



# YOUTH CALL TO ACTION NEPAL

*Transformative, equitable, innovative and coordinated actions for the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs for a sustainable future for young people in all their diversity.*

## Situational Analysis

Nepal has made progress in expanding access to water, energy, infrastructure, and basic services. However, significant gaps remain in service quality, equity, climate resilience, and institutional capacity, particularly affecting rural communities, indigenous peoples, women, youth, and other marginalised groups. Climate change is intensifying water insecurity, infrastructure vulnerability, and urban risks, while rapid urbanisation is outpacing planning and service delivery.

Limited investment in innovation, weak multi-level

coordination and insufficient disaggregated data systems continue to constrain evidence-based planning, accountability and inclusive development. Nepal's continued reliance on remittances and hydropower also highlights the need for diversified, resilient and youth-centered economic pathways.

Youth remain critical partners in accelerating inclusive, climate-resilient and sustainable development, and must be meaningfully engaged in planning, implementation and monitoring of SDG progress.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Our recommendations for Nepal on selected SDGs to achieve the optimum target are as follows:

### SDG 6: CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

» Prioritise decentralised water treatment and

community-led sanitation systems, alongside strict water quality regulation and sustainable community financing models, while ensuring gender-sensitive infrastructure and meaningful participation of women and marginalised

Co-convended by



In collaboration



In partnership



groups in WASH decision-making to reduce urban–rural disparities and the disproportionate water burden on women and girls.

- » Integrate indigenous traditions, cultures and rituals in water management and conservation practices. Ensure participation of youths, persons with disabilities, women and communities from rural areas, indigenous groups, and mountain regions inclusive WASH strategies as they face the biggest gap in accessing water resources further exacerbated by climate change.
- » Promote rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge, wastewater reuse and integration of climate adaptation into local Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) policies to address droughts, groundwater depletion and heat waves, especially in low-rainfall Terai regions.
- » Strengthen monitoring systems with reliable disaggregated data collection across all SDG 6 targets for regular progress tracking and gap identification integrating WASH indicators into disaster relief audits prioritising disaggregated data. Performance-based grants for local WASH outcomes could also be designed.
- » Strengthen capacity of local, provincial, and federal level to manage WASH systems adopting an integrated approach linking SDG 3 by integrating with Public Health Systems by linking WASH initiatives with sexual and reproductive health and rights, mental health, maternal health, nutrition, and child health programs.
- » Strengthen the WASH framework by integrating digital innovation, behavioral change, accountability, diverse financing, workforce development, and cross-sectoral linkages to ensure inclusive, resilient, and sustainable outcomes

## **SDG 7: AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY**

- » Accelerate clean cooking transition by subsidising electric cooking technologies, co-design culturally appropriate cooking stoves like biogas or adapted technologies. Center women as end-users for affordability and acceptability

while promoting women-led micro-enterprises and conducting capacity building sessions at local levels.

- » Diversify renewable energy beyond hydropower by fast-tracking solar and wind
- » projects into national grid, investing in local small-scale off-grid infrastructure, and guarantee meaningful participation of youth, women, Dalits, indigenous groups, and persons with disabilities in energy planning, decision-making, and monitoring processes.
- » Establishing green funds and investing in startups for youth-led clean energy projects, training youth to maintain solar panels and micro-grids for jobs, granting scholarships for women in STEM-energy; providing microcredit, green skill training, and energy-based livelihood opportunities to youths from rural and marginalised communities that are affected by energy projects.
- » Promote transport electrification through expanded EV-friendly policies including expanding charging infrastructure, affordable e-bikes and conduct public campaigns utilising public-private partnerships.
- » Boost energy efficiency by enforcing standards for appliances, supporting industrial
- » energy audits and management, and launching ‘switch off’ campaigns alongside
- » school and college awareness programs on health and environmental impacts of
- » unclean energy sources. Mobilise youths in using digital tools like apps and online campaigns to track energy use and share success stories.
- » Strengthen monitoring, planning, and equity through a disaggregated data system; mapping energy poverty particularly among rural mountain communities, and ensuring youth representatives in local and national energy planning processes.
- » Integrate energy justice, resilience, waste-to-energy solutions, digital innovation, regional cooperation, behavioral change, and accountability mechanisms to ensure equitable,

inclusive, and future-proof clean energy transitions.

## **SDG 9: INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

- » We demand that an SDG 9 Delivery Unit and Monitoring Mechanism under the National Planning Commission for quarterly monitoring of key indicators under SDG.
- » Prioritise disaster-resistant all-season highways infrastructure, maintenance funds as current road density at 0.61 km/sq km falls short of the 1.5 km/sq km target; ramp up targeted investments in rural and Himalayan transport networks to close urban-rural gaps and enhance connectivity.
- » Foster an innovation culture by embedding vocational training in schools, and advancing inclusive digitalisation with disability-friendly designs. Boost women and youth empowerment through skilled networks, expanded concessional loans for digital-adopting SME, and risk-sharing for resilience. Launch a National Innovation Fund for women/youth/university-industry collaborations, while scaling the National Innovation Center provincially for digital health, ag-tech, renewables, and climate solutions.
- » Promote sustainable industrialisation (with feasible priority of add priority sectors such as: Agro-processing, Hydropower equipment, manufacturing, Tourism infrastructure, IT & outsourcing services, Green construction) by incentivising businesses to adopt energy-efficient renewables like solar, and hydropower; foster multi-stakeholder partnerships incorporating gender and social inclusion, prioritise regional and international collaborations and sharing best practices in innovation and infrastructure.
- » Prioritise collaborative investments in fiber optics and 5G for rural/Himalayan areas, youth-led digital literacy campaigns, affordable data, and NTA-monitored dashboards for real-time progress.
- » Integrate resilience, circular economy (waste-

to-energy), digital innovation, regional cooperation, energy justice, behavioral change, and stronger accountability mechanisms

## **SDG 11: SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES**

- » Strengthen multi-level coordination for coherent urban planning, enforce NBC compliance through private-sector oversight, institutionalise data-driven municipal decision-making, build continuous technical capacity of local officials, and enable structured citizen participation to address unplanned settlements, construction delays, and weak project management.
- » Expand affordable, climate-resilient housing and slum upgrading with sanitation and water supply, targeted for low-income and vulnerable groups; integrating rainwater harvesting, drainage planning into housing and road construction, adopt Local Adaptation Plan of Action (LAPA) and disaster risk reduction principles, and mobile alert-based inclusive early warning systems for resilience.
- » Promote sustainable city by following universal design principles in infrastructures, encourage zero carbon mobility by expanding electric or non-motorised public transport to cut congestion and emissions, private vehicle dependency, and road accidents; improve transportation accessibility and affordability while regularly monitoring quality of water and air.
- » Enhance waste management with proper collection, disposal systems, recycling mandates, anti-dumping measures near forests, residential areas and water areas, and green public spaces to boost environmental sustainability; launch awareness campaigns on waste management and clean city practices.
- » Ensure inclusivity by mandating representation of women, youth, persons with disabilities and other marginalised communities, and vulnerable groups in planning, policymaking; prioritise local governance strengthening and multi-stakeholder collaborations for equitable urban development.

- » Protect cultural heritage sites through youth-led awareness and volunteer programs.
- » Integrate smart digital tools, circular economy approaches, climate action linkages, and stronger accountability mechanisms to make the urban planning framework more resilient, inclusive, and evidence based.

## SDG 17: PARTNERSHIPS FOR GOALS

- » We urge enhancing domestic revenue mobilisation through tax efficiency improvements; developing clear FDI policies with better aid absorption capacity; and establishing localised SDG frameworks at provincial and municipal levels to address falling federal GDP ratios, declining tax-funded budgets, and low FDI post-COVID plunge.
- » Align all development initiatives with national SDG priorities.
- » Reduce remittance dependency through domestic job creation and investment, and prioritise returnee migrant reintegration programs.
- » Establish inter-ministerial coordination mechanisms; expand inclusive partnerships engaging the private sector, civil society, youth organisations, organisations of persons with disabilities, and other organisations of marginalised communities and cooperatives via strategic utilisation of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) for SDGs, while mitigating reputational crises impacting Small and Medium Enterprises, through robust financing frameworks at local levels.
- » Promote technology transfer systems; and

foster academia-industry innovation hubs linking international research to domestic export-oriented businesses for job creation and reduction of remittance dependency.

- » Invest in generating disaggregated data for effective planning and intervention during disasters, crises, and other events, which will minimise loss and damage and help in achieving the 2030 agenda.
- » Integrate debt sustainability, accountability mechanisms, diaspora engagement, green financing, and digital innovation in fiscal management to strengthen economic resilience and ensure inclusive SDG financing and its related sectors.

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