

Key CSO Recommendations, NGO Federation of Nepal

Presented in the National Peoples' Assembly on SDGs 2020 organised by NGO Federation of Nepal (GCAP Nepal), UN and Nepal Planning Committee

During the people's assembly, CSO leaders and speakers emphasized and presented the following key demands:

- Encourage small and medium enterprises and generate more employment opportunities. Introduce programmes to protect the livelihood of small landholder farmers, landless agricultural workers, slum dwellers, daily wage labourers, and other poor.
- Pro-poor and inclusive macro-economic policies need to be adopted to ensure that no one is left behind.
- In the context of Covid-19, take urgent measures to protect public health, seriously consider the risks and damages caused by health problems other than Covid-19 such as the alarmingly increasing maternal mortality.
- Provide free, inclusive, equitable and quality education and learning opportunities as guaranteed by the Constitution and ensure necessary legislations at local, province and federal levels.
- There need to be targeted and focused programmes with higher budgetary allocation in order to address the intersectional marginalization and discrimination faced by women, to increase their public roles, economic opportunities and dignified situation in the society.
- Increase access to clean, safe and piped drinking water, waste management, improve sanitation and hygiene particularly at schools and health facilities.
- Give utmost importance in ending all forms of intersectional discrimination, violence, exclusion, exploitation and inequality of women, children, Dalits, indigenous peoples, marginalized groups, LGBTIQ, poorest of the poor, older people, people living with HIV/AIDS, people with disabilities, people living in remote rural areas and other vulnerable groups. Consider the special needs of these groups.
- Create enabling environment for identity, education, decent employment and dignified life of sexual and gender minorities, and people with disabilities.

- The effect of Covid-19 and lockdown has caused long term adverse effects on children and ultimately the future of the nation. So, protect children's physical and psychosocial health, address their learning needs and find ways to recover the loss.
- Create a collaborative and harmonious environment between the government and civil society including the community organizations to work together to achieve the SDGs. Multi-stakeholder monitoring, review and coordination mechanisms should be in place at all levels of the government.
- Build CSO-friendly policies and create enabling environment, mobilize them and utilize their strengths and expertise in order to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs.
- Develop guidelines and frameworks, enhance capacity and support subnational governments in planning, resource allocation, implementation and monitoring of the SDGs. Also build awareness, involve and mobilize other stakeholders including the local communities for transparency, accountability, ownership, sustainability and effectiveness.
- Take urgent measures in order to improve governance, transparency, accountability and effectiveness of the implementing agencies and empower the oversight bodies at all levels: federal, province and local.
- Create and strengthen forums and systems for learning and sharing of lessons, best practices, innovative solutions, constructive feedback and insights. Put emphasis on SDG 16 as a critical enabler and accelerator as it cuts across many themes and the SDGs.
- Nepal needs to strongly negotiate and lobby with international community for privileges and preferential treatments in trade, technology transfer, foreign direct investment, debt cancellation and development cooperation in accordance with the various international agreements and declarations in this regard.