

Press Release

ON the Eve of Nepal Donor Consultation Meeting, 2008

(February 21-22, 2008, Kathmandu, Nepal)

Government of Nepal is organizing a Nepal Donor Consultation Meeting (NDCM) 2008, on 21-22 February 2008. Though not a Nepal Development Forum (NDF) in itself, it is a prelude to the full-fledged NDF which the GoN plans to organize sometime towards the end of 2008, by when the country will have reached a new phase of political stabilization after the completion of the Constituent Assembly Elections. Normally held in every 18-24 months, NDF used to be held in foreign capitals, mostly in Paris, until 2000. Since 2002, Nepal has been hosting it, and the last (14th) such meeting was conducted in Kathmandu in 2004.

The main objectives of organizing NDCM this time around are to:

- communicate to Nepal's development partners Nepal's challenges and opportunities of peace and development in the new context of post-Jana Andolan II,
- seek to establish a close compact between GoN and development partners as well as GoN and the Nepali citizens for launching peace and development activities together in harmony, reassert commitment to implementing international accords on donor harmonization such as Paris Principles on Aid Effectiveness, and
- build a climate of trust, cooperation and understanding through mutual dialogue, information-sharing and collaboration between development partners and civil society.

The relevance of holding this event is further justified in a broader context of evolving political situation and stabilization of peace process, Government's approval of Three-Year Interim Plan (TYIP) and need for ensuring resource availability for its implementation, urgency of delivering peace dividend to the Nepali people in the context of their post-conflict rising aspirations, and need to disseminate the progress made on various reform initiatives as well as the constraints encountered in managing the current state of transition.

Two presentations will be made on TYIP and Development Deliverables and Economic Update, Challenges and Road Ahead by Vice Chairman of the National Planning Commission and Finance Secretary, respectively, during the Business Sessions. A roundtable session meant for interacting with political parties on 'Nepal's Evolving Peace Process and Development Imperatives' will also be organized during the meeting. This will be moderated by Kul Chandra Gautam, former Assistant Secretary General of the UN.

To share ideas and receive feedback from the domestic stakeholders as well as locally based development partners for the main event, six Pre-consultation Sessions covering the broader areas of infrastructure development such as road and power, social sector including inclusion, health and education, economic reforms and challenges, donor harmonization and aid

effectiveness and evolving peace process and emerging scenario were successfully organized on February 1-4, 2008.

Right Honorable Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala has consented to attend the Opening Session and deliver his address. The Vice President of Asian Development Bank Mr. Liqun Jin will be guest of honor representing Nepal's development partners. Many other delegates from the donors' headquarters will also participate in the event. Finance Minister will be the Chair of the Business Sessions of the Meeting.

A Joint Communiqué will be issued at the end of the Meeting which will enlist the issues and areas mutually agreed and committed by the GoN and Development Partners highlighting the need for expediting peace process and bringing it to logical conclusion at the earliest, current and future development priorities and deliverables and continuation of reforms with more reinforced commitment.

The Government of Nepal expresses its gratitude to all the concerned stakeholders of this event, and in particular to the colleagues from media for their continuous support in making the NCDM 2008 a success.

Ministry of Finance
Singh Durbar, Kathmandu
February 20, 2008