

Collaborative Civil Society

VNR Statement of Nepal

5 July 2020

We would like to express our gratitude to the Government of Nepal for pursuing VNR this year. We think most of the preparatory works of SDGs at the federal level seem satisfactory, localization and political ownership at the sub-national level are inadequate. Exclusion of groups having multiple and intersectional identities, Indigenous Peoples (Aadhibasi Janajati), Persons with disabilities, Women, and girls, Dalits, Madhesi, Muslims, LGBTIQ, Youths, Senior citizens, informal sector workers, urban and poor, sex worker and marginalized communities continues to exist.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought a wide range of problems ultimately making negative impacts on the attainment of all the Goals. After lockdown economic, social, and humanitarian problems have raised and further marginalized the vulnerable poor people. Maternal mortality, suicide, gender-based discrimination, and violence have increased significantly. The government should formulate and review the policies, frameworks, and mainstream the post-COVID-19 recovery plan to achieve the SDGs targets within the stipulated time with open, inclusive, and green recovery principles.

We are gradually progressing in all the goals, but there is still a need to give adequate attention and emphasis to accelerate goals 2, 3, 5, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16, and 17. We have poverty, hunger, unemployment, rising inequality, violence (both online and offline), injustices, disability, gender, discrimination on SOGI, religion, caste-based discrimination and untouchability, regional, and racial discriminations, and digital divide as our major problems.

There is no equitable access to essential public services including education, learning opportunities, health, housing, food security, SRHR and WASH rights. The government must ensure free, inclusive, equitable, quality, culturally appropriate education, and lifelong learning including comprehensive sexuality, disability and LGBTIQ friendly curriculum in the mother tongue.

Environmental degradation, climate change, and natural disasters are making the lives of the Indigenous Peoples, marginalized and vulnerable people hard and difficult. Considering peoples and planets, we should promote Indigenous Knowledge to mitigate and adapt climate change.

Also, the Government should strictly regulate private institutions in the education and health sector and it is urgent to increase the gender-responsive budget in education and health. Government has to develop a contingency plan for health services in humanitarian settings. Further, it is essential to implement targeted programs for the poor marginalized, and vulnerable communities with an adequate budget and transparent public expenditure practice.

The government should implement ILO Convention 169, ensure Prior Free Informed Consent mechanism and collective rights of Indigenous Peoples in line with UNDRIP. The government must improve political accountability, integrity, governance efficiency, to promote customary traditional institutions and self-governance systems, and the delivery capacity of all public institutions. The government must ensure meaningful engagement and institutionalized participation of CSOs and marginalized communities in decision-making, legislation process and value their contributions in the development.

Government must establish a strong fast track service to ensure access to justice for the victims and caste-based killing, extrajudicial killings for Dalit and highly marginalized communities. The Government should settle the issues of transitional justice as soon as possible.

Government must amend discriminatory laws, act and policies and develop plan and policies by integrating intersectional approaches and respecting diversities. The government must improve interagency coordination and cooperation between three-tier governments with accountability and inclusive monitoring mechanisms.

Some systemic barriers such as the caste system, patriarchy, harmful practices, structural discrimination, corruption, unequal distribution of power and resources, neo-liberal economic system, and feudalistic mindset have to be addressed.

Nepal must improve statistical systems, generate disaggregated and credible data to monitor the SDGs' progress and utilize data generated by CSOs, Universities and research institutions etc.

The government should improve domestic resource mobilization, increase international cooperation and support to address the health crisis and economic shock.

Finally, Human Rights, social justice, gender responsiveness, and nature-based approaches are instrumental to achieve SDGs and dignity of the peoples.

Questions:

What are the resilient recovery plans and programs of the government to mitigate the challenges created by COVID-19, to achieve SDG goals and to ensure participation of CSOs?

How does the government ensure the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs that are supported by disaggregated data, adequate financing, and inclusive process at the local and provincial levels?

What concrete actions do you have to ensure the rights of most marginalized and vulnerable people who have been left behind?

Prepared by

Civil Society Major Groups and Stakeholders of Nepal