Nepal SDGs Forum is established 2016, is recognized as a national and independent informal and common platform of thematic federations and networks, CSOs, I/NGOs, private sectors, cooperatives, medias, UN agencies, bilateral and multilaterals and major groups and stakeholders. Nepal SDGs Forum is only officially recognized and representing platform on National Steering Committee and all thematic Committee of SDGs implementation mechanism of government of Nepal. Now, more than 50 federations and alliance and over 500 organizations are the members across the country. This is a unique border multi-stakeholders' mechanism is accepted by all major groups and stakeholders and divided their role as Conveners and Co-Conveners, Members of all 17 Goals and Major Groups. Nepal SDGs Forum is recognized the following constituency as major groups: Youth, Women, Disabled, Senior Citizens, Children, Dalit, Indigenous Community, LGBTIQ, Farmers and Workers and stakeholders: I/NGOs, Local Authorities, Cooperatives, Medias, Trade Unions, Bilateral and Multilateral, Private Sectors, Science and Technology Community and Government Agencies. NGO Federation of Nepal (NFN) is providing secretariat for Nepal SDGs Forum.

NFN is an umbrella of all Nepali Non Governmental Organization (NGOs), Social Development Organizations (SDOs) and known as national plate-form and confederation of all Nepali Civil Society Organization (CSOs), working in various fields of social welfare and sustainable development. Established in 1991 for the promotion and protection of social justice, human rights and pro-poor development, NFN has evolved as a national organization working for the entire peace, human rights and democracy movement of Nepal. It is actively working to unite, organize, empower and mobilize civil society to create a peaceful, democratic, prosperous and just Nepal.

NFN has about 6,345 members NGOs and organized 77 district chapters, 7 provincial chapters and one headquarter for coordinate and work efficiently. All together 15000 development volunteers, more than 5000 professional staffs are working directly and indirectly across the country to strengthen and support NFN's motto. NFN has a special consultative status of ECOSOC since 2014 and received accreditation from UNEP since 2017, as an observer status. NFN is a member of CIVICUS, International Forum of National NGO Platforms (IFP) since its foundation in 2008, Global Call to Action Against Poverty
(GCAP) since 2005, Member of Reality of Aid (RoA), CSO Partnership For Development Effectiveness (CPDE), Action Sustainable Development A4SD since 2016, member of Together 2030, member of Network Of Empowered Aid Response (NEAR), Asia Democracy Network (ADN), Asia Development Alliance (ADA), Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism (AP-RCEM), Asian NGOs Coalition For Agrarian Reform And Development (ANGOC), Asia Pacific Research Network (APRN), South Asia Poverty Eradication (SAAPE), Third World Network, LDCs Watch, Peoples SAARC, World Social Forum and engaging different international process and campaigns.

**How CSOs are Engaging on VNR 2020 in Nepal?**

Nepal SDGs Forum is a playing leading role for VNR 2020. Nepali CSOs, major groups and stakeholders are very actively engaging on VNR process. Nepal SDGs Forum is coordinating and compiling reports of all organizations, major groups and stakeholders and prepare a CSOs shadow report to hand over the government and UN process.

To accelerate this process, SDGs Forum held its third round of discussion on preparation of civil society report on Voluntary National Review (VNR) of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on 6 February 2020 at NGO Federation of Nepal's office at Buddhanagar, Kathmandu. The participants represented civil society federations, networks and organizations; development partners including UN and INGOs; National Planning Commission (NPC), and the development activists. Member organizations of Nepal SDGs Forum, including the conveners and co-conveners for SDGs, and Major Groups and Stakeholders participated in the meeting. The background information and presentations basically on process and priorities on VNR by NGO Federation of Nepal (NFN) team triggered the discussion. President of NFN Mr Jitram Lama highlighted the objectives and focus of the CSOs in VNR.
Deputy Secretary General of NFN Mr Arjun Bhattarai presented how VNR is associated with international plate-forms including the UNGA and HLPF. He also reviewed the engagement of NFN and Nepal SDGs Forum from local government to province and national levels in localization of SDGs and acceleration of Agenda 2030. Drawing lessons from earlier practices in which civil society came up with its own report on SDGs, Executive Director of NFN Mr BB Thapa said that NFN will coordinate and facilitate all the efforts and the NFN’s meeting hall will be a common venue for anyone who wish to discuss and work in order to contribute to VNR. Mr Hum Bhandari, Program Manager at NFN, focused on the priorities and the information to be collected for VNR report.

Notably, NFN represents civil society on National Steering Committee on SDGs led by the Prime Minister and all thematic committees of National Planning Commission. Thus, NFN has been raising the voice and concerns of the people and CSOs or bridging civil society and Government.

Aimed at contributing to accelerate implementation of 2030 Agenda, and in this process to underscore priorities and concerns of civil society or of the poor, vulnerable and marginalized communities with further specific focus, the meeting has developed a common understanding about going forward and coming up with a consolidated report of the civil society or CSOs in Nepal.

Although some thematically focused organizations and networks have been working for contributing to VNR, they have agreed to share their findings and recommendations to Nepal SDGs Forum to produce an integrated report. Apart from this, efforts and actions that different organizations have planned will be undertaken in a collaborative and coordinated way so as to build synergy, avoid overlaps and duplications and streamline the process resulting in a common report that everyone has ownership and the government and stakeholders will give due consideration.

The participation and inputs from NPC, UN bodies, and INGOs have been encouraging and fruitful. As representative of National Planning Commission (NPC) which is the lead government agency for SDGs and VNR, Mr Dev Raj Joshi, Program Director at NPC, shared the Government’s plans and timetables for preparation of VNR. He advised how the civil society report can be more timely and coherent
with the Government's so that the contents of the civil society report can be duly considered and be incorporated in Government's VNR report.

Likewise, Mr Subhash Nepali, Economist and SDG Advisor at United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office, shared that UN bodies are working closely with Government of Nepal and will collaborate with civil society in SDGs and VNR in order to make interventions and results participatory and inclusive. Besides, representatives from UNDP have committed to supporting for data and information sharing and analysis.

Various UN agencies including UNDP and INGOs— including VSO, World Vision International, TDH Germany, CARE Nepal, and WHH—have offered support in VNR initiatives to coordinate and collaborate with of Nepal SDGs Forum. An advisory group is to be formed in which such development partners will be joining.

The representatives of various CSOs, major groups and stakeholders have expressed interest to lead or contribute to the VNR report preparation. They will share their plans with Nepal SDGs Forum's Secretariat at NFN which will coordinate with everyone.

Based on the interest and expertise, different groups will be proposed and communicated soon. The next step would be formation of working groups and expedite the information collection and report writing process.

**CSOs Engagement on VNR 2020: Nepal SDGs Forum**

**Organized Second Meeting on 2nd January 2020**

A sharing and planning meeting of Nepal SDGs Forum was held at the office of NGO Federation of Nepal (NFN) on 2 January 2020. The meeting was focused particularly on engagement of the civil society or NGOs/CSOs in the Voluntary National Review (VNR) process and the role on inclusive
The achievement of SDGs in general. The meeting was held in participation of government representatives, CSOs/NGOs, and INGOs and indorsed the calendar focusing VNR and agendas 2030.

The meeting started with a brief presentation by NFN's Deputy Secretary General and coordinator of Nepal SDGs Forum Arjun Bhattarai. The presentation was an update of the national and international events and processes and how civil society is being engaged at regional and global levels and VNR process in Nepal.

In addition, Executive Director of NFN, B.B. Thapa, shared that NFN has been representing civil society and CSOs in different forums and mechanisms of the government.

Firstly, being focused on the VNR, CSO leaders and individuals involved or interested in this process brainstormed or expressed their views. Dr. Padma Prasad Khatiwada, Sanjay Raj Neupane, Saloni Singh, Narendra Khatiwada, Rita Bastakoti, Benu Maya Gurung, Seema Luitel, Shyam Adhikari, Dr. Netra Prasad Timsina, Bhakta B.K., Dr. Keshab Raj Khadka, Ganesh B.K., Shanta Laxmi Shrestha and Shanta Lall Mulmi expressed their views representing different networks, themes and areas of expertise.

Summing up the views expressed by the individuals as above, civil society/CSOs need to contribute to the government's initiatives for the VNR but it is essential that civil society's engagement enhances the inclusion and contributes to making sure that no one is left behind. Although different NGOs/CSOs as well as Major Groups and Other Stakeholders can come up with their specific focus and reviews, Nepal SDGs Forum will integrate all the inputs and perspectives of diverse cross-cutting themes and goals in the civil society report on VNR. This report will be the one and only common report of the civil society. However, there will be other complementary reports focused to particular themes and goals. These
complementary reports may consist of analyses and fact sheets while avoiding duplications and overlaps. In fact, all the organizations and individuals will have an opportunity and contribute while maintaining coordination and synergy. The speakers have duly acknowledged that the civil society effort needs to be consolidated so that they are listened and are given due recognition.

It was also highlighted that the VNR report shall be broader, 'political amalgamation' that will serve as an advocacy tool for civil society. At the same time, the private sector engagement in accelerating the achievement of SDGs was acknowledged.

Responding to these concerns and views, Hon'ble Member of National Planning Commission Min Ba Shai shared and updated the policies, process and progress of the government on SDGs and specifically about SDGs. He advised all the NGOs/CSOs and networks to work in a coordinated way so that their efforts are consolidated and streamlined and it becomes convenient and practical for the government to give due consideration to the suggestions and recommendations. Only such consolidated report will bolster civil society position. Mentioning that NGO Federation of Nepal and National Cooperative Federation are representing in the National Steering Committee chaired by the Prime Minister, he said, government values the engagement of civil
society. He informed that the Government is preparing a corporate social responsibility (CSR) framework. Finally, he urged everyone to "consolidate the CSO movement" and assured that thematic reports by CSOs will be considered by NPC.

Dr. Madhusudan Bhattarai from NPC advised that the CSO report on VNR should be submitted early on so that NPC will have time to incorporate it in government's report. He also advised to develop a civil society knowledge platform in order to facilitate learning and sharing, particularly on SDGs.

Finally, Chair of the meeting and NFN's President Jit Ram Lama assured that Nepal SDGs Forum will coordinate among all the thematically focused organizations, networks, and INGOs making sure that the VNR report is consolidated and inclusive.

1st Preparatory and planning meeting of CSOs for VNR 2020 on 21st November 2019

Nepal SDGs Forum organized first preparatory and planning meeting of major group and stakeholders as well as goals conveners to accelerate VNR process in Nepal. This meeting disused about details plan of action for effective engagement of VNR 2020. Also review CSOs engagement of 2017 and decided to engage government process as well as to prepare CSOs shadow report of Nepal.