

RESPONSE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF NEPAL

Related to Youth and Human Rights

Submitted to United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

1. Is there a national law on youth on your country? If yes, please describe it (including how youth is defined with in the specific law).

Yes, Nepal has National Youth Council Act, 2015 (hereinafter referred as "the Act"). Its preamble states, that the Act has been enacted to make necessary provision for preparing competent citizens for building an affluent nation by protecting and promoting the interests of youth and for including the youth, through their empowerment, in the mainstream of development by involving them in policy making about youth related matters.

The main purpose of this Act is to coordinate the youth related programs for youth development and mobilization by constituting the National Youth Council (hereinafter referred as "NYC") under the Ministry of Youth and Sports (hereinafter referred as "MoYS"). After enactment of the Act, a lawful way for constitution of the NYC has become open, and along with the establishment of the Council as an organizational structure has been created for youth development and mobilization.

Nepal has framed and being implemented National Youth Policy-2015 (hereinafter referred as "NYP") comprehensive subject matters of youth development have been incorporated in the form of policy. In order to implement those matters after determining their priorities, it is imperative to fix a clear approach of youth development, a strategic work plan and programs.



The Act has defined youth as persons belonging to the age group of 16 to 40 years. If the age group of 16 to 40 years of Nepali population is viewed, it seems to cover 40.35 percent of the total population, and in the coming decade this percentage is projected to go up. In the context of uniformity yet to be introduced in regard to the growth age group in different bodies of Government of Nepal (hereinafter referred as "GoN"), "Youth Vision-2025" has classified it into two age groups of 16 to 24 years and 25 to 40 years and the group wise priorities have been determined accordingly.

As envisioned on the youth vision-2025, the youth belonging to the age group of 16 to 24 years will be accorded more emphasis in regard to education, health, training, leadership development and employment whereas, the age group of 25 to 40 years will be actively involved in employment, leadership, management, health, investment in the youth and entrepreneurship and policy formulation/decision and implementation.

2. What are main challenges that young people face in your country?

There are many challenges the young people face in Nepal, some of which are stated as below:-

- a) Lack of adequate access to resources, time-relevant and employment oriented education, apprenticeship, inefficient vocational skills trainings;



नेपाल सरकार
युवा तथा मन्त्रिपरिषद्को कार्यालय

- b) High rate of unemployment among youths;
- c) High rate of overseas labor migration of youths;
- d) Inadequate physical and mental health facilities and nutrition to the youths;
- e) Absence of youth friendly investment and environment of entrepreneurship.

3. What measure is the Government taking to ensure the full implementation of young people's rights (civil and political rights and economic and social rights)?

The GoN is fully conscious about full implementation of young people's right. Nepal has committed to protect and fulfill the rights of youth by envisioning through the constitution. Article 42 of the Constitution of Nepal provides the Right to social justice.

It states "the socially backward women, *Dalit*, indigenous people, indigenous nationalities, Madhesi, Tharu, minorities, persons with disabilities, marginalized communities, Muslims, backward classes, gender and sexual minorities, youths, farmers, labourers, oppressed or citizens of backward regions and indigent Khas Arya shall have the right to participate in the State bodies on the basis of inclusive principle".

Clause (7) of Sub-Article (j) of Article 51 of the Constitution of Nepal intends to create an atmosphere conducive to the full enjoyment of the political, economic, social and cultural rights, while enhancing the participation of youths in national development, to make their personality development, while providing special opportunity in areas including education, health and employment for the empowerment and development of the youths and provide them with appropriate opportunities for the overall development of the State.

The GoN has taken policies, legislative, and programmatic measures in order to implement the rights of young people envisioned in the constitution. The GoN has been implementing NYP and Youth Vision-2025 as policy measures. This policies have set up ten years strategic plan for the holistic development of the Youth.

The Youth Vision-2025 has recognized five pillars in order to achieve the vision, long term goals and objectives of it. The five pillars of Youth Vision-2025 are 1) Qualitative and Professional Education 2) Employment, Entrepreneurships and Skill development 3) Health and Social Security 4) Mobilization, Participation and Leadership Development, 5) Sports and Entertainment.

Under the Act, the NYC has been established for coordinating programs for youth development and mobilization. Along with the establishment of the Council, an organizational structure has been set up for youth development and mobilization. Different activities regarding the youth mobilization are being implemented under the Council. The NYC is giving affiliation to Non-government Organizations (hereinafter referred as "NGOs") for the youth mobilization activities.

In November 10, 2017, the 3rd NYC meeting has decided that all NGOs should coordinate with NYC and International NGOs shall coordinate with MoYS. NYC mobilized various

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Ministries and bodies of GoN, associations and organizations concerned with youth development and international donor agencies for achieving the target of youth development in a coordinated manner.

4. **Could you please give examples of policies and programmes adopted to support and empower young people in the exercise of their rights?**

The GoN has been implementing NYP with a view to promote basic norms and values such as youths' allegiance to the nation, nationality and the people; fulfillment of the basic needs of the youths; the policy of equality and equitable distribution; world peace, co-existence and protection and promotion of basic norms and values like caste, language, culture and environmental heritage.

NYP categorizes and defines the term youth according to priority. They are youth belonging to priority and special priority group, conflict victim youth, youth at risk, physically challenged youth and youth belonging to marginalized and minority community. This categorization are made in order to bring youths in mainstream of development.

Furthermore, mainstreaming of youths has been taken as a crosscutting issue. Various Ministries of GoN has been implementing programs relating to the youth such as education, health, agriculture, tourism, labor, employment and sports. The MoYS is coordinating to bring all the activities under these ministries and to utilize NYC nationwide structure.

Major ongoing program for development of youth are as follows:-

- **Youths entrepreneurship program**

One VDC(Village) Ten Youth, Ten Youth One entrepreneurship is the dream project of MoYS as well NYC to encourage youth to become entrepreneur. This programme is under NYC and NYC provide Nepali rupees five hundred thousand for each group and monitor the work and provide feedback.

- **Youths exchange program (International and Internal)**

NYC facilitates internal youth exchange programme in coordination with District Youth Council's in different district to exchange learning and sharing of youths and MoYS facilitates international Youth Exchange programme with India, China, UAE and Bulgaria.

- **Youths parliament**

Youths Parliament is the dream project of MoYS as well as NYC. Youths Parliament is a kind of mock parliament of Youths where youth voice, issues etc. are collected in ward level and representative from ward level bring voice from respective places and those issues are discussed in National level Parliament module. Mock session are carried out where issues of youth are discussed and addressed.





- **Youths Volunteer Program**

MoYS had mobilized ten thousand youth during earthquake for rescue and search. Under the theme of (A day of Youth for Society) MoYS and NYC in co-ordination with different (CBO) organization mobilizes volunteer in different activity and programme such as IYD, IWD, Civil Hospital Cleaning Campaign, planting programme, and relief material collection during emergencies and natural disaster and so on.

- **National Youth Talent Award**

MoYS annually awards ten national level youth with "National Youth Talent Award". There is "National Youth Talent Directive" in order to select the awardees. The candidates for awards shall apply as per the directives and MoYS selects according to their contributions. For selection process there is "National Youth Talent Directive" so, those youth who fit in the criteria they apply and MoYS select according to their work.

5. **How are youth organizations or youth-led structure involved in developing, implementing, monitoring and/or evaluating policies and programmes on youth in your country?**

NYC is responsible for coordination and facilitation of the youth-related programmes conducted by governmental as well as NGOs and private sectors. MoYS is the focal Ministry for monitoring and evaluation of plans and programs has been implemented in relation to youths. It also reviews effectiveness of programmes, impact of outcomes and objectives of the NYP. For this purpose, a Central Monitoring and Evaluation Committee has been proposed that comprises representatives of the various Ministries having stake on youth development is established under the convener-ship of Secretary of MoYS.

NYC has been constituted comprising of four persons representing youth related various organization and associations as member and fifteen person representing the youth having special contributions to the protection and promotion of the rights and interests of the youth belonging to adivasi/janagati/madeshi/dalit, physically disable, minority community and backward areas as member. Therefore, council itself is very inclusive and considerable youth representation.

In addition, since 39.05% of young people have been elected in local level election held in 2017, this has become great opportunity for youth leaders to unleash their power for youth development and create opportunity through their own perspectives.

Under the coordination of the MoYS, national and international NGOs, cooperatives, youth associations and organizations of political parties as well as private sectors are mobilized collectively for achieving youth development goals and objectives. Youths Vision-2025 and

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National Youths Policy has been formulated after extensive consultation with CBOs and youths representative from different part of the country.

Youth led organizations have started implementing programmes envisioned by the Youths Vision-2025 in line with the SDGs. There is provision of an Inter-Ministry National Youths Policy Coordination Committee under the Chairmanship of the Minister for Youths and Sports for the better coordination among different stakeholders. With the changing government structure in the federalism, the youth issues are the prime responsibilities of the local level as well as the provincial government which will be the advantages for the entire youth mobilization, their development and participation.

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