

Press Release

As a part of continuing dialogue with the development partners, a local donors meeting was held in the Ministry of Finance, today. The meeting was attended by their Excellencies Ambassadors of various countries to Nepal, Heads of Missions and representatives of both bilateral and multilateral development partners. Also, the leaders of the political parties were present.

In the meeting welcoming their Excellencies Ambassadors of various countries and the head of the Missions Hon'ble Finance Minister Dr. Ram Sharan Mahat said that the contentious issues including Terai will be resolved and the Constituent Assembly (CA) elections will be held smoothly as scheduled for April 10, 2008. He also updated the current macroeconomic situation of the country with special reference to the need of additional demand for upcoming election and the cost incurred from the 23-point Accord. He outlined the need of additional international support in meeting these rising demand of the situation. Likewise, the measures that government is going to adopt including the intention of presenting a supplementary budget was presented by him.

During the meeting, the senior leaders of political parties, namely, Mr. Jhalanath Khanal (UML), Dr. Baburam Bhattarai (CPN-Maoist) and Mr. Chakra Prasad Bastola (Nepali Congress) supported the government's request to development partners for additional assistance for the implementation of 23-point Accord as well as successful completion of elections.

Likewise, representatives from the various bilateral and multilateral development partners expressed their support for Nepal's development and the peace process. They shared their views regarding the upcoming Donor's Consultative Meeting to be held in February focusing on peace and development in the eve of CA election in Nepal.

The Secretaries of the government of Nepal have clarified the participant's queries and reiterated the government's commitment for the implementation of various commitments that government has made in the course of peace process.

At the end, Finance Secretary Mr. Vidyadhar Mallik thanked all the participants for their presence and active participation in the meeting with his remarks on the upcoming Donor Consultative Meeting and the importance of development agenda for sustainable peace process. He clarified that although Nepal would need the additional financial pledging from the development partners after the election, the upcoming February meeting would be only a preparatory meeting for the broader Nepal Development Forum to be held in near future and would create a congenial atmosphere and build the confidence among the development partners and other stakeholders.

Ministry of Finance
Kathmandu
16 January 2008