

# Nepal Country Report

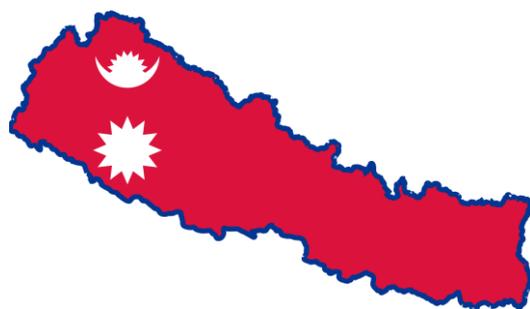
September 2017



CIVIL SOCIETY  
**PLATFORM**  
FOR PEACEBUILDING  
AND STATEBUILDING



Team of The Asian Academy for Peace, Research and Development at a workshop designing strategy for 2018-2020, Asian Academy team meeting, Sept. 2017



**ASIAN ACADEMY**  
FOR PEACE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

## Country Team

**Country:** Nepal

**Focal Point:** Sharad Neupane, Executive Director, Asian Academy for Peace, Research and Development

**Email:** sharadcn07@gmail.com

**Phone:** + 9771 4460860

**Partner:** PNUD

## Background

The Country Team of the Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (CSPPS) in Nepal, a non-g7+ country, is led and coordinated by Mr. Sharad Neupane, Executive Director of the Asian Academy for Peace, Research and Development (in short Asian Peace Academy). The Asian Peace Academy is a Kathmandu-based not-for-profit organization, specializing in peacebuilding and conflict transformation, community development and governance, including monitoring and evaluation of peace and development programmes, capacity building and training, and research. With vision and mission of contributing to peaceful, just and prosperous society in the country, the Asian Peace Academy works for and with peacebuilding and development organizations in Kathmandu. It is an internationally identified local peacebuilding and development organization that requires basic needs and support; to be accompanied by relevant stakeholders and institutions for building local capacities that are essential to build peace; foster non-violent means of addressing differences. It further addresses governance problems and accelerates development. Recognizing that building capacities is a key to achieving its vision and mission, the Asian Academy engages in building capacities of local peace and development actors, particularly the youth, women, marginalized groups, political Actors, civil society Organisations and local government Actors and Local Government Actors.

## Peacebuilding and Statebuilding

Since Nepal entered into a political transition following the signing of the Peace Agreement in 2006, the country has promulgated a new Constitution in 2015. The implementation of the Constitution started with the

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*There is need to build a bridge between civil society and other stakeholders to forge collaboration that enables civil society to actively contribute to statebuilding processes*

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election of local governance in 2017 and the government is as well planning provincial and federal election in November 2017. The Terai based political party showing dissatisfaction in the constitution have also decided to participate in the electoral process, after failing to make necessary

amendments to the national Constitution issued by Parliament. There is still the issue of social trust with the government to establish the just society. Sharad Neupane, CSPPS Focal Point, reported that civil society movement is not strong enough to influence the State. However, civil society activism is growing and it is mobilizing and gathering different Actors of statebuilding although these efforts are said to be uncoordinated. Therefore, there is the need to bridge the gap between civil society, political Actors and external Actors to build more effective collaboration that would enhance capacities of local Actors, including civil society to actively contribute to statebuilding processes.

Nepal's periodic development plans focuses on building economic capacity and fostering local development through involving civil society and marginalized groups in the development processes. Thus, the principle of inclusion and gender responsiveness is a

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*The principle of inclusion and gender responsiveness is a hallmark of the development plan of the government*

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hallmark of the government development plan. At any rate, amidst challenges, the Academy has recently made tremendous successes including the election of 40% of women's representation in the elected body of local governance. Next to that the Academy has also influenced a good number of youth representation in the local governance system of the country. Participation of the Terai based political parties in the election

process provided ray of hope for the political stability but the issues of the political parties are not yet addressed to ensure their active participation in the democratic processes of the country. However, there are still chances of the movements and instability to address parties' unmet desires.

## Civil Society Engagement in Peacebuilding

The government of Nepal has passed a National Youth Policy and has recently formed a National Youth Council. These steps provided a space for youth to participate in peacebuilding and statebuilding. On the other hand, the Government has as well set up a National Women's Council and has also formulated the National Action Plan to implement the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820. These two policies are key achievements in engaging youth and women in peacebuilding and statebuilding. The electoral law for local, provincial and Federal election ensures women's participation up to 40% at local level and

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at least 33% at provincial and Federal Assembly. It is contended that Nepal's peace process has become an elite driven top down process in which the role of civil society is limited. The infrastructures for peace have not sufficiently included the civil society. Despite of this, the civil society organisations are self-organized and have been partnering with external Actors in grass root activism, in order to restore peace and stability. At any rate, there are clear evidences of disconnection, between the civil society organisations at the national and those at the local levels. Mitigating this gap in the first place, there is the need for building a constructive coalition of civil society, that can facilitate seeking for an active agency of civil society organisations in the statebuilding process, especially in the implementation of the new Constitution.



Discussion with youth group in Illam District on Peacebuilding and role of youth, Feb. 2016

# Early Warning and Early Monitoring Response Mechanism

Different Non-Government Organizations and Agencies have established Early Warning Response systems, e.g. UNDP supported local civil society organisations in few districts to set up an Early Warning/Early Response (EW/ER) Mechanism. Sharad Neupane recommended that, the EW/ER work should be strengthened as this area has the tendency of being neglected in Nepal's peacebuilding process.

## Challenges

Despite Civil Society's advocacy strides for a more inclusive peacebuilding process in Nepal, many obstacles continue to hinder greater civil society engagement in various ways like; lack of coordination; lack of capacity to lead on debates and discussions on statebuilding and peacebuilding; the fragmentation of civil society, through the representation of different political and social ideologies. To address these challenges and leverage the power of civil society in Nepal, Sharad Neupane advises that civil society in Nepal requires capacity building; more interaction and collaboration where relevant with political actors, youth and women and an integrated civil society organised body through a consortium with its presence at local, national and regional levels.

### Upcoming events

Month	Description
October 2017	Training for youth groups on local issues and reflect tools for social change
October/November 2017	District level peace fair in Illam, Udayapur and Parsa Districts

*This report was drafted in collaboration with Mr. Sharad Neupane, CSPPS Focal Point in Nepal*

### Photo Credit

*Photo 1 & 2: Asian Academy for Peace, Research and Development*