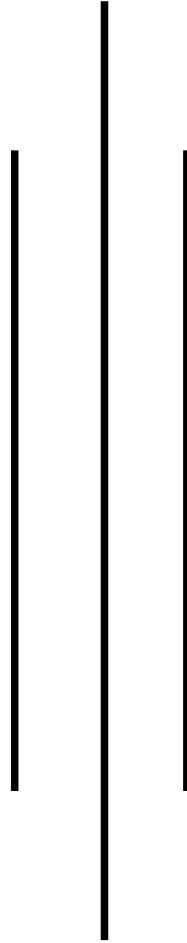


Policy and Program of the Government of Nepal  
For Fiscal Year 2065/066 (BS)



Wednesday, September 10, 2008

Wednesday, Bhadra 25, 2065

Right Honourable Speaker,

1. I am extremely delighted to present before this august Legislature-Parliament of the Constituent Assembly in my capacity as the first elected President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal the Policy and Program for F/Y 2065-66 of the first elected national coalition Government constituted in accordance with the peoples' mandate expressed through the recently held Constituent Assembly election.
2. Our country has now entered into such an era where umpteen horizons of novel potentialities are opening up following the establishment of the federal democratic republic through the historic declaration of the Constituent Assembly. We are now witnessing waves of new-found curiosities, encouragement and enthusiasm in each and every front and class of our society. Because of the sacrifices of the eminent martyrs and revolutionary warriors, we, as a true citizen with self-dignity and pride, have been ready to define our destiny ourselves. On this momentous occasion of such revolutionary changes, I would like to pay heartfelt tributes to all the known-unknown martyrs who have laid down their lives in the peoples' war, peoples' movement and peoples' revolutions including the Madhes movement as also for the political, economic and social transformations. Likewise, I would like to wish speedy health recovery for those who are now leading their sustenance in difficult circumstances, being disabled, and even mutilated.
3. We are now provided with an opportunity through this Constituent Assembly to write our own constitution in tune with the Nepalese peoples' aspirations standing for over six decades. I am confident that we could succeed through this Constituent Assembly developing a culture of consensus and working-in-unison thus ending all kinds of discrimination, inequality, exploitation, suppression, hardships, oppression and poverty and in the process, mapping out the destiny of a prosperous, federal, democratic, just and democratic new Nepal.
4. It is the Government's primary responsibility to help in the process of writing the federal democratic constitution within the stipulated timeline in keeping with the peoples' mandate together with bringing the on-going peace process to a logical conclusion and taking the socio-economic transformation process to a progressive direction. The Government of Nepal is quite aware and conscious towards this end. The present Government is expectant of the active co-operation, participation and support of all the honourable members, political parties, intellectuals, professional organizations/institutions, civil society, Nepalese sisters and brothers of a wider spectrum, levels/groups, class, gender to realise this common responsibility with ease and felicity.
5. We will be quick to implement the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, the consensus and the agreements with different groups and communities including those with the United Democratic Terai Front. In recognition of the need to settle our differences and disputes through dialogue and negotiations, the Government appeals all the agitating groups to immediately put on hold all their agitation agenda and seek solutions to their demands through negotiations eventually coming together in the great task of nation building.

6. This august Constituent Assembly, which stands as an excellent example of proportionality and inclusiveness in the world, and is our common historic monument, will be provided with the necessary resources. The present coalition Government remains committed to make democracy more institutionalized, strong, broad-based and people-oriented through the formulation of a new constitution and creating necessary atmosphere to write the new progressive constitution within the stipulated timeframe on the basis of consensus as provided for in the Interim Constitution 2063 (2007) B.S. The Government accords high priority to the post-conflict social reconstruction work, thus promoting a spirit of unity, peace with progressive change, goodwill, consensus, etc in the society.
7. The Government would be specially concerned with those martyrs who have laid down their lives during the people's war, peoples movement, and Madhes movement for the democratisation of this country. The Government would also focus special attention on the families of the missing persons, the wounded, the rehabilitation of the displaced and the appropriate relief measures, medical facilities, etc. The maimed and those who have lost their limbs would be suitably compensated. The wounded and the martyrs would be duly honoured. Those imprisoned during the different phases of the peoples' movements would be set free and those who have court cases filed against them will be withdrawn. Likewise, initiatives will be taken to get the Nepalese nationals in foreign jails released.
8. In line with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement provision, the Government would shortly form a high-level Truth and Reconciliation Commission as well as a separate commission charged with finding out the missing persons and make it public. Reports of the Commissions would be implemented at a rapid clip.
9. The Government would work along to integrate and rehabilitate the combatants of the Peoples Liberation Army lodged in the camps within the next six months in keeping with the comprehensive Peace Agreement and the provision of an Interim Constitution of Nepal 2063 (2007). Likewise, physical facilities in the camps would be appropriately improved.

Right Honourable Speaker,

10. Nepal has now entered into a new phase of political, economic social and cultural transformation. We all have a common responsibility to put an end to all the forms of feudalism and its remnants and to resolve various socio-economic problems-stemming from feudal state restructuring in the past. While doing so, we will be laying down the foundation of an independent and self-reliant new Nepal on the basis of new democratic norms and values. For this purpose, the Government is determined to prepare a common program and implement it based on political consensus.
11. We don't have any disagreement in that creating new Nepal is possible only if we have goodwill, co-operation, and consensus amongst the Nepalese people. It is again that keeping mutual unity and goodwill is possible only when we become able to unify the Nepalese people divided into different castes, class, regions, gender and communities and to set them up as National pivotal force

vested with full state and people's sovereignty. This is why, on the basis of complete equality among the ethnic and the indigenous people living in mountains, hills and Terai-Madhes from east to west, the Government will maintain a new national unity, and would follow the policy of safeguarding the nation's sovereignty, independence and integrity.

12. The Government would move forward consistent with the necessary legal practices of proportional inclusiveness, incorporating at all fronts and levels of the State women, ethnic and indigenous communities, marginalized minorities, Madhesis, Muslim communities and people in backward regions. This would be on the basis of the principles of equality and progressive values and social justice. We will be constituting a national inclusiveness commission with the participation of the concerned to make the necessary recommendations to the Government.
13. It is as well that there is a strong need to internalize the recognition that we can maintain sustainable peace while moving ahead with the political, socio-cultural and economic revolutions. The attention of the Government would be riveted on taking the country forward on the path of socio-economic prosperity, consistent with the people's mandate, while at the same time bringing to an end the shortage of food, clothing, shelter and treatment as well as poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, superstition and inequality.

Right Honourable Speaker,

14. The efforts of the Government are concentrated on making the country prosperous and self-reliant thus ending the unemployment, hunger, illiteracy, dependency and inequality. This will be closely linked with the Common Minimum Program prepared on the basis of the new transitional economic policy consistent with the concept of public-private partnership at the time of the formulation of the policy and the program of the current fiscal year.
15. It is the primary challenge as well as the opportunity for the present Government to give a boost to the economy which has remained sluggish because of the transitional political situation in the country. It is the objective of the Government's fiscal and the monetary policies to free the country and the people from poverty, unemployment, inequality and dependency while at the same time, achieving rapid economic growth and maintaining a just distribution system. The Government expects that the current atmosphere of peace in the country will be instrumental in creating the base for economic growth.
16. High level investment is essential for attaining high economic growth rate. For this purpose, the Government would go about external co-operation and investment promotion in terms of national interest and priorities provided we can't afford to mobilise resources from our domestic sources. The Government would take care to mobilise foreign capital to lay the foundation of a competitive and strong national economy in the national priority sectors, projects and also in the sectors where domestic mobilization of capital is inadequate thus necessitating huge capital investment.

17. In a country like ours which is passing through a difficult phase, and where there exist economic anomalies and structural obstacles, the role of the Government needs to be strong for accelerating the economic growth rate. The Government will make its role effective in directing the country's economic development, in developing large infrastructure projects, in establishing social justice and in bringing about a balanced development of all regions. The Government will lay emphasis on macro-economic stability so as to safeguard the low-income class of people from the burden of price increase and to prepare the base for rapid economic growth.
18. The concept of a just economic growth will be adopted so as to ensure the availability of the fruits of development to the poor, the neglected and the lower class or community of people, in absence of which the fruits of high rate of economic growth do not reach them automatically. Programs for eliminating poverty, increasing employment opportunities and minimizing inequality will be undertaken effectively.
19. The roles of the public, private and cooperative sectors in the economy will be redefined keeping the interests of the country and the people in mind. As the single-handed efforts of the public sector will not be adequate to accelerate the pace of economic growth, a policy of public-private partnership in infrastructure development will be adopted.
20. Work will be initiated to develop cooperative as a strong movement so as to make it a hub for the development of areas such as employment, income generation, poverty reduction as well as the modernization of welfare-oriented and cottage and small scale industries, forest, agriculture etc. to make it competitive with the private sector. In this regard, the existing organization structure, policies and working system of the cooperative sector will be reviewed. In this process, a High Level Cooperative Board headed by the Prime Minister will be formed to promote the growth of the cooperative sector in a coordinated manner.

Right Honourable Speaker,

21. Investment from the cooperative and the private sectors will be attracted by identifying areas with comparative and competitive advantages. The Government will focus special attention on the promotion, regulation and monitoring of the private sector as well as developing and expanding rural markets, infrastructural services and on bringing about radical change in the socio-economic condition of the resource-poor areas, classes and communities.
22. The private sector will be encouraged for the development of trade and industries in the country. A High-level Investment board headed by the Prime Minister will be constituted which will work to make available the facilities to be provided to the industries in a co-ordinated way by introducing necessary reforms in the policy, laws, institutions and the procedures so as to simplify the process of industry establishment and create investment-friendly environment. The policy of investment and industrial security guarantee will be adopted. Market system will be properly developed in order to make the private sector competitive and efficient. The Government will play a strong role in providing

social security to the marginalized class so as to keep them immune from the distortions that might engender from the market system from time to time. A new industrial policy in keeping with the economic policy adopted by the country in the current changed context will be implemented.

23. An atmosphere conducive to maintaining cordial industrial relations between the entrepreneurs and the workers will be created by giving appropriate attention to the rights of workers, skill development and their social security. A national labour commission will be constituted to deal with the problems of the labour sector.
24. In view of the adverse effects on the balance of payments owing to a decline in the country's export trade, concrete policies and programs will be formulated for export promotion. Necessary support will be provided to export-oriented industries to augment the competitiveness of export-oriented products. Special economic zones will be established to promote the country's exports, based on feasibility studies.
25. In order to make the supply system of essential consumer goods systematic and effective, market monitoring mechanism will be made effective by formulating public supply and distribution policy. Necessary mechanisms will be put in place in order to make available essential consumer goods such as food, salt, sugar, kerosene etc. in an integrated and regular manner in remote areas facing food crisis, particularly in the districts of the Karnali zone. Necessary programs will be implemented so as to address the problem of food shortage by encouraging the production of food and other agricultural products having the possibility of increased production at the local level.
26. A mechanism for public-private participation will be put in place in order to make the supply and distribution of petroleum products easy and systematic. Construction of a pipeline up to Amalekhgunj will be initiated to facilitate the transportation of petroleum products. Arrangements will be made for making petroleum products available to the citizens living below the poverty line and those with low incomes at subsidized price. Likewise, arrangements will be made to make other consumer goods available to them at subsidized rates, as necessary.
27. Sick industries having the potential for management reform and operation as public enterprises will be encouraged for re-operationalization. Public enterprises facing financial crises will be run under the policy of public-private partnership.
28. All kinds of monopolies such as syndicates, cartelings etc. currently being practiced in the private sector and which discourage or control the competitive nature of trade and industry will be eliminated so as to protect the interest of the consumers.

Right Honourable Speaker,

29. Additional tourist destinations will be identified and developed under the policy of utilizing them as sources of economic benefits while preserving the natural

and cultural heritage of the country. The role of Nepal Tourism Board in tourism promotion will be made more effective. Tourism-related programs such as eco-tourism, religious and cultural tourism, rural tourism, health tourism will be encouraged.

30. Air services being the starting point for the development of the tourism sector, the construction of new international and regional airports will be initiated. Airports currently in operation will be improved and expanded. Nepal's air service will be expanded by entering into air services agreements with other countries. Air services will be made regular in remote regions. Nepal Airlines Corporation will be run under public-private partnership by improving its management.
31. Financial sector reform program will be made more effective. Willful loan defaulters of banks and financial institutions will be subject to strong action under the prevailing law.

Right Honourable Speaker,

32. The structure of the National Planning Commission will be reviewed in keeping with the federal structure adopted by the country so as to ensure a planned balanced development of all regions and communities.
33. Care will be taken to maintain macro-economic stability while allocating public funds. Capital expenditure will be increased by cutting unnecessary expenses of the Government. Projects and programs having a high performance rate and contributing to infrastructure development and poverty reduction, will be provided additional resources on the basis of the mid-term review of budget implementation.
34. Rural areas will be given priority while allocating resources with particular importance to creating employment opportunities and infrastructure development in the backward regions. While selecting and prioritizing programs, short-term, medium-term and long-term programs having direct impacts on the upliftment of communities caused to be left behind in the society and on poverty alleviation will be given priority. Grants to the local bodies will be increased in order to accelerate the development works at the local level.
35. Agriculture is the mainstay of rural economy and employment. By eradicating feudal exploitation, oppression and all its vestiges, programs establishing the rights of the actual farmer on land will be undertaken. The trade union rights of the farmers will be established. The Government will give attention to bring about change in production relations, increase irrigation facilities and extension of improved and appropriate technology so as to increase agricultural productivity. Necessary measures will be taken to ensure the food sovereignty of the people.
36. Additional capital and development of new technology will be encouraged for the commercialization of the agricultural sector, production diversification, mechanization and modernization so as to end poverty, unemployment/disguised employment and for economic growth. By adopting scientific land

reform and comprehensive land-use policy, the access and rights of the landless and the tenant farmers will be established. In order to increase the production and productivity of agricultural produces, food crops, cash crops and herbs having special, comparative and competitive advantages, policy-oriented and structural reforms will be introduced.

37. A forward-looking socio-economic transformation of an agriculture country like ours cannot be possible without making timely reforms and change in land relations. Taking this fact into account, the Government will soon form a high-level scientific land reform commission as per the provision of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.
38. Fallow public land will be made available to the landless, the freed bonded-labours (Haliya, Kamaiya) for joint and cooperative farming. Special attention will be given to promote skill development, employment and accommodation facility to these groups by making arrangements for the necessary resources. At the same time, encroachment of public and uncultivated plots of land will be strictly stopped.
39. Special facilities will be provided to operationalize small irrigation, drip irrigation and sprinkle irrigation projects in the hilly and mountainous regions as well as shallow and deep tube wells in the Terai plains as per the concept of cooperative or community irrigation.
40. The policy of promoting small irrigation projects on cooperative basis will be adopted. The state will make a certain percentage of its investment as an encouragement to such projects. The selection and construction of medium and large irrigation projects will be undertaken at a fast pace so as to bring a qualitative increase in productivity. Irrigation projects under construction will be completed in time and the maintenance and reconstruction works of the damaged projects will be accelerated.
41. In order to effectively carry out programs related to elimination of poverty and unemployment, programs currently under implementation will be reviewed and the participation of local community, cooperative and non-Governmental organizations will be increased.

Right Honourable Speaker,

42. As a relief to those hit by natural disasters, conflict-affected, poor small farmers and entrepreneurs, a certain fixed amount of bank loan and interest thereof will be written off.
43. In order to create additional employment opportunities in the rural sector, emphasis will be given to develop and expand small entrepreneurship based on local resources. For this, provision of micro-credit will be made.
44. The provision of providing prior intimation to the relevant Government agency by all non-governmental organizations before receiving donations in cash or kind from any foreign donor agencies will be strictly enforced. By making timely reform in the Social Welfare Council Act, the activities of non-governmental

agencies will be channelized through one-window policy. At the same time, its monitoring mechanism will be made effective.

45. An employment-oriented development policy will be pursued so as to bring an end to the situation leading to the outflow of thousands of our youths for low-level jobs abroad every year. Special programs will be undertaken in order to create additional employment opportunities in the rural areas. Under this, efforts will be made to promote self employment for the youths through community development and income generating programs as well as by providing economic and technical assistance.
46. Necessary measures will be adopted to make foreign employment dignified, less costly, efficient and safe until opportunities for full employment are available for all the youths within the country. Appropriate mechanism will be developed to protect the rights and interests of the Nepali workers abroad. Remittance will be used to develop national industries and infrastructure.
47. Non-Resident Nepalese will be encouraged to invest in industries, business and infrastructure development. Necessary amendment will be made in the existing Act to grant them citizenship.
48. The increasing encroachment on forest areas will be strictly brought under control. Scientific management of the forest area will be made so as to ensure maximum benefits to the people belonging to the neglected class, region, caste and gender. Herbs development program will be linked to programs meant for the economic development of the poor, the women and the backward class and regions. Appropriate legal arrangement will be made to register and conserve the indigenous bio-diversity of the nation.
49. Special importance will be given to programs related to the environment and soil conservation. Arrangements will be made to undertake study and research about the possible effects of climate change on agriculture and the environment as well as for the development of water resources and hydro-power. For sustainable forest management, data of forest resources will be updated and forest area mapping will be done by using the satellite imagery technology. Carbon trading will be effectively promoted.
50. The fact of the large scale damage of human life and property by natural disasters every year is not hidden from us. Because of the failure to take appropriate precautionary measures, the Saptakoshi embankment was broken by the flood waters causing a large scale destruction of private and public property and displacement of thousands of people. The Government will give high priority to providing immediate relief to those affected by the Koshi floods, their rehabilitation and to the restoration of damaged physical infrastructure. Special care will be taken not to allow such tragic incidents to recur in future. An integrated policy and project for river training will be formulated and implemented effectively so as to control damages from rivers.
51. Special programs will be undertaken to provide relief to the people affected by the floods and landslides and to control landslides in the mid and far western regions as well as in other parts of the country. Likewise, the damages caused

by Kamala, Tinau and similar other rivers will be assessed, and rehabilitation, relief and rescue works will be undertaken. Appropriate arrangements will be made for the education and health services of children in the flood affected areas.

Right Honourable Speaker,

52. Necessary legal provisions will be made in order to establish basic education and health as the fundamental rights of the citizens as provided for in the Interim constitution of Nepal 2063 (2007). Emphasis will be given to expand schools and health institutions so as to increase the access of the poor, downtrodden and backward class, region and communities to education and health services.
53. A policy of increasing investment in primary health services as per the primary healthcare principles will be adopted so as to make health services easy and accessible to the common people. In doing so, health posts will be constructed on the basis of geography and demands of the people and gradually sub-health posts will be transformed into health posts and health posts into hospitals. Initiatives will be taken to provide safe delivery services all over the country free of cost. Health posts will be affiliated with the local communities.
54. A policy of making equal and quality education available to all and to make all citizens literate in the next two years will be adopted. A phased program for providing free education up to the secondary level will be undertaken with a view to making education widely accessible to all. Special arrangements will be made to ensure access of the poor, dalit, and backward communities of the Terai/Madhes, mountain areas and the hilly regions to education. Special work and education programs will be undertaken for the youths deprived of education in course of the conflict. Skilled manpower will be developed by increasing investment in technical education. The involvement of parents in school management will be promoted. The policy of providing education through Open University and regular university will be implemented.
55. In order to promote the mental and physical health of children and the youths, sports and physical education will be conducted right from the school-level.
56. Melamchi Drinking Water Project will be treated as a special priority project and emphasis will be given to complete it as early as possible. An integrated act will be formulated and brought into force with a view to bringing uniformity in the activities of all the agencies and organizations involved in the area of drinking water and sanitation as well as to ensure effective exchange of information. Arrangements for the supply of clean and safe drinking water for all within the next five years will be made by ensuring the completion of those rural drinking water projects that are under construction.
57. Special programme will be launched to make Kathmandu valley clean and beautiful.

Right Honourable Speaker,

58. While launching rural electrification as a campaign, a comprehensive roadmap of the energy sector will be implemented in order to supply electricity in every household within the next ten years.
59. Special programme will be advanced to give relief to the people suffering from load shedding. The tendency of holding the license of hydropower projects for a long time will be discouraged. The promotion and expansion of alternative energy based on domestic sources including bio-fuel will be expedited.
60. Water resources sector will be developed as the main basis of economic prosperity. In order to generate ten thousand megawatts within the next ten years from the available huge water resources in Nepal and to achieve self sufficiency in energy, the coming decade will be declared as the decade for "Economic Revolution" and the campaign for electricity development will be initiated. Focusing on the development of hydropower, a national energy security policy for the next forty years will be formulated on the basis of national consensus and implemented. Foreign investment will be attracted for viable large hydropower projects. Rights of local people in the hydropower sector will be ensured.
61. In the next two years, target has been set to provide access by road to the headquarters of hilly remote districts including Karnali region that have not yet been connected by road. Similarly, emphasis will be given to the construction of mid-hilly highway and postal highway in the Terai as well as north-south highways, and other roads will be upgraded. The act of upgrading and black-topping of the recently opened track roads connecting district headquarters will be expeditiously undertaken.
62. The construction works of Kathmandu-Terai Fast Track Road will be moved forward with the participation of the private sector. Likewise, survey of east-west electric railway in the Terai and electric railway in the Lasha-Kathmandu-Pokhara-Lumbini-Chitwan-Kathmandu route will be carried out. Ropeway, Cable car and vehicles operating on electricity will be promoted. Jayanagar-janakpur railway will be improved and extended up to Bardibash.
63. Scattered settlements in hilly and mountainous region will be turned into well developed settlements. To this end, appropriate location will be identified and basic services such as drinking water, electricity, telephone, etc. will be provided. Similarly, an arrangement will be made in various parts of the country for the systematic settlement of the backward communities in the Terai.

Right Honourable Speaker,

64. In the context of the country to have entered into a new era, new national security policy will be formulated based on the objective assessment of both internal and external security situation.
65. As people can not experience change unless considerable improvement in the law and order situation is made, the Government will accord high priority in the

maintenance of law and order in the country. A policy of maintaining law and order founded on the rule of law will be adopted. Similarly, impurity will be brought to an end.

66. While recognizing the important contribution of the media sector for the success of democratic people's movement, the policy of strengthening the role of media will undertaken to ensure people's participation in the works of making New Nepal and institutionalizing democracy. A policy will be adopted to make all the media strong for building new Nepal and institutionalizing federal democratic republic. While ensuring the freedom of information and expression, working Journalist act will be implemented in an effective manner.
67. For making postal service effective, it will be linked to modern information technology to bring into qualitative improvement in the existing situation of postal service.
68. Telecom services will be made reliable, qualitative and effective. Priority will be given to rural telecom services and these services will be extended to the village development committees having no access of such services. Telecom services including telephone will be expanded by making maximum use of modern information technology and encouraging the construction of alternative information highway. The application of information technology will be encouraged to enhance the quality of government performance. A policy will be adopted to develop information technology sector as an attractive sector for employment.

Right Honourable Speaker,

69. A state restructuring commission with the inclusion of experts from the relevant sector will be constituted to establish federal state system in the country by abolishing the existing unitary centralized state system.
70. The present Government is committed to building governance mechanism accountable to the people. Commission of Investigation of Abuse of Authority will be made resourceful in order to control corruption in the country.
71. Consistent with federal restructuring of the state, the role of various constitutional commissions will be timely reformed and necessary improvement in the existing laws will be made to enhance their institutional capacity development and transparency.
72. Agencies such as civil service administration, Nepal Army, Nepal police and Armed Police Force will be run in an impartial manner. Administrative and security agencies will be kept free from party interests and regular monitored. To enhance the morale of Nepal Police, accommodation arrangement for them will be made at district headquarters.
73. In order to make civil service administration inclusive, accountable to people, capable, impartial, clean, neutral, transparent and in keeping with federal system, administrative restructuring commission will be formed. Salary and

allowance for civil servants will be gradually increased to keep their morale high as allowed by the economic condition and resources of the country.

74. An interim arrangement will be made for the operation of local bodies on the basis of political consensus until the local body election is held. In accordance with the policy of the Government to gradually devolve resources, manpower and responsibilities, necessary adjustments in budget and program will be made right from the current fiscal year. Arrangement for using local mother tongues in local bodies will be made.

Right Honourable Speaker,

75. Dependant family members of martyrs and those disabled in course of the peoples' war, peoples' movement and Madhes movement will be given priority in employment opportunities in the public sector as well as in the access of various social services.
76. Nepal will be declared as "the country free of untouchability". Social discrimination against dalit and untouchability will be made a punishable offence and liable to strong legal action. Dalit empowerment program will be launched for the upliftment of dalit community and National Dalit Commission will be made more active for this purpose.
77. While abolishing the patriarchal social structure and ending all forms of discrimination against women, an arrangement will be in place to take strong action against criminal offences such as physical exploitation, domestic violence and trafficking against women. Women development programs will be carried out in all village development committees. In order to ensure proportional and inclusive representation of women in all organs of the state, phase-wise programs will be implemented. The role of National Women Commission will be made effective for women's empowerment, and necessary initiative will be taken to develop the Commission as the constitutional body.
78. In line with the policy of positive discrimination, allowance provided for senior citizens, widow and the disabled from all regions including Karnali zone will be increased. Emphasis will be given on the implementation of programs for rehabilitating and generating opportunities of career development for the disabled. In partnership with the private sector, old-age home, orphan child home and women rehabilitation centre will be operated.
79. On account of its natural resources, cultural heritage and diversity, Nepal has established a distinctive identity in the global community. While ending the existing anomalies in the cultural sector, a policy of preserving and promoting arts and culture of various communities living in different areas and regions will be adopted. In order to control the encroachment over national art and culture from outside, necessary program will be implemented and the dynamic aspects of our cultural heritage will be encouraged.

Right Honourable Speaker,

80. Special arrangement will be made for the preservation, socio-economic and cultural upliftment, livelihood, health care and children's education of endangered, minority and indigenous nationalities resident in various parts of the country. National Muslim Commission will be constituted for the upliftment and development of Muslim community.
81. While internalizing the concept of human rights and rule of law, the judiciary will be made independent, capable, transparent and accountable to the people on the basis of universally accepted principles of constitution, law and justice. The legal system of the country will be modernized in line with federal republican spirit. In order to make judicial administration active and effective, legal and institutional structure will be strengthened. Necessary legal improvement will be made to develop decentralized justice system for delivering effective justice at the people's doorsteps expeditiously and at lower cost.
82. The foreign policy of the country will be conducted in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, Panchasheel, the principle of non-alignment and national interest. Policy of high importance will be given to friendship with all countries of the world, especially with the neighbouring countries-India and China.
83. Nepalese missions abroad will be made more resourceful by laying emphasis on the promotion of economic diplomacy. Nepalese missions will be encouraged to work on the basis of set performance standards. Similarly, in keeping with the economic condition of the country, a policy of opening up Nepalese missions abroad, as required, in countries where Nepal has no diplomatic presence, will be adopted.
84. Timely review of treaties and agreements concluded with various friendly countries in the past which are inconsistent with national interest will be made on the basis of mutual benefit and equality.
85. While supporting the legitimate demand of the Bhutanese refugees taking shelter in Nepal for about a decade and a half for an unconditional return to their home country, necessary initiative will be taken to ensure their repatriation with dignity.

Right Honourable Speaker,

86. To make a new, forward-looking federal democratic constitution as per the aspiration of the Nepali people within the given timeframe is the main task of the present time and this is also our common responsibility. The Government has given high priority to this task. Therefore, all of us must rise above our narrow interest and concentrate on the broader interest of the country and the people, which is possible only from mutual understanding, consensus, cooperation, initiative and unity among all of us. The Government believes that moving ahead by forward-looking restructuring of the state through Constituent Assembly will only contribute to the making of new Nepal and thereby ensure the bright future of all the Nepali people.

87. We all remain fully committed to the democratic values, norms and principles in consonance with the twenty-first century. Multiparty competitive politics, periodic election, human rights, rule of law, independent Judiciary, press freedom, etc. are all pillars of a democratic system. It is our common obligation to make democratic values and practices our way of life and bring the fruits of forward-looking development to the doorsteps of all the Nepali people. The Government calls upon all the honourable members, political parties of the country and their sister organizations, professional and business organizations, civil society and the Nepali people to remain alert, vigilant and active in this regard.
88. It is our common duty to move ahead with mutual consensus and collaboration. We must rise above all kinds of mental bitterness and reactions that have marked events before and after the election of Constituent Assembly. To this end, special peace campaign will be launched throughout the country. While developing common position among all the political parties on all important national issues, this Government is committed to resolving all the problems of the country.
89. In the recently held successful election of Constituent Assembly, peace process, establishment of federal republic and consolidation of democracy as well as in our effort for socio-economic transformation of the country, the Government would like to express sincere thanks to all friendly countries, donor agencies and international community for the cooperation extended to us. We also believe that similar goodwill, support and assistance will continue to be provided to us in the days ahead.
90. Finally, the Government expresses heartfelt thanks to the Election Commission and all Nepali brothers and sisters, civil servants, political parties, journalists and media professionals, civil society, intellectuals, social workers, entrepreneurs and business people, various professional and business organizations, non-resident Nepalese, our foreign friends and national and international observers who have extended their support to the important task of holding the election of Constituent Assembly. Furthermore, in our national determination to build a new Nepal, the Government of Nepal expects positive cooperation and contribution from all of you.

**Thank you**