime Victim Protection Act, 2018; Social Security Act, 2018; Civil Service Act, 1993; The Labour Act, 2017, and the Right to Employment Act, 2018; Right to Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Rights Act, 2018.

¹⁵⁹ The Action Plan identifies four priority areas: (i) participation, (ii) protection and prevention, (iii) relief and recovery, and (iv) capacity development, resource management, monitoring and evaluation.

¹⁶⁰ Over 6,000 Gender Violence Control Committees have been formed locally, with expanded services including 94 OCMCs aiding 11,000+ GBV victims. Helpline 1145 and Center 104 support rescue efforts, while 42 police offices and 232 local units offer dedicated services for women, children, and seniors.

¹⁶¹ GoN has advanced gender equality through gender-friendly infrastructure, women's shelters, rehabilitation centers, and support for women entrepreneurs. Local governments have women's rights units with budgets, and inclusive laws and gender-responsive budgeting are in place. GBV response has improved with the Sexual Crime Investigation Manual 2020, UN resolution committees, and active Gender Violence Prevention Funds in all provinces and local levels. However, livelihood programs for GBV survivors show limited success, and some municipalities remain dissatisfied with gender data systems.

¹⁶² Female literacy rate was 57.4% in the 2011 census. However, the National Census 2021 showed a female literacy rate of 69.4%.

¹⁶³ Ownership of real estate by females is at 39.3% (45,23,7692) of the total owners listed in the Land Record Information Management System (LRIMS). The percentage of households with female ownership of both land and housing units is 11.8%, which is an increase of 1.1% points compared to that in 2011. 23.8% of the total households have ownership of land or a housing unit or both (land & housing unit) in the name of female household members.

¹⁶⁴ National Census 2021 showed 31.55% of the total households (6,666,937) are headed by females, which is an increase of 5.82% points since 2011.

¹⁶⁵ Department of National Personnel Records (Civil); available at <https://nijamati.pis.gov.np/pages/downloads>.

¹⁶⁶ Women in Data: Nepal; available at <https://nepaloutlook.com/women-nepal-gender-data/>.

¹⁶⁷ The Annual Report of the Supreme Court for the fiscal year 2080/081 (pp. 3–4).

¹⁶⁸ Election Commission, available at <https://result.election.gov.np/>.

¹⁶⁹ The Citizenship (First Amendment) Act, authenticated in Nepal in September 2025, amended the 2006 Citizenship Act to address citizenship by descent (including children of single mothers and parents with birth-based citizenship), grant dual citizenship to most Non-Resident Nepalis, ease

citizenship for women married to Nepali men, and allow applicants to omit their father's details. Related to recommendations 159.193, 159.176, 159.174 and 159.166.

¹⁷⁰ The copy of the Bill is available at <https://hr.parliament.gov.np/uploads/attachments/t80owmwr4bblwb6s.pdf>.

¹⁷¹ The programme addresses cases related to violence against women.

¹⁷² Harmful traditional practices include child marriage, polygamy, forced marriage of sexual and gender minorities, *Chhaupadi* (seclusion during menstrual cycle), dowry, untouchability, and witchcraft accusations.

¹⁷³ Related to recommendations 159.169, 159.184, 159.187, 159.201 and 159.202.

¹⁷⁴ Related to recommendations 159.177, 159.187, 159.187 and 159.198.

¹⁷⁵ The centers provide effective access to GBV response services based on victims' needs, in coordination with field-level stakeholders.

¹⁷⁶ The platform includes shelter, psychological services, child-related services, and legal aid.; Related to recommendations 159.185 and 159.191.

¹⁷⁷ Related to recommendation 159.199.

¹⁷⁸ Related to recommendations 159.94 and 159.95.

¹⁷⁹ Related to recommendations 159.90, 159.91, 159.93, 159.95, 159.96, 159.97, 159.100, 159.101, 159.102, and 159.169.

¹⁸⁰ Related to recommendation 159.202.

¹⁸¹ Related to recommendation 159.167.

¹⁸² Related to recommendations 159.190 and 159.196.

¹⁸³ Related to recommendation 159.160.

¹⁸⁴ Nepal has adopted a range of legislative and policy measures to strengthen child rights and protection. These include the Child Labour (Regulation and Prohibition) Act, 2000, the Juvenile Justice Procedure Rules, 2006, and the Child Labour (Regulation and Prohibition) Rules, 2006. Further mechanisms were introduced with the Emergency Child Rescue Fund Operating Regulations, 2010, and the Act Relating to Children, 2018. In 2019, Nepal enacted the Juvenile Justice Administration (Procedure) Rules, the Child Helpline Number 1098 Nepal Operating Procedures, the Child Protection Financial Relief Assistance Procedure, and the Integrated Procedures for the Rescue, Protection and Management of Street Children. Additional frameworks include the National Gender Equality Policy, 2020, the Regulations on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2020, the Regulation on Children, 2021, and the Standards for the Operation and Management of Children's Homes, 2022. More recently, Nepal adopted the National Children Policy, 2023, and the Street Children Special Protection Directive, 2025, further strengthening the protection architecture for children.

¹⁸⁵ In a case of habeas corpus 185 079-WF-0005, decided by the SC on 23 March 2023, the court issued a mandamus directing that cases involving children must be adjudicated within 120 days. However, in exceptional circumstances where it is not possible to adjudicate a case within 120 days, the reasons and grounds thereof must be expressly set out in the order, recorded in the case file, and the decision rendered accordingly.

¹⁸⁶ The bill aims to create a more responsive and supportive legal environment for children, address contemporary challenges, and ensure the best interests of children are at the forefront of legal proceedings.

¹⁸⁷ NCRC as the apex agency works on child protection, childcare, monitoring, policy advocacy, and policy implementation related to children.

¹⁸⁸ Related to recommendations 159.155.

¹⁸⁹ Related to recommendation 159.58.

¹⁹⁰ Related to recommendation 159.208.

¹⁹¹ Article 18 of the Constitution.

¹⁹² Right to special education, health, social security and social justice.

¹⁹³ Article 84 (3), Article 86 (2) and Article 176(7) of Constitution ensure right to representation for PWD in the HoR, National Assembly and Provincial Assembly.

¹⁹⁴ These groups work with persons affected by leprosy to identify and change negative attitudes, beliefs, and practices, advocate for the rights of persons with leprosy, and streamline their voices in accessing services and ensuring HR.

¹⁹⁵ Related to recommendations 159.224, 159.222.

¹⁹⁶ Policy of constructing disability accessible infrastructures has been adopted; reservation has been made in public transportation.

¹⁹⁷ A dedicated Mental and Disability Section has been established in the Department of Health Services (DoHS) to manage medicines and assistive equipment for persons with disabilities (PWDs), while under the Social Service Unit Programme free health services have been ensured for 12 targeted groups including women and girls with disabilities; in addition, youth-friendly sexual and

reproductive health services are being provided such as prevention of sexually transmitted infections, cervical cancer and HPV screening programmes, comprehensive sexual education on cervical cancer, breast cancer and uterine prolapse, free vaccines to protect girls from cervical cancer with a plan to vaccinate all girls by 2024, free cervical cancer screening for mothers, free treatment for complex diseases up to NRs 100,000, support for free health check-ups by some provinces and local governments, and free air rescue operations in critical situations.

- ¹⁹⁸ The structure, functions, duties, and rights of the INC and NDC are determined by the INC Act, 2017 and NDC Act, 2017 respectively.
- ¹⁹⁹ Civil Service Act, 1993, Section 7(7).
- ²⁰⁰ Local Level Election Act, 2017, Section 6(1)(6) Sections 28(5) and (6) of the Provincial Assembly Elections Act, 2017, Section 28(5) and (6); House of Representatives Election Act, 2017, Schedule-1, and National Assembly Election Act, 2018, Sections 3(1) (a), (b), (c) and 66(2).
- ²⁰¹ Sections 6(1)-(6) of the Local Level Election Act, 2017; Sections 28(5) and (6) of the Provincial Assembly Elections Act, 2017; Sections 28(5), (6), and Schedule-1 of the House of Representatives Election Act, 2017; and Sections 3(1) (a), (b), (c), and 66(2) of the National Assembly Election Act, 2018.
- ²⁰² Constitution, Articles 38, 40, 252, 253, 255, 256, 258, 259, and 261.
- ²⁰³ Related to recommendations 159.33, 159.34, 159.35, 159.32, 159.39, 159.40, 159.41, 159.42, 159.43, 159.44, 159.47 and 159.48.
- ²⁰⁴ Related to recommendation 159.35.
- ²⁰⁵ Related to recommendation 159.133.
- ²⁰⁶ In 2023 Supreme Court of Nepal endorsed an interim order to temporarily register same-sex marriages; *Adheep Pokhrel & Tobias Volz v. Ministry of Home Affairs, Department of Immigration*, Supreme Court of Nepal, Writ No. 079-WO-0198. The Court held that restrictive immigration practices discriminating against foreign spouses of Nepali citizens violated constitutional equality (Articles 18 and 38) and the right to family life, and directed the State to revise visa regulations in line with international HR obligations.
- ²⁰⁷ Related to recommendation 159.80.
- ²⁰⁸ The action plan promotes fair and ethical recruitment and business accountability along the migrant worker supply chain.
- ²⁰⁹ The Foreign Employment Department introduced an online platform featuring the FEIMS, a digital network designed to streamline foreign labour migration. FEIMS enables electronic tracking of labour permits, facilitates better reintegration support for returnee migrant workers, and strengthens digital migration governance mechanisms.
- ²¹⁰ Implemented in July 2015, Nepal's "Free Visa, Free Ticket" policy mandates that employers in designated countries bear the costs of visa processing and airfare for Nepali migrant workers, aiming to reduce their financial burden and curb recruitment fraud.
- ²¹¹ Foreign Employment Act, 2007, and its Rules, 2007; the Guidelines on the Process Related to Obtain Personal Approval for Foreign Employment, 2012; the Foreign Employment Policy, 2012; the Procedures on Registration and Renewal of Orientation Training Institutions for Foreign Employment, 2014; and the Guidelines for Sending Domestic Workers in Foreign Employment, 2015.
- ²¹² Related to recommendations 159.21, 159.162, 159.65, 159.67, 159.61, 59.68; 159.69; 159.70 and 159.71.
- ²¹³ Related to recommendations 159.63, 159.64, 159.67, 159.72.
- ²¹⁴ Article 51 (b) (4) of the Constitution.
- ²¹⁵ Related to Article 153 (6) of the Constitution.
- ²¹⁶ Related to Article 239 (1) of the Constitution.
- ²¹⁷ Related to Article 241 (1) of the Constitution.
- ²¹⁸ Commission of the Investigation of Abuse of Authority Act, 1991; Prevention of Corruption Act, 2002; Special Court Act 2002; The National Criminal Procedure Code, 2017; National Panel Code 2017; Civil Service Act, 1993; Revenue Leakage (Investigation and Control) Act 1995; Good Governance (Management and Operations) Act, 2008; Collective Crime Prevention Act, 2010; Financial Procedure and Fiscal Liability Act, 2018; The National Civil Code 2017; Extradition Act 2014; and Money Laundering Prevention Act, 2008; Proceeds and Instrumentalities of Crime (Freezing, Seizing and Confiscation) Act, 2014; Judicial Council Act, 2016.
- ²¹⁹ World Bank, *Integrating Climate Change into Nepal's Development Strategy* (15 Sept 2022) ("negligible contributor...0.1% of global GHG").
- ²²⁰ IPCC, *AR6 WGI Regional Fact Sheet: Asia* (2021) ("reduced snow cover; glacier retreat") p.2; ICIMOD, *Hindu Kush Himalaya Assessment Update* press release (20 Jun 2023) ("glaciers disappeared 65% faster in 2011–2020").
- ²²¹ ICIMOD, "GLOF from Thyanbo glacial lake sweeps away Thame Village" (17 Aug 2024); Climate

Home News, “Nepal and China agree to cooperate on glacial lake flooding...” (27 Aug 2025) (Rasuwagadhi July 2025 damages).

²²² UNFCCC, “Operationalization of the new funding arrangements... (Loss & Damage Fund)” Doc. FCCC/CP/2023/* (28 Nov 2023); Related to also UNFCCC “COP28: 5 key takeaways.”; ND-GAIN Country Index, Nepal profile (2023), rank 126; vulnerability/readiness metrics.
