



Policy Forum on Development

Asia Regional Meeting Kathmandu, Nepal 24-26 September 2019

Session title:

Session 3: Our host country Nepal: a closer look at work toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Objective:

To learn from the experience of Nepal, including past and current challenges and opportunities, and have a better understanding of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the country, including priority areas and specific examples.

Expected Results:

- A better insight into the developmental path of Nepal during the last decades.
- A closer understanding of how the country commitment to the 2030 Agenda is being translated under the new federal system, and the practical measures of cooperation between CSO and LA towards SDG achievement
- A constructive exchange, from Nepal to other regional views, about shared challenges and any avenues of further cooperation in areas such as climate change, migration, etc.

Background:

Nepal's recent history of development is subject to a paradox: in comparison to other countries in Asia, Nepal has experienced modest growth and yet, it has been much more successful in regards to poverty reduction. In addition, targets pertaining to health, women's empowerment and education were achieved during the MDGs period, and the country was lauded by the international community.

Nepal was one of the first countries to produce a SDG baseline study, even before the formal adoption of the 2030 Agenda. Proposed goals include: bringing extreme poverty down to less than 5% in 2030; the reduction in the prevalence of undernourishment to 3%; reduction of the maternal mortality rate to less than 70 per 100,000 live births by 2030; and the virtual elimination of the prevalence of HIV, malaria, other tropical diseases, and water borne diseases. The new 2015 Constitution and the implementation of the new federal system is also an opportunity to involve local governments at a deeper level in achieving the 2030 SDGs.

Unfortunately the country also faces a number of challenges. Institutional strengthening, improving national- and subnational level administrative and technical capacity, promoting the rule of law and human rights, and improving good governance and the investment climate are some of the areas that need to be revisited. In addition, the propensity for natural disasters, which most recently included two devastating earthquakes in 2015, contributed to the destruction of physical assets and near continuous setbacks constitutes a considerable obstacle on its path to development.

Methodology:

- A panel of speakers describing some of the key features of Nepal's development context
- The floor will open to the participants for further interventions
- Wrap up of the session

Key questions:



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This session opens the debates of the Asia Regional Meeting of the PFD illustrating the example of Nepal, and provides a valuable scenery for many of the questions that may be discussed during the rest of the meeting:

- What are the challenges facing Nepal in implementing the 2030 Agenda?
- What has been your experience on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the evolving political environment in the country?
- How are or should be different stakeholders involved, such as local governments and civil society organisations in the process of implementing development strategies?
- How visible is the progress being made to citizens? How can civil society organisations and local authorities improve visibility and accountability?