



Government of Nepal

**Submission for
the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of
the Fourth World Conference on Women and Adoption of
Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995)**

Review Report

June28, 2019

GLOSSARIES

NHRC	National Human Right Commission
NWC	National Women Commission
GoN	Government of Nepal
IPGBVPR	Integrated Platform for Gender-based Violence Prevention and Response
CB-IMNCI	Community Based Integrated Management of Childhood Illness
PHC	Primary Health Centre
ORC	Outreach Clinic
LG	Local Government
MoWCSC	Ministry of Women Children and Senior Citizen
OCMC	One-Stop Crisis Management Centre
WDP	Women Development Program
DoWC	Department of Women and Children
NLFS	Nepal Labour Force Survey
MoEST	Ministry of Education and Science and Technology
NAP	National Action Plan
ECN	Election Commission of Nepal
WPS	Women Peace and Security
CAWG	Conflict Affected Women and Girls
TRC	Truth and Reconciliation Committee
CIEDP	Commission of Investigation on Enforced Disappeared Persons
MoPR	Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction
GFP	Gender Focal Point
NPA	National Peace Accord

Section One: Priorities, achievements, challenges and setbacks 1.

1. What have been the most important achievements, challenges and set-backs in progress towards gender equality and the empowerment of women over the past 5 years?

In answering this question, please explain why your country considers these important, how it has addressed them, the challenges encountered and the factors that have enabled progress or led to set-backs in each case (3-5 pages).

1.1 Most Important Achievements:

1.1.1 Constitutional Achievement on Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women:

1.1.1.1 Nepal has made advancement in gender equality and empowerment with the promulgation of new constitution: 'Constitution of Nepal' in September 20, 2015. The Constitution recognizes and enshrines most of the internationally accepted human rights of women and calls for integration of gender equality and women's rights into all the political, economic and social institutions, and opened the scope of functioning in these areas.

1.1.1.2 The Constitution guarantees the fundamental human rights of women along with freedom, equality and social justice with the expressed commitment to translate them into practice. Article 18 of the Constitution guarantees equality before law and equal protection of law to all citizens. It prohibits any form of discrimination based on sex as well. It also makes special provisions for the protection, empowerment and development of the socially or culturally marginalized groups and communities including women.

1.1.1.3 Article 38 of the Constitution ensures the rights of women. It guarantees every woman with equal lineage rights as well as safe motherhood and reproductive health rights. It protects women from physical, mental, sexual, psychological or other forms of violence or exploitation on grounds of religion, social, cultural tradition or other practices; makes any such acts punishable by law; and provides the victim with the right to obtain compensation. It also requires the state to provide women with special opportunities to education, health, employment and social security on the basis of affirmative action. It also guarantees the women equal rights to property and family affairs.

1.1.1.4 The Constitution also guarantees women's right to participate in all structures and bodies of state based on the principle of proportional inclusion. It contains provisions to reserve 33 per cent of parliamentary seats (Article 84(8)) to women. The Constitution makes it mandatory for each political party to ensure that at least one third of its total elected members in Federal Parliament are women. In the formation of National Assembly, the upper house of the Parliament, out of 56 members, at least 21 members (at least 3 from one province) must be women. Constitution of Nepal (Article 215(4), Article 216 (4), 220 (3), 222 (3) and 223 (3)) makes representation of almost 40 percent women mandatory in local assemblies.

1.1.2 Reform in Laws to Implement 'Rights to Women':

- 1.1.2.1 Government of Nepal (GoN) is in the midst of a profound legal reform process. New laws have been enacted and existing laws amended to enforce fundamental rights guaranteed by the constitution.
- 1.1.2.2 GoN has replaced the old Civil Code by five new Codes, namely National Civil Code 2017, National Civil Procedure Code 2017, National Penal Code 2017, National Penal Procedure Code 2017 and Criminal Offenses (Sentencing and Execution) Act 2017. These Codes came into effect since August 17, 2018. These Codes have made massive transformation in Nepali legal system so as to modernize the prevailing civil and criminal law in the country. Particularly, the National Penal Code, 2017 has a broad remit as it criminalizes a range of offences and harmful social practices including murder, rape, various forms of discriminations, forced labor, bonded labor and enslavement. It criminalizes socially exclusionary and degrading practices and treatments like seclusion of girls and women during menstrual period. Child marriage is automatically nullified; dowry and polygamy is criminalized; sex selective abortion and forced abortion are criminalized. The Act has a separate section on rape with elaborated provisions for punishment and fines based on the gravity of the offence. It also criminalizes sexual harassment in workplaces. In most of the cases, the Code provides for appropriate compensation by the offender to the victim. The National Civil Code 2017 makes it mandatory to provide reasonable alimony to wife and children before divorce. It also prohibits any discrimination between sons and daughters in terms of care, education, health and other opportunities.
- 1.1.2.3 The Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Right Act, 2018 has been enacted to implement reproductive, maternal and newborn health and health rights enshrined in the Constitution. The groundbreaking Act upholds and explicitly protects the health rights of women, girls, adolescents and newborns and ensures access to quality reproductive healthcare services. The Act legalizes abortion and provides for free abortion service at all public health facilities. It makes abortion legal for all cases up to 12 weeks' of gestation and up to 28 weeks' gestation in cases of rape or incest. Abortion is lawful at any time if the pregnancy poses a danger to the woman's life, or physical or mental health, or in case of fetal abnormality. This also guarantees 98 days paid leave for working women and unpaid leave up to one year on the recommendation of a medical doctor.
- 1.1.2.4 Section (7) of the Labour Act, 2017 proscribes gender-based discrimination on wages. Different sections of this Act also provisioned social security, which is ensured in Contribution Based Social Security Act, 2017.
- 1.1.2.5 The Children Act, 2018 prohibits any discrimination between sons and daughters in matter of nourishment, education and healthcare.
- 1.1.2.6 The Federal Parliament has enacted Victims of Crimes Protection Act, 2018 to ensure the right to justice for the victims of crime throughout the process of criminal investigation, adjudication of cases, compensation and social rehabilitation. It reaffirms non-discrimination during criminal justice proceedings and provides for special arrangements for cases related to rape and sexual violence.

1.1.3 Functional Achievements:

- 1.1.3.1 As the achievements in the new constitutional and the subsequent statutory provisions country, head of the state and nine out of sixteen committees of the federal parliament is chaired by women. Similarly, there is more than 33 percent representation of women in parliament: 33.5 percent in federal parliament and 34.5 percent in provincial assemblies. In local level assemblies this representation is reached to 41 percent. More than 14,600 women were elected to political office at three levels of government in 2017. The leadership and representation in such a number as the law makers has shown a significant effect in favour of women, children and marginalized section of the society.
- 1.1.3.2 Over 90 percent vice chairpersons and deputy mayors of 753 local level all over the country are women. One of the major roles of vice chairperson and deputy mayor, according to Constitution of Nepal is to lead the judicial committee of local level. The women leadership in the judicial committee has become instrumental for the access of women and girls to the justice. Further, Local Government (Operation) Act, 2017 has given deputy mayor and vice chair the role of convener of local level Revenue consultation Committee and Budget and Program Formulation Committee. Besides, deputy mayors and vice chairpersons have additional responsibility to monitor and report the progress of plans and programmes being implemented at the local level. The increased roles of women in the federal parliament and the respective assemblies at state and local levels, has not only raised their collective strengths to formulate the policy, but also strengthened the monitoring ability at the grass-root level, which is making the implementing agencies more responsible towards women, girls and the marginalized sections of the society. Further, these changes are being reflected in the general public life, not only as the increased level of access of women, girls and marginalized groups in public services, but also as accepting the changes by the society at large.
- 1.1.3.3 Sectoral laws to protect the right of women and girls, continuous concern of the stake holders for the implementation of these laws and increasing level of inclusion in political, administrative and the world of work is changing the overall status of women and girls to enjoy the fundamental rights and in every walk of life. Nevertheless, a long way is still to go for the protection of women and girls from violence, enforcing their fundamental rights and ensuring their natural growth through increasing access to health, education and every opportunity for development.

1.1.4 Challenges and Setbacks

- 1.1.4.1 After the promulgation of the Constitution and enactment as well as amendment of a number of Acts, equality of women has been ensured. However, there are some socio-economic constraints and attitudinal and behavioral impediments in attaining substantive equality as envisaged by the Constitution, laws and international instruments to which Nepal is a party. Nevertheless, not all women leaders are adequately capacitated to effectively perform their newly entrusted roles and responsibilities. Similarly, patriarchy tradition and gender stereotypes have impacts on socio-economic and political milieu in which they are expected to claim equality.

Likewise, women's economic dependency often undermines their ability to make decisions.

- 1.1.4.2 As many of the newly elected leaders are in the learning phase, it is expected that they will take time to appreciate their own roles and responsibilities as well as those of the others. The women leaders will have to learn to work in male dominated political and administrative leadership and environment. Particularly, the male leaders will need orientation on gender sensitivity and analysis. Besides, women leaders also continue to face challenges in balancing between their household chores and the official functions.
- 1.1.4.3 Implementation of constitutional and legal provisions remains a challenge. For example, the constitution requires all political parties to choose women either as chiefs or deputy chiefs in most of the political offices. Similarly, unequal gender relations, inadequate gender sensitivity in institutions, inadequate financial resources and logistics and overlapping mandates are other challenges to achieve legal provisions to women and girls rights and gender equality.
- 1.1.4.4 The gender stereotypes in terms of division of labour, beliefs, and superstition sometimes become difficult to change. GoN is putting in a continuous effort to make the environment for girls and women to stand strong for breaking such social norms and enjoying fundamental rights through regulation and also in collaboration of with different social actors working in these fields.
- 1.1.4.5 The devastating earthquakes of 25 April and 12 May 2015 and innumerable aftershocks hit the country that left about nearly half part of the country severely affected. Approximately 9,000 people lost their lives and more than 22,000 people were injured.ⁱ More than half a million houses were either collapsed or damaged. Over 35,000 classrooms were damaged. Government buildings, heritage sites, schools and health facilities, rural roads, bridges, water supply systems, hydropower plants and sports facilities were seriously damaged among others. The most poor and vulnerable were disproportionately impacted. This presented a humanitarian challenge on the scale never known to the country before. The crisis was a major setback in Nepal's development efforts particularly in the life of women and children, which had increased the additional responsibility of single women to reconstruct their houses and take care of children by themselves.

2. Which of the following have been the top five priorities for accelerating progress for women and girls in your country over the past five years through laws, policies and/or programmes? (please check relevant categories)

Please provide brief reflections on how your country has addressed these priorities (3 – 5 pages).

Priorities areas

- 1. Equality and non-discrimination and access to justice**
- 2. Enhancing equitable access to quality education**
- 3. Meaningful participation and representation in public life**
- 4. Eliminating violence against women and girls**
- 5. Increasing access to health care and reproductive health services**

2.1. Equality and non-discrimination and access to justice

- 2.1.1. GoN has initiated legal reforms and series of policy and institutional measures to create strong, inclusive, and accountable institutions from central to local levels and improve the access of people, particularly the women and people from the marginalized communities, to justice and other services. GoN enacted The Sexual Harassment at Workplace (Prevention) Act, 2015 to create a safe, secured and descent work environment. The Witchcraft-related Accusation (Crime and Punishment) Act, 2015 criminalizes the acts of accusing someone of practicing witchcraft and subjecting the accused to cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment. Based on the gravity of such offence, the convict is punishable by imprisonment and fine or both. The Act also requires the perpetrator to provide compensation to the victim.
- 2.1.2 The National Penal Code, 2017 criminalizes a number of acts perpetrated against woman as offences. The Code has introduced new provisions related with public offences and increased the punishment. The Act has a separate section on rape, with elaborated provisions for punishment, fine, and compensation based on the degree of the offence. Child sexual abuse is punishable by imprisonment and fine. The acts like seclusion of girls and women during menstrual period, marriage without consent of women or girl and polygamy are punishable by imprisonment and fine. The Victims of Crimes Protection Act, 2018 ensures the right of victims to justice.
- 2.1.3 Labour Act, 2017 proscribes gender-based discrimination on wages for the equal value of work and social security among others. The Act ensures fourteen weeks of paid maternity leave, where the worker gets sixty days pay from the employer and rest thirty eight days from Social Security Fund. Besides, National Women's Commission Act, 2017, and Children Act, 2018 are enacted to enhance development and justice for women, girls and children.
- 2.1.4 GoN policies and programs between 2014/15 to 2018/19 including the Fourteenth Plan and the Approach Paper of the Fifteenth Plan (2019-2024) have reiterated government's commitment to eliminate discrimination by ensuring equal opportunities, equal rights, equal protection and equal dignity to all citizens.
- 2.1.5 GoN implemented the National Action Plan (NAP I) on United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820 during the period of 2011-2016 to facilitate the conflict affected women and girls' access to justice. Now GoN is at a final stage of drafting Three years NAP II, building on the lessons learned from the first phase. GoN has been implementing the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Implementation Action Plan (2016-2020) which requires effective implementation of all 25 human rights instruments ratified by Nepal and the provisions of CEDAW and BPfA.
- 2.1.6 With regards to the concerns expressed by CEDAW committee (2018), GoN has already initiated processes to address them. With regards to Article 38 of the constitution that ensures every woman's equal lineage right, a bill on citizenship is registered in the Parliament to implement the constitutional right. To improve the access of women, particularly women from poor, *Dalit* and indigenous communities to justice, 753 Judicial Committees have been established under local governments.

2.2 Enhancing Equitable Access to Quality Education and Life-long Learning

- 2.2.1 According to Article 31 of the Constitution every citizen shall have the right to compulsory and free education up to the basic level (grade 8) and free education up to the secondary level (grade-12). Article 38 (5) explicitly empowers women with the right to obtain special opportunity in education, health, employment and social security through affirmative action.
- 2.2.2 Since 1995, a number of policies, legislations, institutions, and programs were framed based on international campaigns like Education for All (EFA), MDGs, and SDGs aligned with CRC, CEDAW and BPfA. School Sector Development Plan (SSDP 2016-2023), Consolidated Equity strategy, 2014, Inclusive Education Policy for Disabled Children, 2016, Higher Education Policy, 2017, Pro-poor targeted Scholarship Procedures, 2017, Comprehensive School Safety implementation Procedures, 2018, Compulsory and Free Education Act, 2018, Policy Paper on Literate Nepal, 2019 are some of the main policy and legislative initiatives in the last 5 years.
- 2.2.3 Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2018 makes the state responsible to ensure that no child is deprived of education. The Act explicitly makes education free up to secondary level. Constitution of Nepal and Local Government Operation Act, 2017 empowered the local governments to formulate laws and policies to monitor education up to secondary level. The local governments are also responsible to make sure that every female and male child from 5 to 12 years of age is enrolled and is receiving free education in public school. The Fourteenth Plan and the Approach Paper of Fifteenth Plan (2016/17-2018/19) lay emphasis on: expanding access, improving equity and quality of education; expansion of non-formal/alternative schooling opportunities; and expansion of technical education and vocational training (TEVT) opportunities.ⁱⁱ The Higher Education Policy (2017) also makes provision to support women, and people from marginalized regions and communities to access higher education.ⁱⁱⁱ
- 2.2.4 The two recent flagship programs in education sector, School Sector Reform Plan (SSRP-2009/15) and School Sector Development Program (SSDP-2016/23), have focused on:^{iv} i) equity ii) quality, iii) efficiency and v) resilience (in terms of school safety and disaster risk reduction). Achieving gender equality in education remains the key output of these plans.
- 2.2.5 GoN has improved infrastructures, support systems, and introduced special provisions for girls of *Dalit*, indigenous and disadvantaged groups. Gender-responsive tools including school outreach program, flexible schooling program, and non-formal sessions were used along with disability and gender-friendly infrastructures, provision of female teachers, and community learning centres to achieve the goal. The 100% Girl's Scholarship Program (GSP) has been the key intervention. The net enrollment rate (NER) at primary (grade 1-5) has reached 97.2% and at basic level (grade 1-8) 92.3%. The NER for secondary level (grade 9-12) has reached 43.9%.^v Gender Parity Index (GPI) in school level and Higher education has reached 1:1. During the period of 2014 to 2018 the ratio of female to male teacher at primary level increased from 41.9 to 44.6%. Gross Enrolment Rate (GER) of Girls in ECD/PPCs has increased from 77.3% to 83.7%.^{vi} The educational training policy is geared to achieving 'gender sensitive' and gender balanced workforce, behaviors and practices.

2.2.6 GoN has been investing on technical education and vocational training (TEVT) for developing skillful workforce with quality training. The total capacity of long-term TVET courses in the country is almost 60,000 annually.^{viiiviii} As access to TVET training courses has improved, women's participation in such courses also has increased substantially. Out of the total 62,041 training graduates applying for skill test in FY 2017/18, 55.7% were female.^{ix}

2.3 Meaningful Participation and Representation in Public Life

2.3.1 The Constitution guarantees women's right to participate in all structures and bodies of state based on the principle of proportional inclusion. Accordingly, women have achieved a significant representation in federal parliament and the state and local level assemblies (please refer to section 1.1.3.1).

2.3.2 Policy and legal provisions on affirmative measures has been resulted in increased presence of women in politics, civil service, police and army. Immediately after the promulgation of Constitution of Nepal, three women leaders hold key positions of the state i.e. the President, the Chief Justice and the Speaker of the Legislature Parliament at the same time. Currently, there are four women ministers (15.38%) in GoN, Council of Ministers. Out of sixteen parliamentary committees, nine are headed by women leaders.^x One of the seven Provincial Governors is women. Women are increasingly entering civil service and are scaling up the heights in the hierarchy. Currently, there are four (6.67%) women secretaries; 38 (6.77%) women Joint Secretaries The number of women applicants in civil service positions has increased quite significantly, i.e. 60.12% in 2014/15 as compared to 44% in 2010/11. Similarly, Nepal Police, Armed Police and Nepal Army have the provision of 20% quota for women. Now women's representation in civil service, Nepal Police, Armed Police Force, and Nepal Army has gone up to 23.72%, 9 %, 7% and 5% respectively.

2.3.3 At the grassroots level, women's involvement in users' groups and committees is gradually being institutionalized. As a result of capacity development training programs, more women's groups are seen approaching the local authorities for resources.^{xi} In co-operative sector, there are 34,500 cooperatives with a reported 4.5 million members managed by 6.3 million people. Over half of them (52%) are women. The presence of women in Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs) executive committees has gradually increased to 37 percent. Currently, the Federation of Nepal Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FNCCI) a private sector umbrella organization is led by a woman entrepreneur.

2.3.4 At the local government, Nepal has already achieved 41% representation of women. GoN will step up measures to promote women's representation further by investing on capacity building of women representatives for effective performance.

2.4 Eliminating Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG)

2.4.1 GoN has been making effort to curb VAWG by strengthening legal, institutional framework and service delivery. Laws are enacted to criminalize human trafficking, sexual harassment at workplaces, marital rape as well as social cultural practices that

are biased against women. GoN has come forward with focused legal framework, policies and institutional strategies. Sexual Harassment at Work Place (Prevention) Act, 2015, Witchcraft-related Accusation (Crime and Punishment) Act, 2015 and the National Penal Code, 2017 are some of the laws recently enacted by GoN focusing on VAWG. The Penal Code, 2017 has updated all legal provisions related to public offence and punishment including those relating to VAWG. Further, the Courts have started continuous hearings at all stages of the proceedings on cases related to VAWG.

- 2.4.2 Dedicated institutional mechanisms have been put in place and strengthened from centre to village levels for monitoring the cases of VAWG along with specialized services. The National Human Right Commission (NHRC) and the NWC have been monitoring the cases of VAWG countrywide. Collaboration between the government agencies, security agencies, NHR institutions and civil society organizations (CSOs) has evolved over the years. Committees on VAWG have been established and rescue fund is provided to facilitate, coordinate, implement, and monitor the programs against GBV at the district level. Women and Children Service Centres have been setup in all districts under Nepal Police to provide special services to women and children. There are anti-trafficking committees and special funds for trafficking survivors at the district and central level. A separate fund has been established for immediate rescue, medical aid, legal aid, psycho-social counseling, seed money for micro-enterprise, and rehabilitation of VAWG victims. Rehabilitation, reintegration and all medical and legal supports are facilitated through community service centres, district service centres and One-Stop Crisis Management Centres (OCMCs). The OCMCs provide psycho-social and legal counseling, medical treatment and police services, all free of cost for survivors of GBV and trafficking. GoN has established a separate fund under MoWCSC for the protection of widows and single women at risk.
- 2.4.3 NWC has established a 24-hour and 7 days a week toll free national helpline to provide support to victims of VAWG. It assesses callers' needs, and refers them to appropriate service lines. The referrals connect them to response service providers including Nepal Police, OCMCs and NGOs. Simultaneously, NWC has also been implementing Integrated Platform for Gender-based Violence Prevention and Response (IPGBVPR) Project from 2016 to better respond to GBV.^{xiii} The services provided are: rescue, psychosocial counseling, court representation, legal counseling, mediation services, medical support, family reintegration, non-formal education and the like.
- 2.4.4 With regards to CEDAW Committee's recommendation on GBV and trafficking, GoN has made substantial efforts in recent years. The replacement of Civil Code by new separate National Penal Code, 2017 and the National Civil Code, 2017 has eliminated many discriminatory provisions. GoN remains committed to intensify prevention measures as well as expand and upgrade protective and rehabilitative services for the victims of VAWG.

2.5 Increasing Access to Health Care and Reproductive Health Services

- 2.5.1 GoN has made tremendous efforts to ensure that health sector policies, legislations, strategies and programs are gender responsive. The Immunization Act 2016 states that

every child has the right to access quality vaccines. GoN has been striving for 100 % immunization of mothers and children. Currently there are eleven antigens, like BCG, DPT-HepB-Hib (penta), PCV, OPV (bOPV), Measles, Rubella (MR) and Japanese Encephalitis provided through 16,000 service delivery points throughout the country and outreach services.^{xiii} Community Based Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (CB-IMNCI) Program, an integrated package of child-survival and newborn care, has been rolled out throughout the country targeting children from 2 to 59-month age. Primary health care outreach clinics (PHC/ORCs) are organized every month at fixed locations to extend basic healthcare services to the community levels and remote areas, basically for covering marginalized people. More than 50,000 female community health volunteers (FCHVs) all over the country, esp., in rural areas facilitate pregnant women for safe motherhood and vaccination and community based health promotion. In addition, GoN has established two new health academies in Karnali and Rapti to increase the access to quality health services in regions comparatively lower in HDI.

- 2.5.2 Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Right Act, 2018 has further protected the health rights of women. Every Newborn Action Plan, 2016 of Nepal sets a vision “there are no preventable deaths of newborns or stillbirths, where every pregnancy is wanted, every birth celebrated, and women, babies and children survive, thrive and reach their full potential.”^{xiv}The maternal and reproductive health of women has been improved by implementing the guidelines regarding uterine prolapse, safe abortion, safe motherhood, and improved management of human resources. The Safe Motherhood Program has contributed to increased institutional delivery as well as improved antenatal/postnatal care and family planning services. During FY 2016/17, 52% pregnant women completed 4 ANC visits (as per protocol). Similarly, the institutional delivery has gone up to 57%.^{xv}Districts with Caesarean Section services were increased from 33 in 2006 to 72 in 2017. The number of health institutions with birthing facility increased from 1134 in 2013 to 2020 in 2019. GoN has been stepping up measures to provide the reproductive population a range of modern contraceptive methods. GoN is implementing Multi-Sector Nutritional Plan (MSNP II, 2018-22), targeting children, teen-aged girls, pregnant women and breast feeding mothers in low income groups. GoN implemented HIV Investment Plan 2014-2016 to address STDs, HIV/AIDS and sexual and reproductive health issues. National Malaria Strategic Plan (NMSP) 2014- 2025 was developed to attain “Malaria Free Nepal by 2026”. Efforts are being made to enhance disease surveillance and emergency preparedness, disaster response and outbreak management capabilities.
- 2.5.3 Water sanitation and health (WASH) program has been implemented throughout the country to improve the hygiene and sanitation status of girls, women and men. Substantial improvements have been made in the coverage and quality of sanitation facilities in the last five years. Households using improved facilities have doubled from 38% in 2011 to 62% in 2016. Similarly, the percentage of households with access to basic sanitation facilities has gone up to 98%. Separate girls’ toilets are constructed with running waters in all schools in many cases sanitary pads are also distributed. Hygiene and sanitation has been incorporated in school curriculum. Intensive awareness program is being launched against menstrual health and *Chhaupadi*.
- 2.5.4 Public Health Insurance Plan is rolled out to 42 out of 77 districts in the country. The scheme is expected to cover all districts by the next fiscal year 2019/20. Government has

so far paying for the insurance of senior citizens above 70 years. However, it is planning to pay for premium of all people identified as poor. Currently 1.65 million people are enrolled in the scheme out of which 53% are women. Out of 500,000 users of the scheme so far, 58% are women. The SDG target 3.8 calls for universal health coverage (UHC), consisting of both access to good-quality health-care services and financial risk protection. Now the health system is geared up to achieving SDG 3 targets.

- 2.5.5 The total fertility rate declined from 4.6 to 2.3 children per couple between the period of 1996 to 2016. Teenage childbearing stands at 17%. It is found that 29% women reach health facility within 30 minutes, while another 45% reach in 30 to 60 minutes. Under-5 mortality declined from 118 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1996 to 39 in 2016. Infant mortality and neonatal mortality declined by 59% and 58%, respectively, from 1996 to 2016.^{xvi}

3. Over the past five years, have you taken specific measures to prevent discrimination and promote the rights of women and girls who experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination? (please check relevant categories)

Please provide details of up to three concrete examples, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses (2 pages max.).

3.1 Measures taken to Prevent Multiple and Intersecting Forms of Discrimination

GoN has continuously put an effort to identify and address to end the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination through legislations, institutions and programmatic interventions. Accordingly, Constitution of Nepal, National Penal Code, 2017 and other sectoral legislation have prohibited the discrimination. The legal provisions, their implementation, growing awareness and increased level of education are some of the reasons that are weakening the gravity of the caste system, and thus, also the intersecting and multiple forms of discriminations. GoN continues to put its efforts and resources to end the remaining of such discrimination.

3.2 Three Examples:

- 3.2.1 Women and Children Service Centers at Police Stations:** Nepal Police has established Women and Children Service Centers at police stations so as to take immediate action in cases of violation of rights of women and children. Similarly, Nepal police has also established gender-based violence information management system to collect nationwide data on cases of violence against women and girls. The system maintains data of all cases reported to the police system. In 2016/17, 1131 Rape cases, 536 Attempt to Rape cases, 227 Human Trafficking cases, 22 Abortion cases, 464 Polygamy cases, 26 Child marriage cases, 11,629 Domestic Violence cases and 24 Witch Craft cases have been reported to these service centers. Out of a total 11,629 reported domestic violence cases, conciliation made in 6,882 cases; 579 cases were referred to courts. Similarly, according to Office of Attorney General, 654 convictions were made out of

1874 rape cases, 270 convictions made out of 870 attempts to rape cases, 121 convictions made out of 329 cases of trafficking in year 2016/17. The Women and Children Service Centre has made the access to justice for women and children.

3.2.2 Provision of Safe Houses: GoN has established various service mechanisms to provide services and support to victims of gender based violence that include victims from disadvantaged groups of women such as *Dalit* and Indigenous women and girls. Recently GoN has opened two safe houses under President Women's Upliftment Programme to provide safe alternative to victim women and girls. Besides, there are 36 Safe houses, 10 rehabilitation Centres for victim of trafficking and transportation, and one long term rehabilitation centre. GoN has been supporting ten rehabilitation centres for the victims of trafficking in Nepal and one in Kolkatta, India.

Further, safe houses are in operation at Nepali missions in four destination countries with larger concentrations of female migrant workers. These safe houses provide emergency rescue and immediate support services to women and girls. One of such houses has also been established in Kathmandu for returnee women migrants to provide rehabilitation support specifically for rescued women migrant workers.

The major services for the victims and survivors of human trafficking are rescue, repatriation, foods and shelter, medical treatment and free legal aid; psychosocial counselling, education, skills/trainings and income generation support.

3.2.3 President Women's Upliftment Program: This is one of the new flagship initiatives of GoN initiated in 2016 with 3 main objectives: i) empowerment of socially and economically marginalized women by development of skills, entrepreneurship, and enterprises (including cooperatives) as well as market facilitation; ii) elimination of the incidences of rapes, sexual exploitation, trafficking in women and girls and all forms of GBV through effective enforcement of legal provisions; and iii) launching of focused interventions to improve the access of women to reproductive health services, particularly those in remote areas and emergency situations. Moreover, it pledges to launch a special campaign against poverty, illiteracy, superstitious social norms and all forms of marginalization of women. The program also has made provision of airlifting the pregnant women in emergency situations. The program has been rolled out in 34 districts, so far that have lagging behind in terms of transportation and access to health services. This also runs livelihood programme in 30 districts ranking low in HDI, where 1920 women are already benefited. GoN is expanding this programme in 55 districts in 2019.

4. Has the increasing number of humanitarian crises—caused by conflict, extreme weather or other events—affected the implementation of the BPfA in your country?

YES/NO

If YES, please give concrete examples of the effects of humanitarian crises on progress for women and girls in your country and of measures taken to prevent and respond to humanitarian crises in a gender-responsive manner (1-page max.).

Yes

4.1 Devastating Earthquakes

- 4.1.1 The devastating earthquake of 2015 caused damage to physical and socio-economic infrastructure of the country. Roads, bridges, drinking water facilities, educational and health facilities, hydropower plants and sports facilities were either completely destroyed or seriously damaged in half the districts of the country. (Please refer to section 1.1.4.5). This destruction had an adverse impact on the delivery of services. Many women and girls had undergone traumatic experiences. Further challenges induced due to the earthquake include nutritional deficiency, loss of employment and income, loss of shelter and displacement, and post-disaster trauma.
- 4.1.2 GoN established National Reconstruction Authority (NRA) to rebuild the country which is working on it since last 4 years. Different development partners, I/NGOs and CSOs joined hands with regular government departments and NRA in restoring and rehabilitating the essential services. Besides, GoN launched rescue and relief operations on a scale never known before. The victims were provided with makeshift houses and tents in open places. Toilets and sanitation facilities were constructed. They were provided with nutritious foods, water, and medicine as well as treatment facilities through outreach clinics and referred hospitals. Women and children going through traumatic experiences were provided with psychosocial counseling. They were cautioned against any unwanted sexual advances of the predators and provided with information about available support services and means to escape such eventuality. Awareness programs were launched and surveillance was enhanced in view of the possibility of trafficking and sexual violence. They were provided with other essential supplies like cloths, sanitary pads, and nutritional kits for pregnant women. Schools were run in makeshift classrooms. Under the health cluster, reproductive health (RH) cluster was formed with the leadership of Family Health (FHD) and UNFPA. RH sub-cluster supported restoring birthing centre (BC) and RH services at health facilities in 14 worst hit districts. One stop Crisis Management Centres were mobilized in 45 districts and referral link to treatment and support services established. These efforts had resulted in RH service available and ready. Government provided monetary aid to HHs, including those headed by women. Engineers and para-technicians were also mobilized. Old age and women headed HHs was taken with priority. The reconstruction work and rehabilitation of services are still in progress.

5. Which of the following does your country consider to be the top five priorities for accelerating progress for women and girls in your country for the coming five years through laws, policies and programmes? (please check relevant categories)

Please provide brief reflections on how you plan to address these priorities (3 – 5 pages).

5.1 Five Priorities for the next five years:

5.1.1: Equality and non-discrimination under the law and access to justice: As a means to accelerating progress for women and girls, the promotion of equality and non-discrimination as well as access to justice will remain one of the five priorities of GoN. At first place, GoN will take measures to consolidate the achievements and continue to revise, amend or reform as per the need so as to bridge the gaps and build on the strengths. Secondly, based on the review GoN will also identify new triggers to promote equality and access to justice. Thirdly, one area of GoN interest will remain in the accounting of women's contribution in care work and generate appropriate data to support such undertaking. Fourthly, programme implemented to ensure the access to justice for vulnerable and at risk women. Fifthly, GoN will invest in enforcing existing policies and legislations while reducing the enforcement deficits through institutional strengthening and capacity building of key institutions and personnel, particularly the police, judiciary and Judicial Committees in local government. Sixthly, in the evolving federal set up GoN will invest on capacity building of local governments as vehicles of gender equality and social justice. Finally, greater collaboration and synergy will be sought in the actions and operations of GOs, I/NGOs, community organizations and development partners.

5.1.2 Eliminating Violence against Women and Girls: Realizing that VAWG undermines women's agency and prevents women from achieving social and economic equality, GoN has been making efforts to curbing it by strengthening legal, institutional and service delivery aspects. GoN considers VAWG as one of the key priority areas to focus in the next 5 years. GoN will expand community surveillance mechanism, shelter houses, referral services, One Stop Crisis Management Centres, and rehabilitation centres in collaboration with non-government sectors. GoN will also strengthen dedicated institutional mechanisms particularly Women and Children Cells of Nepal Police, fast tracking courts, district committees on VAWG, and district level anti-trafficking committees. Child Helpline and GBV National Helpline will be further strengthened along with their service lines. In doing so, emphasis will be given on improving quality of services at every node of the VAWG service value chain. Further, the existing funds like Child Emergency Relief Fund, single women fund and two other dedicated funds for trafficking victims and GBV victims each will be strengthened. In addition, the capacity of the National Human Right Commission (NHRC) and the NWC will be further strengthened to monitor and investigate VAWG cases. Collaboration between the government agencies, security agencies, NHR institutions and civil society organizations (CSOs) will remain as an integral for the effective service delivery. Last but not least, the role and responsibilities of federal, provincial and local governments will go hand in hand to create greater synergy and end VAWG.

5.1.3 Political Participation and representation: One of the focus areas of GoN in the last two decades has been political participation of women. GoN will continue to make efforts to fully enforce and realize the constitutional provision of 33% representation across all bodies of state while striving for more where they are already achieved. In this context, the men to women ratio will be improved in civil service, teaching staff, Nepal Police, Armed Police Force and Nepal Army. Similarly, leadership and capacity development programs will be implemented for the women leaders across the sectors and levels in

collaboration with private sector, I/NGOs, CSOs and local governments. Thirdly, Further, women leaders in community forest groups, cooperatives, women's groups organized by Women Development Programs, PAF and MEDEP will be provided with additional leadership development opportunities.

5.1.4 Gender-Responsive Budgeting (GRB): Nepal embarked on Gender Responsive Budget Initiative (GRBI) in 2008. The Ministry of Finance (MoF) constituted a GRB Committee and began with classifying all government expenditure into three categories based on their contribution on women's wellbeing: directly benefiting, indirectly benefiting and gender-neutral. At the first stage, it developed five qualitative indicators to facilitate the classification: contribution to the capacity building of women; participation in planning and decision-making process; share of women in the benefits; employment and income generation; and workload reduction and productive use of time. Based on these indicators sectoral ministries were required to code their programs and budget by using codes 1, 2, 3 for directly responsive, indirectly responsive and gender-neutral budget heads respectively. Currently, all government agencies are following the GRB Guidelines, 2012 which prescribes 4 key steps in the process to operate GRB: analysis of gender situation; identification of gender concern, needs and type of activities; gender analysis of programs; and applying ways to address gender needs and concerns. In FY 2008/09, only 11.30% of the total budget was allocated for directly gender responsive programs whereas, after a decade, the proportion has gone up to 38.17% for FY 2019-020. As of now, the GRB has been fairly institutionalized at federal level. In the next five years GoN will improve GRB tools further and implement based on learning and experience. Secondly, in the new context of devolution and federalism, GoN intends to localize GRB initiative along with SDGs localization. One strategy put forward by the Approach Paper of Fifteenth Plan (2019-2024) is to institutionalize gender responsive planning in all agencies by developing sectoral policies and guidelines. It also pledges to institutionalize GRB along with gender equality and women's empowerment agenda at the provincial and local levels. The localization of GRB and SDGs are expected to be mutually reinforcing and synergistic processes. Third, GoN intends to build capacities of seven provincial governments and 753 local governments on GRB as well as gender responsive planning. In the next few years particularly provincial and local governments are expected to take up the issue and institutionalize it by crafting appropriate policies and legislations while the federal government will provide them technical support through training and capacity building.

5.1.5 Changing negative social norms and gender stereotypes: GoN has so far adopted the following strategies and measures to change the social norms, gender stereotypes and harmful practices:

- Persuading changes in people's attitude and community practices through Behaviour Change Communication (BCC);
- Criminalization of all forms of harmful traditional practices against women and girls;
- Launching awareness raising campaigns against harmful practices such as *Chhaupadi*, child marriage, dowry system and allegations of witchcraft;

- Strengthening the access of women to health care, education, employment and social security provisions;
- Execution of WDP and adolescent girls' empowerment programme in all 77 districts through the Department of Women and Children (DoWC);
- Continuing the implementation of affirmative policies for enhancing women's representation in government and public services.

In the next five years, GoN will strengthen legal, policy and programmatic interventions to reduce the incidences of child marriage. It will rely on vigilance committees at ward level and other available child protection mechanisms to support girls and families vulnerable to child marriage. Secondly, GoN will effectively implement the National Strategy to End Child Marriage, 2016. Thirdly, GoN will enforce the provision of Children's Act, 2018 that prohibits all forms of harmful and discriminatory practices that affect children. Fourthly, GoN will continue to implement awareness raising programs and enforce directives and guidelines. Intensive and integrated campaign will be launched against the practices of dowry, child marriage, Chaupadi, witch-craft accusation, VAWG, untouchability, human trafficking, and other superstitious belief and harmful traditional practices. Fifthly, GoN will promote collaborations and networks with local governments, law enforcement agencies, civil society organizations, women's rights organizations for this purpose. Sixthly, GoN will give priority to engaging with men and boys, teachers and students and mass media for changes in social norms and behaviour. Finally, GoN will promote national human rights institutions by strengthening institutional capacity, surveillance systems and watchdog activities.

Section Two: Progress across the 12 critical areas of concern

This section covers progress across the 12 critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action. To facilitate the analysis, the 12 critical areas of concern have been clustered into six overarching dimensions that highlight the alignment of the BPfA with the 2030 Agenda. This approach is aimed at facilitating reflections about the implementation of both frameworks in a mutually reinforcing manner to accelerate progress for all women and girls.

Inclusive development, shared prosperity and decent work

Critical areas of concern:

- A. Women and poverty
- F. Women and the economy
- I. Human rights of women
- L. The girl child

6. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to advance gender equality in relation to women's role in paid work and employment?

Please provide details of up to three concrete examples of measures taken, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific

groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)

6.1 Actions to Advance Gender Equality in relation to Women's Role in Paid Work and Employment:

6.1.1 Constitutional and Legal Provisions: The Constitution ensures the proportional representation and special opportunity for women in education, health, employment and social security. The Constitution also prohibits discrimination on the ground of sex in wages and social security benefits. GoN has enacted new Labor Act 2017 that requires an employer to follow non-discrimination principle. Section (7) of the Act provisions equal pay for equal value of work. . It has increased the maternity leaves to 98 days from 52 days, out of which 60 days are fully paid. It also has made the provision of 15 days fully paid paternity leave. It also makes provision for breastfeeding and childcare services for women working in enterprises. Similarly, Sexual Harassment at Workplace (Offence and Punishment) Act, 2014 is intended to provide safe working environment to all women workers and professionals across all domains of work. It also makes provision of victim protection against dismissal, transfer or penalty of any sort on account of complaint.

6.1.2 Generation of Gender Responsive Work Related Indicators: Agriculture sector remains the main employer of women in Nepal. According to NLFS 2017/18, 65.7% of women were found to be engaged in activities like subsistence food production; manufacturing of household goods, fetching of water, collecting firewood and constructing and repairing of one's own dwellings. Almost 9 in every 10 females participated in domestic chores and care work. The burden of housework fell mainly on girls; 47.5 percent of girls were involved in housework compared to only 19.2 percent of boys. The NLFS shows that in recent years women are increasingly stepping out of the households for paid work though labor market segregation is also evident. Males are found mostly employed in the construction, manufacturing and transport industries, while females tend to be concentrated on agriculture, forestry and fishing (33%), wholesale and retail trade (20.6%) and education (9.6%) industries, human health and social work activities (3.5%), accommodation and food service activities (6.3%), financial and insurance activities (2.1% more than men). Women constitute 0.3% out of the total 0.6% workforce in professional, scientific and technical activities. The proportion of women managers has increased over the years (13%) along with professionals and technicians.

GoN has reserved 33% seats in civil service and 20% seats in security agencies like the Nepal Police, Armed Police Force and Nepal Army for women. This has improved the women's number in these agencies. As of now, the share of women in civil service, Nepal Police, Armed Police, and Nepal Army has gone up to 24%, 9%, 7%, and 5% respectively.

6.1.3 Programmatic Interventions: GoN has been making efforts to encourage entrepreneurship among women. The provision of skill and entrepreneurship training, loan for rural women, establishment of rural development bank, institutionalization of poverty alleviation funds, and continued efforts of MEDPA have been instrumental in

creating employment for rural women. The burgeoning cooperative sector is one of the largest sector employing women. Cooperatives are managed by 6.3 million people and over half of them (approximately 52%) are women. For ending child labour, District Child Welfare Boards have expanded vigilance and prevention strategies. At the local level, Child Protection Officers are recruited and deployed to prevent and control all forms of child abuse and exploitation. All forms of forced labour have been prohibited. As a part of active labour market policy government has launched Prime Minister Employment Program in 2018, which also give priority to women for the minimum employment.

7. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to recognize, reduce and/or redistribute unpaid care and domestic work and promote work-family conciliation?

Please provide details of up to three concrete examples of measures taken, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)

7.1 Actions taken to Recognize, Reduce and Redistribute Unpaid Care and Domestic Work and Promote Work-family Conciliation

7.1.1 Policy and Legislative Measures: National Country Program on Decent Work was implemented. Labour legislation has recognized domestic workers for the first time. Article 88 of Labour Act, 2017 has provisioned important aspects relating to domestic workers such as minimum remuneration, public and weekly holidays and allows them to celebrate festivals as per their culture, religion and tradition.

7.1.2 Provisions for Child Care, Elderly Care and Care of other Vulnerable Population: Social Security Act, 2018 has provisioned social security for eight different groups of population, namely, senior citizens, economically deprived community, incapacitated and helpless persons, helpless single women, persons with disabilities, children and those not capable of taking care on their own. Therefore, special care shall be provided to these groups by developing appropriate schemes. This is expected to support family financially and spare time to women for paid work. New provisions are evolving for the care of children like childcare homes and for the elderly like old age homes. Private sector is also engaged in developing some of these facilities. Moreover, there are sectoral laws dealing with children, senior citizens and persons with disabilities. GoN provides premium for medical insurance of Rs. 100,000/- to the senior citizens above 70 years of age through National Health Insurance Programme. These practice will reduce the financial burden of women.

7.1.3 Assessment of unpaid care work: Of late, GoN has been looking into the possibility of assessing the unpaid care-work carried out by women. Some of the recent developments are as follows:

- The social justice and social inclusion policy under directive principle of the Constitution, instructs the state to carry out economic assessment of unpaid work and contribution made by women to childcare, domestic care and the like.

- One of the working policy, in Approach Paper of 15th periodic plan promises to assess unpaid services and domestic care work.
- In the context of Sustainable Development Goals (5.4), the SDP roadmap developed by National Planning Commission has developed 3 indicators to assess unpaid care work and domestic chores: women's labor participation in comparison to men; average hours spent by women on unpaid domestic care work; and proportion of time spent on unpaid care and domestic work by sex, age and location.
- Central bureau of statistics is planning to undertake a 'time use survey' which can provide the basis for the assessment of unpaid care work. The new census (2021) is expected to generate data needed for the assessment of unpaid services and domestic care work.

8. Has your country introduced austerity/fiscal consolidation measures, such as cuts in public expenditure or public sector downsizing, over the past five years?

YES/NO

- 8.1 Public expenditure in social welfare and social security, including social transfers, expenses on public health, education, scholarship, and expansion of necessary utilities and transportation of essential goods to remote places are ever increasing.

Poverty eradication, social protection and social services

Critical areas of concern:

- A. Women and poverty
- B. Education and training of women
- C. Women and health
- I. Human rights of women
- L. The girl child

9. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to reduce/eradicate poverty among women and girls?

Please provide details of up to three concrete examples of measures taken, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)

- Promoted poor women's access to decent work through active labour market policies (e.g. job training, skills, employment subsidies, etc.) and targeted measures
- Broadened access to land, housing, finance, technology and/or agricultural extension services
- Supported women's entrepreneurship and business development activities

- Introduced or strengthened social protection programmes for women and girls (e.g. cash transfers for women with children, public works/employment guarantee schemes for women of working-age, pensions for older women)
- Other

9.1. Poverty reduction an overarching goal of policies and programs

9.1.1 Poverty reduction has remained an overarching goal of GoN for more than two decades now. In Nepal, women constitute the majority of the poor and are also the ones who are the most vulnerable. Their engagement with family farm and care work leaves them little time for income generating activities. Similarly, traditional gender roles along with cultural, socio-economic structures often restrict women's ability to secure access to incomes and resources such as assets, information, skills and education. Nepal being a disaster-prone country, women are also more vulnerable to the impacts of natural disasters. Evidences show that poverty in Nepal is predominantly a rural phenomenon. Accordingly, the rural women are more likely to be affected by poverty. In terms of absolute poverty 18.7% people in Nepal live below poverty line.^{xvii} Though gender disaggregated data on poverty are not available it can be safely said that with the reduction in overall poverty rate women's poverty also has decreased.

9.1.2 GoN has been making efforts to initiate transformative changes in all spheres of women's lives and bring them at par with men. To reduce poverty across its various dimensions GoN has been working simultaneously on multiple fronts. GoN has continuously revised policies, legal provisions as well as programs and administrative practices to better ensure women's equal rights and access to economic resources. Consequently, there has been substantial increase in women's ownership of land and property (to 28% now from about 20% in 2011). For addressing feminization of poverty, government agencies have continued preparing and updating gender-based methodologies including gender research reports; gender assessments and audits, formulation of gender-responsive development programs; institutionalization of gender-disaggregated data; and promotion of overall gender management capacity. New initiative of President Women's Upliftment Program and Prime Minister Employment Program are expected to increase the employment and opportunities of entrepreneurship development among women. There are more than 50 programs being implemented in the country with their key objective of poverty reduction.

9.2 Three recent efforts

9.2.1 **Identification of poor households:** GoN has been effortful to reduce absolute poverty as well as to achieve improvements across other dimensions of poverty and deprivations: living standards, schooling and health/ nutrition among others. Recently, GoN has been investing in the identification of poor households. Adopting a means testing methodology, GoN has carried out a survey for the identification of poor household. So far GoN has completed survey in 26 districts and has collected multidimensional data required to make poverty measurement. According to the survey, out of total 1 million

224 thousand 417 households, 391 thousand 831 (40.8 percent) households have been identified as poor from the proxy means testing based on 18 indicators. From the list of poor households, the number of extremely poor, moderately poor and poor households is established. Thus 188,235 households are found to be extremely poor while 119,748 and 83,848 households have been classified as moderately poor and poor, respectively. Those identified as poor are to be issued identity card which can make them eligible to participate in poverty reduction programs. GoN intends to continue this process of identification of poor and use the data to customize interventions based on needs of different groups, including women.

9.2.2 Micro Enterprise Development Program (MEDEP): GoN has been implementing MEDEP since last two decades which is contributing to build the economic base of rural women. It has been working to reduce poverty through women's entrepreneurship and employment, especially women from poor, *Dalit*, and indigenous communities of Nepal. The MEDEP is a multi-donor program and caters the needs of a large-number women from indigenous and *Dalit* communities. It provides training and technical assistance for micro-enterprise development and market linkages. It has a strong GESI strategy and action plan and has country wide coverage. Out of the 142,437 entrepreneurs produced so far by the program 75% are women. The share of *Dalit* and indigenous women is 25% and 40% respectively. As of 2016, women, *Dalits* and people from indigenous communities occupied 61%, 21% and 45% decision making positions respectively in District Micro-Entrepreneur Groups Associations. Between the period of 2010 to 2018 it created 54,286 micro-entrepreneurs out of which 43,459 (80%) are women (*Dalit* women 12,562, *Janjati* women, 16,885 and *Madhesi* women 9,053).^{xviii}

9.2.3 Strengthening social protection system: Apart from the unceasing efforts to improve delivery of all social, financial and infrastructure services by making them inclusive and effective as a means to poverty reduction, GoN has also developed a web of small and somewhat scattered social protection schemes. This web covers senior citizens, widows and single women, *Dalits*, women with disability and victims of trafficking and gender-based violence among others. It also covers child grant and girls' scholarship schemes as well. Under maternity protection scheme pregnant women and expectant mothers are provided with free health checkups, free delivery services along with transportation costs, free iron tablets and folic acid supplements. GoN has recently enacted Contribution based Social Security Act 2017 with a package of several schemes, including maternity protection, accident insurance and survivors' benefits. Women civil servants are entitled to 98 days of paid leave and lump-sum allowances during child birth twice during their tenure. GoN has also rolled out public health insurance plan which is expected to be expanded throughout the country by the end of next fiscal year. In this scheme, GoN intends to pay the premium for those who cannot pay for themselves.

10. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to improve access to social protection for women and girls?

Please provide details of up to three concrete examples of measures taken, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links

to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)

- Introduced or strengthened social protection for unemployed women (e.g. unemployment benefits, public works programmes, social assistance)
- Introduced new contributory social protection schemes to strengthen women's access and benefit levels
- Improved access to the above for specific populations (e.g. women in informal employment, including domestic workers; migrant and refugee women; women in humanitarian settings)
- Other

10.1 Provisions on social protection

10.1.1. The Constitution of Nepal ensures every citizen's right to employment, to choose employment freely¹ and freedom to practice any profession, occupation or operate industry, trade or business.² It ensures women's right, amongst others, to obtain special opportunity in employment and social security on the basis of positive discrimination. Likewise, the Constitution and subsequent laws strictly prohibits discrimination on remuneration and social security for the same work on the ground of sex. GoN has emphasized on the social protection measures as a strategy to address the poverty in society. Since 2008/09, government has been continuously providing allowances to single women, endangered communities, while reducing the eligibility age threshold for *Dalits* and citizens of the Karnali Zone. The annual budget and program emphasized on developing integrated social protection policy in order to enhance the quality of the program.

10.2 Social protection measures including universal cash transfer

10.2.1 GoN has been providing social security allowance to different groups of vulnerable people. GoN has been striving to develop a life cycle based social security system addressing the needs of people across different age groups. It has been providing child grants for girls and boys below 5 years. It is providing scholarships for school age girls and boys. It has been providing allowances for all single women including the survivors of armed conflict (Please also refer to section 9.2.3). As a part of active labor market policies, the GoN has been providing short-term and long term skill and entrepreneurship training opportunities to more than one hundred thousand men and women every years. Maternity protection schemes are implemented for women of reproductive age. GoN is expanding health insurance schemes on country wide scale. Currently over 52% enrolees and 58% claimants are women. GoN intends to pay the premium on behalf of poor and people above 70 years of age. For increasing employment opportunities for women in Nepal, several initiatives are introduced on the fronts of strategy development, structural and systemic reforms, capacity development, affirmative program interventions and behavioural change with visible impacts.

Likewise, for ensuring equality at work for women, all the discriminatory laws against women workers have been eliminated.

10.3 Legal provisions and Institutional Arrangements

10.3.1 Labor legislation is another mechanism through which GoN is providing security to the workers. For example, Labor Act 2017, Contribution based Social Security Act, 2017 and Foreign Employment Act, 2007 contain various provisions that protect workers at home and abroad. The Labor Act sets the minimum standard in relation to the working conditions, wage and other benefits for the workers. Section 7 of the Labor Act has the provision for equal pay for equal value of work. Moreover, non-discriminatory principle in section 6 of the Labor Act ensures equal opportunity for both men and women at work. Department of Labor and 10 Labor Offices are responsible for ensuring the implementation of these provisions of the Labor law. Labor inspectors and Occupational Safety and Health inspectors are deployed for regular inspection and monitoring. The new Labour Act has ensured gratuity and insurance for work related accident and occupation related diseases to each and every worker without any discrimination.

10.3.2 Contribution Based Social Security Act 2017 is applicable to all employees in formal and informal sectors and self-employed employees as well. The Act has provisioned for the Social Security Fund. The Act specifies the schemes for the welfare of the employees including: (a) medical and health protection scheme, (b) maternity protection scheme, (c) accident protection scheme, (d) old-age protection scheme, (e) dependent family protection scheme, and (f) unemployment protection scheme. Schemes are already launched, except unemployment protection scheme. The Act is applicable to all, without any discrimination on the basis of gender. At the moment, this Act is enacted for the formal sector only, since the implementing agency, Social Security Fund (SSF) is a new organization.

11. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to improve health outcomes for women and girls in your country?

Please provide details of up to three concrete examples of measures taken, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)

- Promoted women's access to health services through expansion of universal health coverage or public health services
- Expanded specific health services for women and girls, including sexual and reproductive health services, mental, maternal health and HIV services
- Undertaken gender-specific public awareness/health promotion campaigns
- Other

11.1 Constitutional, legal and policy provisions

11.1.1 The Constitution ensures women's right to reproductive health and reproduction. Nepal has made considerable progress on sexual and reproductive rights. The GoN has been adopting holistic approach in prevention and treatment of the uterine prolapse and Silicone Ring Pessary is provided free of cost. The Right to Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Act, 2018 was meant to implement these constitutional provisions. The Fourteenth Plan and Approach Paper of the Fifteenth Plan focus on the strategies to address gender disparities in health by extending the services, developing the capacity, making the services more inclusive with focus on women of disadvantaged and marginalized groups. GoN is implementing new National Health Policy-2014 to strengthen the system for quality delivery of health services to the people, and build the basis of equity and social justice by ensuring the access of the poor, marginalized and at risk community to the health services. The policy promotes health as a fundamental human right of every citizen. In order to achieve effective results of the Policy, GoN is implementing Nepal Health Sector Strategy, 2015-2020, with four strategic directions for delivery of quality health service for all: equitable access to health services; quality health services, health system reform and multi-sectoral approach. The recently enacted Public Health Act, 2018 internalizes these policies and makes them mandatory.

11.2 Three Examples

11.2.1 Expanded health services focused on women and girls: The National Safe Motherhood Program is being implemented with the goal to improve the maternal and neonatal health through preventive and promotional activities as well as by addressing avoidable factors that causes complications of pregnancy and childbirth. To reduce the risks associated with pregnancy and childbirth and address factors associated with mortality and morbidity four major strategies have been adopted: (a) promoting birth preparedness and complication readiness including awareness raising and improving the availability of funds, transport and blood supplies; (b) encouraging for institutional delivery; (c) expansion of 24-hour emergency obstetric care services (basic and comprehensive) at selected public health facilities in every district; d) emergency airlifting of women in deeper hinterlands and remote areas for safe delivery under Presidential Women's Upliftment Program . As a result of these efforts, Nepal has achieved most of the health related MDGs. Nepal was awarded the MDG Achievement Award in 2011 for its achievement in reducing maternal mortality rate (MDG 5), the Motivational Award for its significant achievement in reducing child mortality rate (MDG 4), and the Resolve Award by Global Leaders Council for Reproductive Health for considerable achievement in reproductive health.

11.2.2 Multisectoral Nutrition Plan (MSNP) II: With the endorsement of MSNP II, GoN is going to expand and enhance several projects being implemented in the arena of food security and nutrition. GoN has already completed "Thousand Golden Days" awareness campaign to improve nutritional status of women and children. Besides, GoN has been providing food assistance to Pregnant and Lactating Mothers (PLM) and children aged 6 to 36 months through the Mother and Child Health Care (MCHC) activity of the Country Programme since 2001 in alignment with the Government's long-term and interim

strategic plan under the nutrition and safer motherhood programs. Under the MCHC Programme, a monthly “take home ration” of fortified supplementary food is provided along with health services, growth monitoring and counselling from government and community health staff in nine program districts.

11.2.3 Implementation of public health insurance plan: The GoN has rolled out health insurance program and aspires to go for universal coverage as aspired by SDGs. Most of the healthcare cost in Nepal is borne out of pocket often resulting in significant costs leading to heavy health expenditure. The GoN launched public health insurance scheme in 2016/17 from 3 districts in 3 provinces i.e. Ilam (Province 1), Baglung (Gandaki Province) and Kailali (Province 7) and expanded to 43 districts. Program is expected to cover all 77 districts in FY 2019/20. GoN pays all premium of the health insurance for senior citizens above 70 years, ultra poor family, person with severe disabilities (red card holders) and HIV/AIDS affected citizens. About 58% of the people claiming benefits from the scheme are women.

12. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to improve education outcomes and skills for women and girls?

Please provide details of up to three concrete examples of measures taken, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)

- Taken measures to increase girls’ access to, retention in and completion of education, technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and skills development programmes
- Strengthened educational curricula to increase gender-responsiveness and eliminate bias, at all levels of education
- Promoted safe, harassment-free and inclusive educational environments for women and girls
- Increased access to skills and training in new and emerging fields, especially STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) and digital fluency and literacy
- Ensured access to safe water and sanitation services and facilitated menstrual hygiene management especially in schools and other education/training settings
- Other

12.1 Gender friendly policies, programs and infrastructure

12.1.1 GoN, through inclusive and gender-friendly national policies, strategies, and programs, has been making efforts to meet the learning needs of different groups of women and girls including those with disabilities through improved infrastructures and support systems. Similarly, with different packages it is reaching out the girls of *Dalit*, indigenous

and disadvantaged communities. Consequently, Nepal has made significant progress in women's education with enhanced gender parity at all levels of education. The gender-responsive tools include school outreach program, flexible schooling program, non-formal sessions, scholarships and incentives, gender-friendly infrastructure; increasing the number of female teachers, community learning centres, and the like. School Sector Development Plan (SSDP 2016-2023), Consolidated equity strategy, 2014, Inclusive Education Policy for Disabled Children, 2016, Higher Education Policy 2017, Pro-poor targeted Scholarship Procedures, 2017, Comprehensive School Safety implementation Procedures 2018, Compulsory and Free Education Act, 2018, Policy Paper on Literate Nepal 2019 are some of the main policy and legislative initiatives in the last 5 years.

- 12.1.2 Nepal has taken several measures to increase girls' access to, retention in and completion of school education, technical and vocational education and training and skills development. Curriculum revision process has been initiated to incorporate soft skill in school education. In service teacher training courses have been developed/ revised to address the issue of gender equality, human rights, and use of ICT in teaching learning activities. Child friendly school framework and School Improvement Plan are being considered as instrument for all schools to promote safe, harassment-free and inclusive educational environment for women and girls. School Health and nutrition program is considered one of the cross cutting theme of the SSDP for all schools to have functional water and sanitation facilities that are user friendly for girls and children with disability. To strengthen participation and learning outcomes efforts are being made to minimize the drop-out rate of adolescent girls through the provision of menstrual hygiene management.

12.2 `Three recent initiatives

- 12.2.1 Equity Index based intervention to increase the access and retention of out of school children:** Equity index was developed and all 77 districts were ranked on the basis of index values. For this, data was selected representing access (enrolment), participation (survival rate) and learning outcomes (grade 8 exam). The purpose of the Equity Index is to account for children's opportunity for school education as well as the equality of opportunity across children facing different circumstances/contexts. For the intervention, 15 districts were selected based on the lowest value of equity index (stated in five districts in the academic year 2017 and later added another five district in academic year 2018). Based on equity index, 10 districts identified as having the highest disparities in access, participation and learning outcomes have been selected for targeted interventions based on the analysis of dominant drivers of composite equity index at district level, in order to achieve a reduction in the number of out of school children in these districts. This program was targeted for both boys and girls. Household survey showed that, in total scenario of 15 districts, both the shares of boys and Girls of Out of School Children were almost similar. But, half of the local governments in Rautahat district have found access less than 70% and gender was the dimension of inequity. Total 42,298 girls with the age groups 5-16 were identified as out of school children and through this intervention 25,728 (60.8 %) were enrolled into schools. This rate is higher than the enrolment of out of school boys (58.4%) in the targeted district.

12.2.2 Pro-poor and pro science targeted scholarship (PPTS) program piloted: Under the SSDP program, GoN has piloted PPTS in 25 districts which are considered having more poverty pocket areas. The Ministry of Land Management, Cooperative and Poverty Alleviation has chosen on pilot basis the districts for distribution of poverty card. Scholarship program is targeted for grade 9-12 students. The concept is that student are selected in grade 8 and start to receive scholarship through bank account and that will continue from grade 9 to grade 12 if student met specified attendance and learning criteria. Pro poor scholarship procedure has been developed to implement the program. All students, irrespective gender, who falls under the category of lowest quintile groups are considered eligible to receive scholarship. Nevertheless, girls are considered eligible even they fall in bottom two quintiles, and those who study science in grade 11 will receive additional scholarship. Selected students are to open bank account and money will be directly transferred to their account. Selected students who study in grade 9 and 10 they will receive NRs 6000 per year and selected students who study in grade 11 and 12 will receive NRs 18,000 annually and girls will receive additional NRs. 6,000 annually or NRs 24,000 in grade 11 and 12 if they decide to study in science stream. Proxy Means Testing (PMT) methods are applied to select the poor students. During the first year implementation, total 4034 students received scholarship starting from grade 9 and out of them 2254 (55.9%) were girls. Similarly, 1256 students who were studying in grade 11 received the scholarship and out of them 690 (54.9%) were girls. Out of total girls receiving the scholarship, 108 (15.7%) girls were in science stream who received additional amount. These pro poor targeted and pro science targeted scheme has several benefits for girls. it will increase the girls participation in science education particularly from poor, geographically remote and socially marginalized community.

12.2.3 Vocational skill based training through Enhanced Vocational Education and Training (EVENT II) project: One of the flagship TVET project under MoEST was Enhanced Vocational Education and Training (EVENT) (2011-2017). The MoEST had initiated the EVENT Project in 2011 with the aim to provide technical and vocational education and training to around 75,000 Nepali youth including at least 30 percent women. It has encouraged participation of women to non-traditional trade and had planned to produce 5,000 trained women. Its' main objective was to expand the supply of skilled and employable labor by increasing access to quality training program. Female participation was remarkable under the project activities. For example, the project provided short-term training for a total of 15,781 trainees across 39 occupational categories in 2017/18. Out of which 8,476 (53.71%) were female. Similarly, the project supported to institutions to increase the girls enrolment. In the EVENT supported institutions, the percentage of girls enrolment has increased from 26.4 % to 40.8 % against the project target 33 % during March 2014 to June 2017. Now the EVENT project II is under implementation.

Freedom from violence, stigma and stereotypes

Critical areas of concern:

- D. Violence against women
- I. Human rights of women
- J. Women and the media
- L. The girl child

13. In the last five years, which forms of violence against women and girls, and in which specific contexts or settings, have you prioritized for action?

Please provide details of up to three concrete examples of measures taken, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)

- Intimate partner violence/domestic violence, including sexual violence and marital rape
- Sexual harassment and violence in public places, educational settings and in
- Other

13.1 Focused on various forms of VAWG

13.1.1 GoN has come forward with systematic strategy, plan of action and legal framework to combat VAWG. Dedicated institutional mechanism has been established and strengthened from centre to district and village levels for effectively monitoring the cases of VAWG along with delivery of specialized services. The NHRC and the NWC have been monitoring the cases of VAWG. A GBV Elimination Fund, established in 2011, has contributed in sustainable implementation of VAWG campaigns and in providing support to the victims. Research and development efforts are ongoing in course of strengthening response mechanism to address VAWG. Collaboration between the government agencies, security agencies, NHRIs and CSOs has been enhanced to end all forms of GBV. GoN is engaged in amending and improving laws aimed at eliminating violence against women and girls. Human Trafficking and Transportation Control Act, 2007 is also under the process of review for amendment.

13.2 Three types of VAWG prioritized over the last five years

13.2.1 **Domestic Violence including Sexual Violence:** The NWC has been implementing Integrated Platform for Gender Based Violence Prevention and Response Project linking it with national level 24-hour Helpline. It is backed by an innovative case management system. The project is supported by World Bank and is implemented in partnership with a number of other organizations both GOs and NGOs. It is based on a survivor-centred design which uses a service delivery model to combat the entire spectrum of VAWG. Those suffering from intimate partner violence and domestic violence report through the Helpline and directly to NWC are referred to its primary implementing partners

which are kind of specialized agencies within their respective field based on the individual needs of the victim survivors. Since the beginning of the project, the number of reported cases has dramatically increased. As of November 2018, 11 months of the Helpline operation, a total of 1,275 cases of GBV were reported. Court-representation support was provided to 367 survivors and legal counselling to 302 while 243 cases of GBV were mediated at the request of both parties. Six hundred forty seven survivors were provided psychosocial support, including seven psychiatric, and eight para-legal support. One hundred eighteen and 49 survivors received shelter and medical support respectively. Similarly, 15 survivors and their dependents were provided formal education and 43 received non-formal education support. Out of 1265 GBV survivors, 46 have been reintegrated into their families and communities.

13.2.2 Measures against sexual harassment and violence: GoN developed a comprehensive and updated legal framework to deal with the issue of sexual harassment and violence in public places, educational settings and in employment. GoN enacted three major Acts in last 5 years namely, The Sexual Harassment at Work Place (Prevention) Act, 2015, Witchcraft-related Accusation (Crime and Punishment) Act, 2015 and the National Penal (Code) Act, 2017 to develop a comprehensive legal framework to address many faces of VAWG in public places. The Sexual harassment in workplace is punishable by imprisonment (up to 3 years) and fine (up to NRs. 30,000). The National Penal (Code) Act, 2017 gives the VAWG a more detailed treatment. It spells out specific penalties for specific types of offence. Similarly, Witchcraft-related Accusation (Crime and Punishment) Act, 2015 criminalizes the accusation and makes the perpetrator of violence compensate the victims based on the gravity of offence. Similarly, MoEST has been initiating measures to make schools free of harassment and violence including bullying and corporal punishment.

13.2.3 Elimination of harmful practices: GoN abolished bonded labor system and rehabilitated ex-*Kamaiyas*. GoN eliminated bonded girls working as *Kamlaris*. Now all *Kamlaris* have been receiving education in residential schools with scholarships. GoN also set out to abolish the practice of *Chhaupadi* (women's seclusion during menstruation). The continuous efforts seem making dent in the tradition. Now in many places women themselves have begun to demolish *Chhau Goths*. Similarly, GoN has criminalized child marriage and has raised the minimum age of marriage to 20 years. Child marriage is made illegal and invalid. It has developed and implemented an action plan to ending child marriage. GoN has criminalized sex selective abortion through sex screening and forced abortion making both punishable by imprisonment and fine.

14. What actions has your country prioritized in the last five years to address violence against women and girls?

Please provide details of up to three concrete examples, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)

- Introduced or strengthened violence against women laws, and their enforcement and implementation
- Introduced, updated or expanded national action plans on ending violence against women and girls
- Introduced or strengthened measures to increase women's access to justice (e.g. establishment of specialist courts, training for the judiciary and police, protection orders, redress and reparations, including for femicide cases)
- Introduced or strengthened services for survivors of violence (e.g. shelters, help lines, dedicated health services, legal, justice service, counselling, housing)
- Introduced or strengthened strategies to prevent violence against women and girls (e.g. in the education sector, in the media, community mobilization, work with men and boys)
- Other

14.1 Three priority areas in the past five years

14.1.1 Legal and policy framework: Sexual Harassment at Work Place (Prevention) Act, 2015, Witchcraft-related Accusation (Crime and Punishment) Act, 2015 and the National Penal (Code) Act, 2017 are some of the Acts enacted by the government to address VAWG. Realizing that school can play a catalytic role in changing VAWG based culture, GoN launched the academic year 2015 with the slogan "End Gender-Based Violence at School" and has been taking active steps to address violence in schools and homes. The Zero Tolerance program is piloted which aims to reduce the prevalence of school-related gender-based violence and to establish child- and adolescent-friendly environment through training (of teachers, members of school management committees, parent teachers association and students), service mapping, advocacy and awareness raising activities. It also touches upon the issues of child rights, impact of GBV – including segregation during menstruation (or *chhaupadi*)- and child marriage on the life of the child and society. GoN has developed comprehensive school safety master plan and other guidelines. This plan has three pillars: safe learning environment including infrastructure, disaster management and strengthened resilience through education and training for students, teachers and stakeholders. MoEST developed Complaint Hearing Procedure, 2017 and many schools are using complain box in the schools to manage and minimize sexual harassments and violence and other girls related issues. GoN has already implemented a separate Sex- and Gender-based Violence and Gender Empowerment Strategy and Work Plan (2012/13-2016/17).

14.1.2 Developed a network of dedicated institutions, funds and services: A network of institutions dedicated to the cause of VAWG has been established along with various specialized services in collaboration with CSOs. Twenty four-hour national GBV Helpline is established in NWC linked with specialized service lines. Rehabilitation centres are established in 7 locations. Temporary shelter homes are established with appropriate services. A network of OCMCs have been established in major hospitals of the country which is linked with different service lines i.e. psychosocial counselling, medical aid, legal aid, rehabilitation services etc. Four safe homes are established in four destination

countries for migrant workers and one in Kathmandu for returnee migrant women. The Women and Children Service Centres of Nepal Police are expanded to 246 locations throughout the country. For women's facilitated access to the concerned authorities and the court, 17 district-level and 84 community-level service centres are in operation to deliver services to the victims and survivors of GBV, rape and other sexual offences. The NHRC and NWC are carrying out monitoring and investigation of GBV cases on regular basis. MoWCSC has been implementing an Integrated Development Program of women's organizations with training, systemic capacity-building, and awareness raising components under WDP to effectively eliminate GBV at the local level. The Enforcement of the Single Women Protection Fund Rules and institutionalization of a Single Women Protection Fund have been effective for the protection, empowerment, and in dealing with the critical concerns of single women. Guidelines on in-camera hearing and maintaining confidentiality of the victims of violence has been formulated and the justice sector actors have been trained on effective implementation of such Guidelines. Similarly, case flow management, calendar based court proceedings, mobilization of specific task force for the enforcement of Supreme Court judgments are some strategic interventions of the judiciary to enhance the access of victims of VAWG to justice.

14.1.3 Changing social norms and behaviour change communication: On the preventive side GoN in collaboration with NGOs and CSOs has been launching intensive awareness campaigns against harmful social practices and behaviours like child marriage, *Chhaupadi*, dowry, *Deuki*, *Jhuma* etc. Special occasions like 16 days campaign against VAWG are observed on countrywide scale with processions, street dramas, roundtables, TV programs and so on. School curriculums have incorporated theme of VAWG. Media are mobilized to disseminate the GBV issues, its socio-economic, psychological and emotional consequences as well as available remedies and services. Mothers' groups and women's groups are formed and mobilized. Local community groups are established for surveillance and monitoring of GBV including trafficking. The Annual Budget and program for the FY 2018/19 provides budget for conducting awareness programmes against child marriage, dowry, *Tilak*, *Deuki*, witchcraft, *Chhaupadi*, and all such superstitious beliefs, harmful practices and traditions, along with VAWG. GoN is implementing special measures to accelerate gender equality and empowerment of women since the fiscal year (FY) 2015/16 through Yogamaya Women Empowerment Program. It aims to end all kinds of VAWG and provide support to those who have been at risk and suffering from economic and social backwardness, and are poor, single, affected by sexual violence and natural disasters.

15. What strategies has your country used in the last five years to prevent violence against women and girls?

Please provide details of up to three concrete examples, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)

- Grassroots and community-level mobilization

- Working with men and boys
- Other

15.1 Three main strategies most relied upon in the last five years

15.1.1 Launching awareness raising campaigns: GoN has been launching awareness programs as preventive measures against VAWG. Some of such programs are targeted to general audience like 16 days campaign against VAWG. Others are targeted to communities most affected by harmful practices such as *Chhaupadi*, child marriage, dowry system and allegations of witchcraft and the like. The WDP has packaged comprehensive awareness and gender sensitization programs in collaboration with civil society and community-based organizations to eliminate child marriage and raise awareness on negative effects of early marriage. The NWC is implementing national campaign against child marriage and for the protection of the rights of girl children. Literacy programs and continuous education has helped to reduce the illiteracy among women with a particular focus on adult literacy, women’s literacy and functional literacy which has contributed to raise the level of their awareness. Social mobilization programs across the sectors have awareness raising components.

15.1.2 Forging greater collaboration and synergy in efforts: In cooperation and collaboration with many other GOs, NGOs, CBOs, women’s groups, mothers’ group, and child clubs, GoN is active in raising awareness as well as establishing and delivering services. One particular example is the ‘*Sambodhan*’ Program implemented by the NWC. Of late many specialized services are being developed by NGOs. Given different areas of competence of different organizations, GoN relied on building networks and referral systems. GoN also has been providing some funds to these organizations. GoN has also developed community watch groups. Collaboration between the government agencies, security agencies, NHRIs and CSOs has been enhanced to end all forms of GBV. Media has emerged as an important partner in this regard though at times they are also seen to exhibit inadequate gender sensitivity in reporting.

15.1.3 Localization: In the federalized context, GoN has entrusted many functions related to protection and development of women and children to local government bodies. The Local Government (Operation) Act, 2017 has entrusted many responsibilities to local governments. It is expected that the local governments will be taking more initiatives, including community mobilization, in making their jurisdiction free of VAWG in the coming years. Similarly, the localization of SDGs will also be helpful in this respect as SDGs and its internalization has indicators on VAWG included.

16. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls facilitated by technology (online sexual harassment, online stalking, non-consensual sharing of intimate images)?

Please provide details of up to three concrete examples, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)

- Implemented awareness raising initiatives targeting the general public and young women and men in educational settings
- Worked with technology providers to set and adhere to good business practices
- Other

16.1 Realizing its empowering influence in the life of people, GoN has been striving to increase access to Information Technology. Currently, GoN is implementing Information Technology Policy 2011. The policy aims to increase access of women and other deprived, rural and marginalized communities to information technology while encouraging meaningful use of media. However, of late GoN has been concerned by misuse of information technology and services. Girls and women are increasingly experiencing cyber offences in various forms. Section 295 of the National Penal Code, 2017 prohibits and criminalizes the taking photograph of a person or tempering a photograph without his or her consent. Section 224 (2) of the Code prohibits sexual harassment through electronic media and criminalizes it. Legal actions are also being taken under the Electronic Transaction Act, 2007. A special unit under Nepal Police investigates such cases.

17. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to address the portrayal of women and girls, discrimination and/or gender bias in the media?

Please provide details of up to three concrete examples, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)

- Supported the media industry to develop voluntary codes of conduct
- Provided training to media professionals to encourage the creation and use of non-stereotypical, balanced and diverse images of women and girls in the media
- Promoted the participation and leadership of women in the media
- Other

17.1 Media engagement with women's issues

17.1.1 In the aftermath of Beijing Declaration, Nepal focused on four major strategies in the implementation plan to address the major concerns of the BPfA with regard to media. It emphasized on the promotion of: gender sensitivity in media; positive images of women; participation of women in decision making structures in media; and alternative media structures. GoN brought out many plans to promote women's issue and participation in the media world. Gender sensitization trainings were provided to media persons and media contents were reviewed from gender lens.

17.1.2 The media landscape of Nepal has changed significantly since 1995. More women have joined the media profession and are working in print and electronic media. Gender sensitivity in media is also improving, though slowly. Working environment of female journalists in newsrooms is improving. Male colleagues have become more sensitive and

supportive to the issues and needs of their female colleagues. The spread of digital literacy has opened up new avenues for empowering women. Women, particularly young women and adolescent girls are accessing ever expanding digital spaces. Digital literacy has made them aware of its resources and potential and has enabled them to understand and use information in multiple formats from a wide range of sources. They are acquiring and improving digital skills including blogging, social media management, and data management. They are using online spaces and social media platforms to press their demands and initiate and reframe debates. These spaces are enabling women to share their ideas, contest perspectives; challenge gender stereotypes; and forge alliances across sectors, generations and countries.

17.1.3 According to Global Media Monitoring Project Report of 2015 only 23% of media persons in print, TV and radio in Nepal are women. Currently, there are 13,050 members in Federation of Nepali Journalists. Out of which 2354 (18.03%) are female. Women's representation in decision making body is even more limited: only 14.6 % representation of women in FNJ and 14.8% in Association of Community Radio Broadcasters. As of 2016/17 there were total 740 FM radio operating in Nepal. Only 7% of the total owners/operators were women. Out of the total 60% employees are male and 40% female.^{xix}

17.1.4 Television is the most commonly accessed form of media among both women (50%) and men (51%). Men are more likely than women to be exposed to the other forms of media: 22% of men and 9% of women read newspapers, while 36% of men and 28% of women listen to the radio. Thirty-seven percent of women and 31% of men have no access to any of the three media.^{xx} According to a survey undertaken by Sharecast Initiative Nepal, mobile phones appear to be by far the most common communication device in Nepal today with an overwhelming majority of 96% of respondents owning one at the household level, and individually they are owned by 90%. Of these, slightly more than half were smartphones, and only 18% of respondents said they used laptops, desktops or tablets at home.^{xxi}

17.2 Three recent measures

17.2.1 Building and expanding media and IT infrastructure: GoN has improved broadband infrastructure significantly over the years. Nepal targets to become digital economy and a broadband nation by 2022. Currently, the Nepal Telecommunication Authority (NTA) is implementing a project to expand broadband facility across all rural municipalities, health and educational institutions, and government offices by 2020. Private sector media have also proliferated over the years. With the expansion of the ICT infrastructure, the information flow has been greatly facilitated. Ministry of Information Technology and Communication has established 527 community information centres throughout the country. The NTA has established 792 computer labs in community schools. These information centres has increased the access of women and girls to get the information related to VAWG and empower themselves through knowledge and actions.

GoN is broadcasting welfare advertisement through radio TV and Information and Broadcasting Department. GoN is implementing Mass Media Policy, 2017 which intends to mainstream women in mass media by capacity building enhanced participation. GoN is also in the process of drafting bills for Mass Media Act, Advertisement Act, and Information Technology Act.

17.2.2 Promoted gender sensitivity in media people as well as users: GoN is taking media as an advantage to promote gender sensitivity and awareness GoN is disseminating information on topical issues like sexual and GBV; media portrayal of women and girls; and women's human rights through government owned media. Besides, GoN has been encouraging media, both owned by the government and private sector, to carry out more research and stories of women. Nepal Television, Radio Nepal, and National News Agency are frequently reporting on women's issues. For example, in FY 2017/18 Nepal Television broadcasted 188 episodes on women's issues. Out of 188, 52 episodes were on women's human rights, another 52 on reproductive health rights, and 26 episodes on GBV. Similarly, 26 episodes were dedicated to access to justice, another 26 on public health and 6 roundtables on women's rights issues. GoN has also provided trainings to media people from different media houses to improve the gender sensitivity in media reporting. GoN also provides support to many media financially to report in such priority areas. Besides, GoN has been providing scholarship for girls studying journalism since FY 2017/18. The NTA has been implementing 'Girls in ICT program'.

17.2.2 Promote compliance with Code of Conduct: In the aftermath of Beijing Conference, Press council of Nepal developed Code of Conduct for journalist which was also encouraged by GoN. The revised Code of Conduct for Journalists (2007) calls the journalists for contributing to the development and upliftment of women and marginalized communities and refrain from producing reports, ideas, pictures that are in anyways biased or discriminatory against women or any other communities. It also requires the journalists to be sensitive to the rights of victims of sexual violence and other forms of violence among others while reporting events or making stories. This Code of Conduct has also contributed to decrease negative or skewed portrayals of women in the press. Both GoN and many human rights organizations are actively engaged with media persons to promote compliance with Code of Conduct.

18. Has your country taken any action in the last five years specifically tailored to address violence against specific groups of women facing multiple forms of discrimination?

YES/NO

(If YES, please list them and provide up to three concrete examples of measures taken, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)

18.1 Three measures in past five years:

18.1.1 Constitutional, Policy and Legal Reforms: The Constitution of Nepal has addressed all problems and issues confronted by all women in general as well as those facing multiple forms of discrimination. The Articles 40(7) Rights of *Dalit* Women, Article 42 Rights to Social Justice, Article 43 Right to Social Security, Article 51 (j) (1) & (2) Policies of the State, Article 18 Right to Equality and Article 38 Rights of Women address specifically the intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination against women and girls on the basis of caste, class and ethnicity. Local Level Election Act 2017, Section 6 (2) provides seats reserved for *Dalit* women at the Rural Municipality and Municipality Ward Committees. The Caste Based Discrimination and Untouchability (Offence and Punishment) Act, 2011, the *Tharu* Commission Act 2017, Indigenous Nationalities Commission Act, 2017 all work towards tackling and addressing intersecting forms of discrimination against women. Section 10A (b), (d), (e), (f) of Scholarship Regulations, 2005, provides special scholarship quotas to women, indigenous, *Dalit* and people residing in backward areas. GoN through National *Dalit* Commission has been implementing different awareness raising campaigns, and targeted programs including monitoring of the cases and providing support to the victims to increase access to justice.

18.1.2 Intensive awareness campaign against *Chhaupadi*: GoN is intensively working to eliminate the harmful traditional practices, like *Chhaupadi*, where women in some part of the country and in some society are kept isolated during their menstruation period. As a collective effort of the government and the society, this practice is declining in urban areas as well as other parts of the country over the years.

18.1.3 Campaign against child marriage: The National Penal Code, 2017 prohibits any marriage below 20 years of age (Section 173). In this connection, GoN has also been launching information and awareness campaign against child marriage in collaboration with different civil society organizations. GoN has developed National Strategy for Ending Child Marriage, 2016 that aims to end child marriage by 2030. For this purpose, it proposes to: enforce existing legal provisions effectively and review and amend them if required; integrate appropriate child friendly programs in periodic and annual plans and programs; mobilize children, adolescents and adult men against child marriage; mobilize and collaborate with all stakeholders against child marriage; improve access of 'at risk children' to alternatives resources and services; among others. It identifies the following strategic directions: strengthening policy and legislative framework; empowering girl child and adolescents; improving children's access to quality education; engaging children, adolescent and adult men; mobilizing family and community; developing and strengthening child and adolescent friendly services (including education, health, legal aid, referral system). It also articulates implementation mechanism and processes from central to district level.

Participation, accountability and gender-responsive institutions

Critical areas of concern:

- G. Women in power and decision-making
- H. Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women
- I. Human rights of women
- J. Women and the media
- L. The girl child

19. What actions and measures has your country taken in the last five years to promote women's participation in public life and decision-making?

Please provide details of up to three concrete examples of measures taken, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)

- Reformed constitution, laws and regulations that promote women's participation in politics, especially at decision-making level, including electoral system reform, adoption of temporary special measures, such as quotas, reserved seats, benchmarks and targets
- Implemented capacity building, skills development and other measures
- Encouraged the participation of minority and young women, including through sensitization and mentorship programmes
- Provided opportunities for mentorship, training in leadership, decision-making, public speaking, self-assertion, political campaigning
- Collected and analyzed data on women's political participation, including in appointed and elected positions
- Other

19.1 Improved constitutional and legal provisions: The Constitution includes many provisions to ensure women's participation in all structures and bodies 'on the basis of the principle of proportional inclusion'. The Constitution ensures mandatory representation of women in at least one third of total members elected from each political party in Federal Parliament and Provincial Assembly. Similarly, The Constitution and Local Bodies' Election (Procedure) Act, 2016 ensures at least 40% of women to be in municipal and rural municipal assemblies. There has been encouraging participation of women candidates in Public Service Commission (PSC) examinations and success rate of women has significantly increased due to reservation for women in civil service recruitments as well as pre-examination preparatory classes. The Nepal Administrative Staff College and other public training institutions are providing training in the field of leadership development and professional management with special priority to women officials of the public service. The number of women applicants in civil service positions has increased quite significantly along with their success rates. Women have reserved

positions in civil service (33%), Nepal Police (20%), Armed Police (20%), Nepal Army (20%) and Teachers and education administrators (33-50%).

19.2 Increased representation of Dalit women: *Dalits* are one of the most marginalized communities in Nepal. They have been historically subjected to caste-based discrimination. They were regarded untouchable. Despite many progressive provisions in law prohibiting caste based discrimination they continue to be subjected to various forms of discrimination and in some instances to inhuman treatment. Women *Dalit* faces multiple forms of discrimination due the intersection of caste, class and gender. These are often the poorest people in the country. Thus, this group of women suffers from interlocking hierarchies, discriminations and inequities. GoN has been remained committed to raise their living standard and socio-economic status. Recently, based on constitutional mandate of electing two women from each ward, the Local Bodies' Election (Procedure) Act, 2017 further mandates that one out of two women members should be elected from *Dalit* community. Accordingly, out of about 14600 women elected during the 2017 elections, 6567 are *Dalit* women. This is going to make a big difference in the life of the country in next few years.

19.3 Women in community level organizations: Not only in political office and government organizations, the representation of women is increasing in civil society organizations, cooperatives and community-based organizations. There are many kinds of community organizations i.e. user groups of different services, pre and post cooperative organizations formed by WDP, community organizations established by Poverty Alleviation Fund and group of entrepreneurs formed by MEDEP. About 32% women are represented in the executive committees of forest users' groups. Currently there are 34500 cooperatives spread across the country with a reported 4.5 million members. Women's representation in these cooperatives is over 52%. Out of the total micro entrepreneurs created by MEDEP overwhelming majority is that of women. For promoting girls' participation in social, economic and political life, 17,864 communities and school level child clubs and networks have been established nationwide, where 47 percent members are girls.

20. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to increase women's access to expression and participation in decision-making in the media, including through information and communication technologies (ICT)?

Please provide details of up to three concrete examples of measures taken, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)

- Strengthened the provision of formal and technical vocational education and training (TVET) in media and ICTs, including in areas of management and leadership
- Taken measures to enhance access, affordability and use of ICTs for women and girls (e.g. free Wi-Fi hubs, community technology centres)

- Introduced regulations to advance equal pay, retention and career advancement of women within the media and ICT field
- Collaborated with employers in the media and ICT field to improve internal policies and hiring practices on a voluntary basis
- Provided support to women's media networks and organizations
- Other

20.1 Improved access of women to ICT and digital resources: GoN has improved broadband infrastructure significantly over the years and is working to achieve the target of becoming a digital economy and a broadband nation by 2022. GoN has launched the ICT Master Plan, 2015 which aims at both strengthening demand and supply sides. To move towards ICT economy and to take advantage from economic integration and trade, Nepal needs to harness the full potentials of the new paradigm of converged ICT services. Although it targets general audience, it is going to make huge impact in the life of women and girls along with men and boys.

20.2 Provision of TVET and ICT training: GoN has been expanding and diversifying TVET training opportunities in the country. Women and girls are increasingly taking interest in media studies, journalism, and vocational and technical training in ICT sector. They are seeking training as Computer Hardware Technicians, Mobile Repair Technicians and Telecom Technicians among others. For example, the EVENT project under MoEST, provided training to a total of 290 Junior Computer Hardware Technicians in 2017/18 out of which 138 were women. Out of the total 720 mobile repair technicians trained by the project in the same year, 44 were women. The number of Junior Computer Hardware Technicians increased from 39 to 123 in FY 2016/17 to FY 2017/18 under SDP of MoEST. Similarly, the number of female trainees in computer training programme of Vocational and Skill Development Training Centre of Ministry of Labour and Social Security increased to 691 in FY 2017/2018 against 545 in FY 2016/2017.

20.3 ICT in Education Master Plan (2013-17): Realizing the critical role of ICT in modern education, the GoN developed and implemented ICT in Education Master Plan 2013-2017. The SSRP had envisioned ICT enabled classrooms and teaching learning process in all schools. The SSDP also gives continuity to ICT enabled education. The stated mission of the ICT in Education Master Plan was to 'narrow down the digital divide through the development of ICT infrastructure, human resources, digital contents and system enhancement in education. The infrastructure component of the Master Plan includes equipment, connectivity, digital resources and sharing platforms. In developing infrastructure it pledges to provide focused support to disadvantaged schools in remote areas. The human resource component emphasizes on development of ICT teachers, ICT program managers, content developers and the like. One of strategies is to strengthen the role of communities including parents, community centres, local government bodies and private sector. The implementation of the Master Plan is yet to be evaluated. However, investment to expand ICT infrastructure and facilities in schools has been increased over the years. Teacher competencies have been developed and digital

contents were prepared for teachers as well as to students and number of ICT enabled schools has increased significantly over the years.

21. Do you track the proportion of the national budget that is invested in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women (gender-responsive budgeting)?

Please provide information on the specific areas in which these resources have been invested as well as reflections on achievements and challenges encountered in making budgets gender-responsive.

YES/NO

If YES, what is the approximate proportion of the national budget that is invested in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women?

21.1 As a part of gender responsive budget system, GoN has developed a gender coding system according to which all government expenditure falls in one of three categories: directly responsive, indirectly responsive and neutral (Please refer to paragraphs under 5.4). This classification is based on a number of indicators. All sector ministries, National Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance use this coding system. Through this coding system it is now possible to know how much budget in total and across the sectors are allocated in directly or indirectly responsive budget categories. Over the years the directly responsive budget in Nepal has been increasing steadily from 11.3% in 2008/09 to 38.17% in FY 2019/2020. Besides, gender audits are carried out of various organizations, programs and activities at different intervals. Budget tracking is also done through Public Expenditure Tracking Surveys (PETS) carried out by government and non-government agencies. Often such PETS are carried out of specific program interventions. Gender consideration in budgeting and programming will continue to be on the agenda. The Local Government (Operation) Act, 2017 and planning guidelines for local government and provincial government issued by NPC make several references that call for gender responsive planning and budgeting.

21.2 **Ministry of Finance has a Gender Responsive Budget Committee with Gender Responsive Budget Formulation Guidelines, 2013.** The committee has been conscientiously carrying on its responsibility to ensure the gender responsive budget of federal government. The Federal Government is planning to localize gender responsive budget planning at the local and provincial levels. The Approach Paper of 15th Plan (2019/20-2023/24) also promises to localize GRB initiatives. Such localization will enable budget tracking in future.

22. As a donor country, does your country track the proportion of official development assistance (ODA) that is invested in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women (gender-responsive budgeting)?

YES/NO

Not applicable

If YES, please provide further information on the methodology, the scope of tracking, past trends and current proportion of investments.

23. Does your country have a valid national strategy or action plan for gender equality?

YES/NO

If YES, please list the name of the plan and the period it covers, its priorities, funding and alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the targets under SDG 5.

If YES, has the national action plan been costed and have sufficient resources been allocated to its achievement in the current budget?

23.1 The following are the national strategy and action plans developed by GoN so far:

- To ensure the implementation of BfPA the GoN formulated and endorsed first National Plan of Action for Gender Equality and Women Empowerment in 1997.
- Based on the experience of a few years of implementation GoN revised the Plan of Action in 2003 which resulted in National Action Plan for Gender Equality and Woman Empowerment, 2004. These plans of action focused on 12 critical areas outlined by BPfA. They specify objectives, strategies, program activities, responsible agencies, timelines and monitoring indicators.
- GoN formulated and implemented the National Strategy and Action Plan for the Elimination of Gender-based Violence and Women Empowerment, 2013. While its major priority remains GBV, it also deals with wider issues of women's empowerment.
- Office of Prime Minister and Council of Ministers has initiated the process of drafting the National Strategy and Action Plan on Gender Empowerment and Ending Gender-based Violence.
- Besides these overarching strategies and action plans, there are several sector strategies for gender mainstreaming prepared by line ministries and departments.
- The MoWCSC is planning to develop new strategy for gender equality and women's empowerment to cater the evolving new needs of women and girls.

24. Does your country have an action plan and timeline for implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (if a State party), or of the recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review or other United Nations human rights mechanisms that address gender inequality/discrimination against women?

YES/NO

If YES, please provide some highlights of the action plans and timeline for implementation.

24.1 Nepal has always given a due attention to the recommendations of CEDAW and put them into sectoral strategies and programs to the possible extent, and continuously given priority to their implementation. In fact, the GoN has embedded CEDAW, BPfA, MDGs and now SDGs into national and sectoral policy making and planning process. As there were/are overlapping in their priorities and indicators it makes implementation process more synergistic and mutually reinforcing.

25. Is there a national human rights institution in your country?

YES/ NO

If YES, does it have a specific mandate to focus on gender equality or discrimination based on sex/gender?

If YES, please provide up to three examples of how the NHRI has promoted gender equality. (2 pages max.)

25.1 National human rights institutions: The Constitution of Nepal establishes following eight constitutional bodies as National Human Rights Institutions entrusted with protection and promotion of human rights of women and different marginalized groups and communities:

- National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)
- National Women’s Commission (NWC)
- National *Dalit* Commission
- National Inclusion Commission
- Indigenous Nationalities Commission
- *Madhesi* Commission,
- *Tharu* Commission, and
- Muslim Commission.

25.2 Three key institutions

25.2.1 National Human Rights Commission: The National NHRC enjoys structural, functional and financial independence in line with the Paris Principles and has maintained “A” status. It looks after wide range of human rights issues and is responsible for monitoring and investigation of cases of human rights violations. The mandate, independence and autonomy of the NHRC guaranteed by the constitution are further elaborated by the NHRC Act, 2012. Pursuant to the judgment of the Supreme Court, the NHRC Act has been amended. After the promulgation of constitution in 2015, the GoN is working to further revise the Act in line with the Constitution in consultation with the NHRC. The NHRC performs basically two types of work: protection and promotion. According to the Article 249 of the Constitution the task of NHRC is “to respect, protect and promote human rights and ensure effective enforcement thereof.”Accordingly, it has remained effortful to make state accountable to protect and promote human rights of different sections of people. The commission receives complaints, undertakes investigation and makes recommendations for legal actions and files cases against

the accused of human rights violations on entire human rights spectrum. For example, in the FY 2017/18, it received 152 complaints and investigated 350 complaints including the backlog of previous year. It conducted monitoring for 463 times and carried out 324 promotional events. Sometimes works in partnership and coordination with other agencies as well.

25.2.2 National Women Commission was upgraded to an autonomous constitutional body under the Constitution of 2015. GoN initially had established it in 2002. It is a watchdog organization which monitors women's human rights violations. In addition, it is entrusted with various tasks including: formulation of policies and programs for women's welfare; monitoring and review of the status of implementation of legal and policy provisions made for women including international instruments ratified by Nepal; monitor, review and evaluate policies and programs implemented by the State to bring women into the mainstream of national development; and carry out research and studies regarding gender equality, women's empowerment, and other legal provisions concerning women. It also looks into the cases of human rights violation of women filed by different individuals. The NWC hosts a national helpline (1145) and an integrated platform for gender based violence prevention and response. This platform provides integrated package of services for the victims of GBV including psychosocial counselling, court representation, legal counselling, shelter, medical treatment, family reintegration and so on. The helpline receives 5000 to 6000 calls every month and callers are 98% women. Research and development efforts are ongoing in course of strengthening response mechanism to address VAWG. Collaboration between the government agencies, security agencies, NHRIs and CSOs has been enhanced to end all forms of GBV.

25.2.3 The other Commissions: The other Commissions mentioned above are also expected to look after the human rights of women in their respective jurisdictions. However, they are newly established by the Constitution and are in the process of developing their standard operating procedures.

Peaceful and inclusive societies

Critical areas of concern:

- E. Women and armed conflict
- I. Human rights of women
- L. The girl child

26. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to build and sustain peace, promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development and implement the women, peace and security agenda?

Please provide details of up to three concrete examples of measures taken, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)

- Adopted and/or implemented a National Action Plan on women, peace and security
- Integrated women, peace and security commitments into key national and inter-ministerial policy, planning and monitoring frameworks
- Used communication strategies, including social media, to increase awareness of the women, peace and security agenda
- Increased budgetary allocations for the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda
- Supported inclusive and gender-sensitive conflict analysis, early warning and prevention mechanisms
- Other

26.1 A decade of peace building: Last one decade of Nepal was devoted in peace building and managing political transition. Following the Comprehensive Peace Accord, (CPA) 2006, GoN initiated a number of policies, legislations, plans and programs towards a more gender-equal and gender-just polity and society. Women achieved unprecedented representation (about 33%) in both of the constituent assemblies (CAs). This provided women leaders with opportunity to bring their concern and agenda in the constitution making process. The second Constituent Assembly finalized and approved the Constitution of Nepal.

26.2 Three measures

26.2.1 National Action Plan (NAP) on UNSCR 1325 and 1820 (2011-2016): The Desk Review Report prepared in 2017, found that implementation of NAP resulted in significant achievements, notwithstanding some weaknesses noted in implementation process. It revealed that the NAP succeeded in contributing significantly in the mainstreaming of Women Peace and Security (WPS) agenda in government institutions. It sensitized key stakeholders, along with larger number of people and institutions on the gendered impact of conflict. It also sensitized entire electoral machinery, and the Election Commission of Nepal (ECN) formulated and implemented the Gender and Social Inclusion Policy, 2013 and a number of gender-friendly legislations were enacted during 2017 elections of 3 levels of governments. Consequently, a greater number of women candidates got elected in political offices from federal parliament to local assemblies. The ECN required 50% volunteers in voters' education to be women and made all publicity materials gender-sensitive. The ECN also launched voter education campaigns aiming at raising the awareness of local women, particularly the women from *Dalit* and other marginalized communities.

26.2.2 Multi-sectoral focus of WPS Agenda: The NAP succeeded to sensitize the security agencies and personnel: Nepal Police (NP), Armed Police Force (APF) and Nepal Army (NA). Security agencies increased the intake of women staff to 20 percent and developed GESI policies and training curriculums on WPS. As a part of NAP implementation the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs launched programs to support victims' access to justice along with awareness and legal aid activities. The Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction (MoPR) launched massive relief and

rehabilitation programs encompassing both ex-combatants and conflict affected people. The ministry established an elaborate network of over 2900 multi-stakeholder Local Peace Committees (LPCs) throughout the country to implement CPA and NAP with mandatory 33% representation of Women.^{xxii} The Ministry of Industry implemented program for conflict affected women and girls (CAWG) for employment and enterprise development and provided training to 1620 CAWG along with the provision of subsidies to purchase equipment and materials. Ministry of Education implemented functional literacy and livelihood skill training program to CAWGs. It also integrated UNSCR 1325 and 1820 into educational curriculums both school education and non-formal education. The NWC implemented a project to promote equal participation of women in decision making positions and peace building process.

26.2.3 Women's participation in peace building process: Women were provided with opportunities to participate and contribute through a number of avenues. They participated and contributed as members of CA in constitution making and developing legislative frameworks. Other state agencies and mechanisms, central and local government agencies; gender units and focal persons in ministries, departments and projects; security agencies as well as LPCs also provided them with opportunity for participation. Women participated through their own organizations, other civil society organizations as well as networks. They created influence at national level through advocacy, peace rallies, signature campaigns, radio/TV talk shows, roundtable discussions and production and dissemination of awareness materials. They lobbied for inclusion of women in key governance structures and committees. They were also contributing to psychosocial counseling; community infrastructure building; livelihood promotion and economic recovery in the evolving context of massive labor migration within the country and overseas. As part of localizing process, the NAP was instrumental in sensitizing local political leaders and all local government agencies on UNSCR 1325 and 1820 and building capacity of all village level social mobilizers to identify and support conflict and GBV affected women and girls. Intensive orientation was provided to members of government and political parties on UNSCR 1325 and 1820.

26.3 Drafting of NAP II: As the political transition ends and an era of political stability commences, GoN has taken step to address the specific needs of the victims of conflict related sexual violence and some other gaps realized during first phase NAP implementation. The NAP II on UNSCR 1325 and 1820 takes into account the recommendation of UN Office of Special Representative of Secretary General on Sexual Violence on Conflict in this regard. The draft includes the framework for monitoring, reporting and evaluation. It fits well with national and sectoral policies and plans and also outlines the localization plan. It specifies activities, expected results, indicators, responsible agency, partner agencies, timeline, and required budget. The process of drafting ensured participation of the key stakeholders from government, civil society, women's groups, and development partners. The drafting committee also included a representative from the victims. By implementing NAP II, GoN intends to finish the unfinished business of peace process.

26.4 Transitional justice: GoN is committed to dispense justice and ensure accountability in serious violations of human rights as per the Comprehensive Peace Accord (CPA) and the

directives of the Supreme Court. In this connection, GoN has recently amended Enforced Disappearances Enquiry, Truth and Reconciliation Commission Act, 2014 and has extended the tenure of Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), Nepal and Commission of Investigation on Enforced Disappeared Persons (CIEDP). As the current teams have completed their terms GoN has already formed a committee under the leadership of ex-Justice of Supreme Court to recommend the new teams for both commissions. The Committee has already initiated the process.

27. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to increase the leadership, representation and participation of women in conflict prevention, resolution, peace building, humanitarian action and crisis response, at decision-making levels in situations of armed and other conflicts, and in fragile or crisis settings?

Please provide details of up to three concrete examples of measures taken, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)

- Promoted and supported women’s meaningful participation in peace processes and the implementation of peace agreements
- Promoted equal participation of women in humanitarian and crisis response activities at all levels, particularly at the decision-making level
- Integrated a gender perspective in the prevention and resolution of armed or other conflict
- Integrated a gender perspective in humanitarian action and crisis response
- Protected civil society spaces and women’s human rights defenders
- Other

27.1 GoN increased the role of women in conflict prevention and peace building in many ways. In the first place the GoN appointed women leaders in key decision making bodies like cabinet and parliamentary committees. Three women ministers headed MoPR at different points in time. Secondly, women's perspectives were also mainstreamed through Gender Focal Points (GFPs), who led the efforts of gender mainstreaming in different ministries and departments. Most of the GFPs who appraise relevant policy and programs from gender lens are women. Most of the GFPs were also provided with training on United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820. Third, provisions of women's mandatory presence and participation were also facilitated by affirmative action and quotas such as at least 33 percent representation in parliament and 40% in local governments. Fourth, the newly issued planning guidelines by NPC (2018) require all provincial and local planning bodies and committees to ensure women's participation as a member of the committees. Fourthly, the number of women staff in civil service has substantially increased due to affirmative action. Fifthly, GoN has also providing women politicians and civil servants with opportunity to enhance their capacity through training, exposure visits, and participation in national and international events. Finally,

in decisions related to reconstruction and recovery female engineers and GFPs were made parts of the decision making team.

27.2 Concrete measures

27.2.1 Promoted and supported women's meaningful participation in peace processes: Nepal developed and implemented NAP I (2011/12-2015/16) and Localization Guidelines, 2013 adopting a very participatory process. The main objective of the NAP I was to ensure proportional and meaningful participation of women at all levels of conflict transformation and peace building processes and protection of the rights of women and girls. The global study on the implementation of WPS has appreciated the widely consultative process adopted in Nepal. The NPA had five key pillars i.e. prevention, protection, prosecution, capacity building and coordination. Women's meaningful participation was sought in the implementation of all five pillars from within the government as well as from civil society organizations. The Localization Guideline was meant to support the effective implementation of NAP at the local level by ensuring women's participation. Local Peace Committees became a conduit for women's active participation at local level levels. Similarly, NAP II also was drafted through a participatory process and it also intends to ensure participation in its implementation process.

27.2.2 Participation of women in humanitarian and crisis response activities: The Disasters Management Act, 2017 makes it mandatory to ensure participation of women in all levels of institutional mechanisms devised to implement the Act. It also requires for taking care of special and differentiated needs of women and girls during emergency periods. The MoPR launched massive relief and rehabilitation programs encompassing both ex-combatants and conflict affected people. Further, in most of the subsequent mechanisms and activities women's participation has been ensured. As members of CAs and parliament, women have participated in legislation process and constitution making thus contributing in the making of gender friendly constitution and laws. Women contributed and continue to contribute through other state agencies and mechanisms, central and local government agencies; gender units and focal persons in ministries, departments and projects; security agencies as well as those created by the government for specific purpose like LPCs. Women participated through their own organizations, other civil society organizations as well as networks.

27.2.3 Mainstreamed gender in post-earthquake reconstruction: GoN has assessed and responded to the impact of devastating earthquake of 2015 using gender lens. As the disaster had resulted in a colossal humanitarian crisis never known before in the history of the nation, GoN constituted thematic teams for post disaster need assessment. In the process, a separate thematic group was constituted on gender and social inclusion and mainstreamed in the assessment of all sectors as cross cutting theme. Special consideration was given to women and girls from marginalized communities who were found to be affected more severely. For example, the security agencies stepped up measures to prevent trafficking in women and girls. This process has continued in the post-earthquake reconstruction phase. At the Policy, Monitoring and Social

Development Division of National Reconstruction Authority a separate section has been established for Livelihood Promotion, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion. The section is headed by a female Under Secretary of GoN. For the design, implementation and monitoring of GESI related works a separate committee is formed under the Division Chief, the Joint Secretary. One example of affirmative measure is that at least 20% women should be included in all skill and entrepreneurship development trainings. Single women, poor *Dalits*, Senior citizens' families with members (only) above 75 years, and extremely marginalized families are provided with additional NRs. 50,000 on top of Rs. 300,000 made available for reconstruction works.

28. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to enhance judicial and non-judicial accountability for violations of international humanitarian law and violations of the human rights of women and girls in situations of armed and other conflicts or humanitarian action and crisis response?

Please provide details of up to three concrete examples of measures taken, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)

- Implemented legal and policy reform to redress and prevent violations of the rights of women and girls
- Strengthened institutional capacities, including of the justice system and transitional justice mechanisms as applicable, during conflict and crisis response
- Strengthened capacity of security sector institutions on human rights and prevention of sexual and gender-based violence and sexual exploitation and abuse
- Increased access of conflict-affected, refugee or displaced women to violence prevention and protection services
- Taken measures to combat illicit arms trafficking
- Taken measures to combat the production, use of and trafficking in illicit drugs
- Taken measures to combat trafficking in women and children
- Other

28.1 Nepal has been implementing National Plan of Action on CEDAW since 2004 to promote and protect the human rights of women. Nepal is also in the course of implementing periodic action plans for protection of human rights of women and children.

28.1.1 In addition, a large number of new HRIs with wide national and international networks have emerged over the years within the government as well as non-government sectors to keep surveillance on human rights situation; inform government agencies about violations; and demand justice and accountability on behalf of the victims. Most of GoN agencies including security personnel are sensitized in basic human rights principles and norms. A whole set of institutional mechanisms are set up from parliament, constitutional bodies like the NWC, NHRC, and a number of other commissions, Women and Children Service Centers, to community watch groups, to keep surveillance on

human rights violations. Similarly, a number of provisions from helpline to shelter homes, OCMCs, specialized services to rehabilitation centers are established to support victims. Both GOs and NGOs are collaborating and initiating mutually reinforcing interventions. This situation has provided victims including those affected by disaster, conflict, and internal displacement adequate access to protection and prevention services.

28.2 Concrete measures

28.2.1 Legal and policy reform to redress and prevent violations of the rights of women and girls: In 2017 GoN has replaced old Country Code by five new Codes making it time-relevant as well as sensitive and responsive to the needs of women and girls. Section 160 of National Penal Code, 2017 criminalizes all forms of discrimination based on caste, gender, religion, physical characteristics and the like. Six important Acts have been enacted in the last five years related with Sexual Harassment at Workplace (Prevention) Act, 2015, Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Rights Act, 2018, Witchcraft Allegation (Offense and Punishment) Act 2016, Victims of Crimes Protection Act, 2018, Children Act, 2018 and Labor Act, 2017 which are intended to protect the rights of women in humanitarian ground and also aligning with the international laws related to human rights.

28.2.2 Strengthened capacity of security sector institutions: The implementation of NAP I (on UNSCR 1325 and 1820) immensely helped sensitize the security agencies and personnel. Personnel of Nepal Police (NP), Armed Police Force (APF) and Nepal Army (NA) were sensitized on the cases of women's human rights violations. The NA introduced the provision of 20 percent quota to women in future recruitment; provided training to all security personnel going to peace keeping missions abroad; issued the Gender Code of Conduct Guidelines (2013) spelling out proper conduct and procedures for addressing complaints of harassment and gender based violence at workplace; and Women Recruitment Guidelines, 2012. The NP also made the provision of 20 percent quota for women; developed Gender Policy (2012); Code of Conduct Against Gender-based Violence (2012); revised Police Regulations for appropriate adjustments in view of increased women police force; and carried out regular orientation program on UNSCR 1325 and 1820. Similar provisions of quota, training and adjustments were also made by the Armed Police Force. The NP provided training to a good number of officers on WPS issues and expanded Women Children Service Cells (WCSCs) to 246 locations in the country. These cells look after cases of human rights violations in all forms including rape or attempt to rape, marital rape, incest, domestic violence (physical, mental, and sexual) exploitation of children; polygamy and child marriage, untouchability, witch-hunting, illegal abortion and human trafficking among others. This has made the Police service more friendly and accessible to women and girls.

28.2.3 Measures taken to combat trafficking in women and children: The Human Trafficking and Transportation Control Act, 2007 provides for stringent measures towards eliminating the cases of human trafficking. GoN has launched various programmes

against human trafficking in coordination with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). A fund for rehabilitation of survivors has been established in each district, and rehabilitation homes/centres have been established in eight districts for the survivors/victims. Investigation procedures for human trafficking have been incorporated in the training curricula of Nepal Police. Police personnel, prosecutors and judges have been receiving regular training to receive updates on investigation procedures of human trafficking cases through Nepal Police Academy and Judicial Academy respectively. National Minimum Standards for Victim Protection and the SOPs for Shelter Homes for trafficking survivors are being implemented for ensuring adequate protection, assistance and provision of safe homes. As a collaborative effort, Nepal is implementing a Combating Trafficking in Persons (CTIP) program for sometimes now to prevent trafficking, protect survivors and prosecute human traffickers. MoWCSC has established separate dedicated fund for victims of trafficking used for the rescue, relief and rehabilitation of the victims. The Child Emergency Fund is available to girls and boys at risk.

28.2.3.1 GoN has established various service mechanisms to provide services and support to victims of GBV that include victims from trafficking: GoN has been implementing National Plan of Action on Anti-human Trafficking (2012-2022). The Plan of Action focuses on 4 strategic areas: i) prevention, ii) protection, iii) prosecution, and iv) capacity building. Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs (MoLJPA) has constituted a Legal Aid *Centre* that provides legal aid in all the districts throughout the country. At district level, such aid is provided through District Legal Aid Committees. Nepal Bar Association has also established legal aid service units at district level as extended arms of District Bar Chapters. MoLJPA has also conducted Legal Awareness Programs at different intervals in which civil society organizations have also contributed. There are 36 Safe Houses, 10 Rehabilitation Centres for Victim of Trafficking, and one Long Term Rehabilitation Centre. GoN has established hospital based one stop Crisis Management Centre (OCMC) in 46 districts to the victims of GBV including trafficking. Police and the courts are becoming more responsive to the women's issues and problems. Supreme Court has given many seminal verdicts in cases related to women's rights one of them is for fast track court process for the cases of trafficking.

29. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to eliminate discrimination against and violations of the rights of the girl child?

Please provide details of up to three concrete examples of measures taken, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)

- Taken measures to combat negative social norms and practices and increased awareness of the needs and potential of girl children
- Strengthened girls' access to quality education, skills development and training

- Tackled disadvantages in health outcomes due to malnutrition, early childbearing (e.g. anemia) and exposure to HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases
- Implemented policies and programmes to reduce and eradicate child, early and forced marriage
- Implemented policies and programmes to eliminate violence against girls, including physical and sexual violence and harmful practices
- Implemented policies and programmes to eradicate child labour and excessive levels of unpaid care and domestic work undertaken by girl children
- Other

29.1 The GoN is making every effort to protect the rights of girl child: The Constitution of Nepal has many provisions for ensuring right of children in 10 different clauses under Article 39. According to Article 39 every child has the right to name, birth registration and identity; the right to education, health, maintenance, proper care, sports, entertainment for overall personality development; the right to elementary child development and child participation. No one can employ a child to work in any factory, mine or similar other hazardous work. It prohibits child marriage, trafficking, abduction, kidnapping or taking on hostage. No child can be recruited or used in army, police or any armed group or subjected to abuse, exclusion or physical, mental, sexual or other form of exploitation. No child can be subjected to physical, mental or any other form of torture at home, school or other places. It provides every child with the right to juvenile friendly justice and ensures special protection and facilities to children who are helpless, orphan, disabled, conflict victim, displaced or vulnerable. Any act contrary to clauses (4), (5), (6) and (7) shall be punishable by law, and a child victim has the right to obtain compensation from the perpetrator. Similarly, Article 18 makes all children equally rightful to inheritance while Article 43 makes provision of social security. Article 51 calls for the abolition of child labor.

29.1.1 There are over 40 Acts, Regulations, Orders, Directives and Guidelines meant to implement the constitutionally guaranteed rights of children including Children's Act, 2018.^{xxiii} Children's Act, 2018 has significantly reformed existing laws relating to children. Elaborate institutional structures have been developed from the central to the local levels to provide child related services and facilities.^{xxiv} Two Toll Free Child Helplines 104 and 1098 have been established with national coverage. Child Correction Homes are established. In addition, Village Child Protection Committees (VCPCs) and sub-committees and child clubs are also functioning for child protection. The NHRC also receives cases of child rights violations including corporal punishment in schools. GoN has already implemented two 10- year National Plan of Actions for Children from 1990s to 2014, and is in the process of preparation of new NPA III. Several other sectoral and crosscutting national plan of actions related to education, health, adolescents, human rights, human trafficking are being implemented simultaneously. The GoN has been implementing National Child Policy since 2012 which aims at protecting children from all forms of physical and mental violence, abuse, abandonment, neglect, exploitation and sexual abuses among others.

29.1.2 The Fourteenth periodic plan (2016-2019) pledges to create a conducive environment to ensure the rights of children and adolescents. It aims among others to a) protect and promote rights of children and adolescents; b) end all types of discrimination, exploitation, violence, negligence, and degrading behavior against children and adolescents. The Approach Paper of 15th Plan envisions a child friendly society where all rights of children are ensured. It integrates the targets and indicators of SDGs including quality education and health, access to safe and green public spaces, and end of all forms of discriminations, exploitations, and abuses against girls and boys. Key strategies are: reducing child mortality by making improvements in child health; promoting access to quality ECD services; zero tolerance to violence against girls and boys; protection and security to vulnerable children; elimination of all forms child labor and development of child friendly infrastructure and care provisions.

29.2 Three recent initiatives

29.2.1 National Strategy for Ending Child Marriage, 2016: This strategy aims to end child marriage by 2030. For this purpose, it proposes to: enforce exiting legal provisions effectively and review and amend them if required; integrate appropriate child friendly programs in periodic and annual plans and programs; mobilize children, adolescents and adult men against child marriage; mobilize all stakeholders and collaborate with against child marriage; improve access of at risk children to alternative resources and services; among others. It identifies the following strategic directions: strengthening policy and legislative framework; empowering girl child and adolescents; improving children's access to quality education; engaging children, adolescent and adult men in anti-child marriage campaign; mobilizing family and community; developing and strengthening child and adolescent friendly services (including education, health, legal aid, referral system). It also articulates implementation mechanism and processes from central to district level. It is implemented focusing on the pocket areas where the incidence of child marriage is high. The major focus of this strategy is to protect girls from child marriage and end this bad practice.

29.2.2 Expansion of ECD facilities: Nepal has incorporated 1 year pre-primary education into law and has made it a part of free and compulsory basic education. Accordingly, the GoN has expanded early childhood development facilities. Similarly, institutional schools are also establishing ECD/preprimary classes which amount to about 5000 in number. The number of ECD *centre* is increased by about 35 times in 14 years from 1038 in 2003 to 36,568 in 2016/17. In 2016/17, there were 958,127 children enrolled in ECD out of which 47.20% were girl child.³ During the period of 2014 to 2018, Gross Enrolment Rate (GER) of Girls in ECD/PPCs has increased from 77.3% to 83.7%; Girls' Percentage of new entrance in grade 1 with ECD experience has increased from 60 % to 65.9 %. The UNICEF's global report on pre-primary education, *A World Ready to Learn: Prioritizing Quality Early Childhood Education*, has quoted Nepal among the 'high performers' in the world though Nepal is spending relatively less per child annually (US\$14) at pre-primary level. This expansion of ECD facilities has made positive impact in the life of children. These efforts are protecting the rights of children including girl child.

29.2.3 Multi-sector Nutrition Plan I and II (2013-2017/2018-2022): The MSNPs aim to improve maternal and child nutrition as well as to reduce under-nutrition, in terms of maternal Body Mass Index (BMI) and child stunting, by one third by taking to scale both nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive interventions. One of key principles is to support socially inclusive and gender and child friendly approaches in the design and implementation of its programs. It also intends to implement affirmative action policies in favor of the poor, women, and disadvantaged communities to maximize their participation. Some of its result areas are improvement in maternal, infant, and young child feeding practices through a comprehensive approach. The Plans intend to expand programs to improve maternal, infant, and young child micronutrient status. One of the result areas is enhancement of the status of adolescent girls' parental education, life-skills and nutrition by integration of nutrition with life-skills education. Nutritional support to adolescent girls is combined with de-worming to all. It also has promoted campaigns to increase practices on hand washing with soap at critical times, especially among adolescents, mothers with infants and young children to control diarrheal diseases and ARI episodes.^{xxv} The second phase builds on the first phase and consolidates and furthers its achievements. Immunization of mother and children is a top priority program of the government and Nepal is considered as one of the countries which has been implementing vaccination program successfully and effectively. It is worth mentioning that 97 percent of the population in Nepal has access to vaccination without any discrimination. The government is committed to declare all 77 districts as full vaccination districts. Nepal has been already recognized as polio free country. The estimated budget for the MSNP II is US\$ 470 million (approx) which is spread in 7 sectors namely education, health, agriculture, livestock, drinking water and sanitation, women, children and local governance.

Environmental conservation, protection and rehabilitation

Critical areas of concern:

- I. Human rights of women
- K. Women and the environment
- L. The girl child

30. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to integrate gender perspectives and concerns into environmental policies?

Please provide details of up to three concrete examples of measures taken, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)

- Supported women's participation and leadership in environmental and natural resource management and governance
- Increased women's access to and control over land, water, energy, and other natural resources

- Enhanced women's access to sustainable time- and labour-saving infrastructure (e.g. access to clean water and energy) and climate-smart agricultural technology
- Taken measures to protect and preserve the knowledge and practices of women in indigenous and local communities related to traditional medicines, biodiversity and conservation techniques
- Taken steps to ensure that women benefit equally from decent jobs in the green economy
- Monitored and evaluated the impact of environmental policies and sustainable infrastructure projects on women and girls
- Other

30.1 Women and environment: The BPfA pinpointed three strategic objectives for government action with regards to gender and environment. These include involving women actively in environmental decision-making at all levels; integrating their concerns and perspectives in policies and programs; and establishing ways to assess the impact of development and environmental policies on women. Nepal has been making efforts in all three strategic directions by initiating action measures and seeking out women's expertise and leadership in key environmental decisions. Although the environment portfolio has tended to shift from one ministry to another over the years until the restructuring of Ministry of Forests and Environment in 2018, all agencies responsible to environment have recognized gender as a cross-cutting priority and have tried to place women at the forefront in all environmental protection and sustainable development activities.

30.1.1 Women's greater reliance on natural resources recognized: GoN realizes that as elsewhere, Nepali women are highly dependent on natural resources for securing their livelihoods and carrying out their responsibilities in farms and households. In Nepal women are primarily responsible for farming, fetching drinking water, collecting fuels, and fetching fodder for animals. Accordingly, women are more vulnerable to the impacts of deforestation, forest degradation, climate change and other environmental shocks. In cases of crisis, women's workload increases as it requires more time and efforts to carry out the same duties. Unequal gender relations are manifested as limited access to resources and information, and exclusion from decision making. In the context of ascribed roles and unequal gender relations such extra burden limits their ability to challenge the status quo and cope with the evolving challenges. Accordingly, GoN has been making efforts to involve women actively in environment and climate change related policy/decision making at various levels. Efforts were made to integrate gender concerns and perspectives in policies and programs related to environment and sustainable development.

30.1.2 Gender and environment in sectoral policies: As early as 2005 the GoN had developed manual for addressing gender issues in Environmental Impact Assessment. The Agro-biodiversity Policy, 2014 emphasizes on: special programs for the poor, women and *Dalits*; promotion and use of indigenous knowledge in agriculture retained by women, indigenous people and the poor; and implement sustainable agro-biodiversity

promotion and income-generation programs. Agriculture Mechanization Promotion Policy (2014), identifies and promotes adoption of women and environment-friendly technologies and machines to reduce the drudgery of women's work through agricultural mechanization. The Agriculture Development Strategy (2015-2035) underlines the role of women in management of natural resources in the context of increasingly more severe climate change events. It aims among others to build capacity of women farmers in irrigated agriculture and water resource management. It intends to design programs to improve irrigation and water resources management. In order to meet GESI dimension it calls for a program of capacity building for women farmers on how to build, manage, and maintain irrigation system. It also pledges to encourage farmer organizations, cooperative organizations, and private sector organizations to have women representatives participating in the coordination, monitoring, and decision bodies related to forest and environment. Nepal's National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA), 2010, process recognized that women are more engaged in climate sensitive sectors any adverse climate effects make them vulnerable and included gender as a cross cutting theme. Gender analysis was carried out in across all thematic groups during the preparation of NAPA. This participatory process was further strengthened during the preparation of Local Adaptation Plans of Action (LAPAs) which were to be the basis of the National Plan.

30.2 Recent measures

30.2.1 National Rural and Renewable Energy Programme (NRREP 2012-2017): NRREP was a five years initiative implemented by Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPC) that aimed to improve the living standard of rural women and men, increase employment of women and men as well as productivity, reduce dependency on traditional energy and attain sustainable development through integrating the alternative energy with the socioeconomic activities of women and men in rural communities. Its technical component focused on accelerating renewable energy service delivery with better quality, comprising various technologies, to remote rural households, enterprises and communities, to benefit men and women from all social groups, leading to more equitable economic growth. This is expected to contribute to an increase in income and employment generation potential for micro, small and medium sized enterprises in rural areas, particularly for men and women belonging to socially and economically disadvantaged groups. GESI mainstreaming is done by including it in the development objective, immediate objectives, relevant outputs and activities, indicators and targets as well as in monitoring. It was expected that the GoN will mainstream GESI in the energy sector through providing equal access to and control of renewable energy technologies for increasing contributions to rural women and men towards economic growth.

30.2.2 Forest Sector Strategy (FSS 2016-2025) and National Forest Policy (NFP 2019): The FSS targets the proportionate representation of marginalized section of the society in forestry sector institutions. Under "Capacities, Institutions and Partnerships" theme FSS

(p. 13) clearly mentions proportional representation of women, *Dalits*, ethnic and indigenous people in leadership positions and key decision making bodies. Similarly, "Social Safeguards, Inclusion and Governance" theme of the NFP states discrimination against women in all government, community, cooperatives and private institutions in forestry sector will be eliminated. Moreover, the NFP strategy requires that all the strategies, institutions, laws, budgets, programs, and practices in forestry sector to ensure 50% women with decision making responsibilities.

30.2.3 Community Forestry Development Program (CFDP): Community forestry is another key sector that has promoted leadership and management capacity of rural women that has not only availed opportunity of seasonal employment but also provided services such as health, education and carbon trading which ultimately is contributing to the participation of women in the conservation of environment. The Community Forestry Development Program (CFDP) Guideline, 2014 provisions an affirmative action for women, *Dalits* and marginalized communities. It reserves 50% representation for women and proportional representation of *Dalits*, ethnic and marginalized communities in Executive Committees of Community Forest Users Groups (CFUGs). It also requires committees to provide the position of either President or Secretary to women. Membership of women is mandatory from every household in CFUGs. Participation of women in program appraisal phase to ensure their interests is made compulsory and use of technology to reduce women's workload is emphasized. Decisions of the user groups should be taken through a participatory process giving every member opportunity to express her/his opinions. As of now, there are 22,266 CFUGs in Nepal with a total of 244,000 committee members out of which 90,600 (37%) are women. As the Community Forestry Guidelines require that at least 50% of the committee members to be women, there is scope to increase the number of women in the CFUG committees until it reaches to 50%. The Community Forest User Group Financial Procedure Guidelines, 2016 requires the group to allocate 35% from the total income to programs targeted to the upliftment of women, *Dalit*, and indigenous communities. The user groups also assist poor women, *Dalits* and ethnic people to implement livelihood promotion programs. The recent amendment to Forest Act which is under discussion in the Parliament proposes to use 50% of revenue of Community Forest User Groups for women empowerment, enterprise development and poverty reduction.

31. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to integrate gender perspectives into policies and programmes for disaster risk reduction, climate resilience and mitigation?

Please provide details of up to three concrete examples of measures taken, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)

- Supported women's participation and leadership, including those affected by disasters, in disaster risk reduction, climate resilience and mitigation policies, programmes and projects

- Strengthened the evidence base and raised awareness about the disproportionate vulnerability of women and girls to the impact of environmental degradation and disasters
- Promoted access of women in situations of disaster to services such as relief payments, disaster insurance and compensation
- Introduced or strengthened and implemented gender-responsive laws and policies related to disaster risk reduction, climate resilience and mitigation (e.g. disaster laws addressing vulnerability of women in disaster)

31.1 High exposure to natural disaster and climate events: Globally, Nepal ranks fourth with regards to climate vulnerability. Natural disasters are also endemic in Nepal. Disaster preparedness is always a national priority. The National Strategy for Disaster Risk Management (NSDRM), 2009 outlines the responsibilities of disaster management policymaking, execution, and coordination. National Disaster Response Framework, 2013 provides the basis for the allocation of roles and responsibilities between and among government agencies along with the national coordination mechanisms. GoN recognizes the urgency in addressing climate change concerns and has initiated policy changes and adaptation programs. GoN has been making efforts to enhance the nation's disaster resiliency. The legislative-parliament enacted new Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act, 2017. Its approach to disaster is more comprehensive and it recognizes both risk reduction and management as integral parts of the task. Similarly, instead of committee-based coordination mechanism, the Act has proposed a clear multi-tier institutional structure of DRM (at the national, provincial, district, local/municipal, and the community level). It provides for a Disaster Management Fund at the federal, provincial and local levels. Consistent with the new federal structure of the country, the Act provides for a multi-tier DRRM structure, comprising of the NRA on top, followed by Provincial, District, Local and community-based preparedness and response committees.

31.2 The post-disaster needs assessment (PDNA): The PDNA carried out in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake of 2015 included gender dimension in the need assessment and based on the PDNA gender dimension was integrated in all sectoral policies and programs of individual line ministries as well as National Reconstruction Authority (NRA). The NRA has established a GESI section headed by an Under Secretary (female). It also has adopted a GESI Policy for post-disaster reconstruction. It has among others been building women friendly infrastructure including birthing centres and girls toilets in schools. It is supporting women victims for rebuilding their livelihoods. For this purpose it is providing skill development training, helping them building plastic houses for tunnel farming, distributing improved seeds, and has been organizing women's cooperatives. It has also been encouraging them to take up goat farming, poultry farming, off season vegetables, and similar other livelihood enhancing activities. Apart from that the following initiatives were also taken:

- Immediate investigation, rescue and relief program was effectively implemented;
- Immediate shelter was provided, targeting people at higher risk like women, children, senior citizens and people with disability and were provided with separate

packages; *Lito, Ceralac*, (Nutritious powder food, milk) small clothes for children; nutritious food and sanitary pads were distributed to pregnant and lactating mothers;

- Psychosocial counselling was provided to young girls and boys, women and children at the places where they were concentrated;
- Security system was enhanced to prevent human trafficking;
- Special programs were designed for poor, marginalized and other people who were adversely affected from the after effects of the disaster.

31.3 Local Government Operation Act, 2017: The Act has entrusted local governments (LGs) with a number of DRM responsibilities including the development of Disaster Management Information Systems (DMIS). They can: formulate local policy, law, guideline and implementation; formulate, implement, and monitor local level disaster preparedness and response plan, early warning systems; distribute relief materials and coordinate efforts; carry out river training; landslide control activities; map out disaster risk area and at risk settlements and possibilities for relocation. Similarly, LGs are also to establish and operate Disaster Management Fund and Disaster Management Information Systems. Further, they are expected to conduct research and assessments; develop emergency operation system at local level and operate community-based DRM programs among others. This makes provincial, district and local level authorities responsible for collection of data and maintain gender-disaggregated database on the impact of disasters and responses initiated by the respective levels of LGs.

31.4 Some recent initiatives

31.2.1 National DRR Policy and Action Plan, 2017-2030. Ministry of Home Affairs has initiated the process of formulating National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and Action Plan (NDRRPAP), which will replace the National Strategy on Disaster Risk Management, 2009 (NSDRM). The NSDRM was developed within Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) whereas the NDRRPAP follows the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction priorities. The NDRRPAP envisions to make Nepal a safer and resilient nation by 2030 firmly aligned with the global SFDRR and SDGs targets. It aims to reduce the loss of lives and the population affected by disasters and to enhance resilience of important infrastructures and basic services including livelihoods, agriculture, industry, road, communication, water and sanitation, health and education, in order to reduce their loss and damage by disasters.

31.2.2 Educating people on disaster risk reduction (DRR): The GoN has invested substantial efforts in incorporating disaster risk reduction into school curriculum as well as into education and training materials. The DRR and management concepts have been incorporated into schools, universities, and other training curricula. Some of the achievements include: secondary level disaster risk reduction reference materials have been prepared together with teacher orientation packages which have been used by teachers. Nepal has also developed university level disaster management courses and has integrated into various university programs such as engineering, geology, glaciology, and public health. It has also incorporated DRM into the Local Development Training Academy, Nepal Administrative Staff College, Nepal Army, Armed Police and Nepal

Police training courses. The MoEST has been implementing the school disaster preparedness program at some schools along with the establishment of school disaster library and disaster committees. School level disaster preparedness plans specific to Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) are developed and DRR/WASH training provided. Nepal has several different government organizations, NGOs, and community based organizations (CBOs) conducting different DRM trainings to educate the community.

31.2.3 Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC, 2017), Nepal National REDD+ Strategy (2018), Emission Reduction Program Document (2018): Nepal has ratified Paris Agreement and subsequently submitted NDC to UNFCCC. The NDC proposes key interventions in climate change mitigation through community forestry while switching to electric transportation and green growth. These climate mitigation targets have gender component integrated. Similarly, Nepal endorsed National REDD+ Strategy in 2018. It is the key document that aims at achieving climate mitigation through forestry sector. It mainly relies on community based forestry, which targets to include 50% women in leadership position in local institutions such as Community Forestry User Groups. Nepal's Emission Reduction Program Document (ERPD), also accepted by Carbon Fund of the World Bank, aims at reducing emission from deforestation and forest degradation and promoting sustainable forest management. The ERPD has seven interventions with gender component integrated in each of them. Overall, these interventions target to enhance women's leadership, participation in decision making, and sharing REDD+ benefits.

Section Three: National institutions and processes

32. What is your country's current national machinery for gender equality and the empowerment of women? Please name it and describe its location within Government.

32.1 Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizen: In 1995 immediately after the Beijing Conference, the GoN established Ministry of Women and Social Welfare as a dedicated national machinery for the advancement of women. In 2001 the portfolio of Children was also included and it was renamed as Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare (MoWCSW). In the federalized context, now it has been renamed as Ministry of Women Children and Senior Citizen (MOWCSC) as many of the local level functions have been devolved to LGs. The MoWCSC is responsible for formulating policies, plans, strategies and programs for gender equality and women's empowerment at the federal level. It is also made responsible for ensuring that other ministries and sectors are also mainstreaming gender in their respective sector policies, plans, and programs. It is ensured through direct advocacy as well as by mobilizing gender focal persons in different organizations. There are other organizations:

- National Women Commission: The NWC is another important organization with constitutional status that is dedicated to the protection and promotion of women's human rights.

- Department of Women and Children is responsible for implementing all annual as well as periodic programs meant for women and girls.
- At provincial level ministry of social development works as the focal agency for women and children.
- At district level there used to be DWCO. However, in the process of federal restructuring of state these offices have been dissolved. In the new set up local governments are expected to organize gender units on their own. However, MoWCSC would be supporting them in capacity building.

32.2 National Women Commission (NWC): NWC is a constitutional body to protect human rights of women and girls and foster women mainstreaming. With the establishment of 24-hour helpline in NWC, complaint mechanism has been strengthened significantly. In the federal context GoN feels it necessary to strengthen mechanisms at provincial and local levels. With the establishment of NWC, it is expected that NWC will come with concrete research and facts to the concerned authorities, so that they can function their responsibilities to establish women and girls rights and end all forms of discrimination prevailed in the society.

33. Is the head of the national machinery a member of the institutional process for SDG implementation (e.g. inter-ministerial coordinating office, commission or committees)?

YES/NO

If YES, please provide further information

33.1 The National Planning Commission (NPC) is the apex body to coordinate SDGs in Nepal. It makes sure that SDGs are well mainstreamed in national and sectoral policies, plans and programs. It is also expected to monitor the progress and support provinces and local levels for the localization of SDGs. There is a High-Level SDG Steering Committee headed by the Prime Minister with NPC secretary as member-secretary. Apart from designated members of the committee, there is a provision to invite members from private and cooperative sectors, NGOs, civil society, media, among others. The committee provides policy directives, works to create a conducive policy environment, and builds partnerships for achieving the SDGs. A coordination and Implementation Committee is formed under the Vice Chair of NPC and NPC member looking after macroeconomic affairs as joint coordinator. The committee is responsible for guiding line agencies on mainstreaming the SDGs into national, provincial and local plans and mobilizing financial, human and technical resources. It prepares periodic national SDG reports to present to the United Nations and other institutions. Other 9 SDG Implementation and Monitoring Thematic Committees are formed under the leadership of the related NPC members for economic development; industrial development; urban development; social development; labour and employment; agriculture, climate change and environment; infrastructure development; energy development; and governance. The members of these committees include the secretaries or joint secretaries of concerned ministries and invitees from the private

sector, civil society and development partners. The concerned NPC joint secretaries or program directors are member secretaries. These committees help prepare SDG related plans, policies, programs, budget implementation, and monitoring and evaluation plans for sectors.

33.2 According to this arrangement the secretary of MoWCSC as a member of thematic committee on social development headed by the member of NPC responsible for social sector development. In SDG, United Nations System and private sector representative are formally the regular part of national mechanism. For the rest the national coordination mechanism for the SDG also does not specify the organizations (including their types) and numbers that will participate in the national coordination mechanism. However, it states that representatives from different organizations can participate as invitees even if they are not regular members of the mechanism.

34. Are there formal mechanisms in place for different stakeholders to participate in the implementation and monitoring of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?

YES/NO

If YES,

- **Which of the following stakeholders participate formally in national coordination mechanisms established to contribute to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?**

Beijing Declaration and BPfA

- Civil society organizations
- Women’s rights organizations
- Academia and think tanks
- Faith-based organizations
- Parliaments/parliamentary committees
- Private sector
- United Nations system
- Other actors, please specify.....

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

- Civil society organizations
- Women’s rights organizations
- Academia and think tanks
- Faith-based organizations
- Parliaments/parliamentary committees

- Private sector
- United Nations system
- Other actors, please specify....

34.1 MoWCSC as a focal agency leading the implementation of the Declaration has developed a practice to bring all stakeholders together at different intervals. It relies on consultative and participatory process and seeks inputs and advises from all concerned stakeholders as and when felt necessary. It has developed a committee of eminent experts which provides advice and inputs on various topical issues from time to time. It has several thematic committees represented by cross section of intellectuals, professionals and representatives from various GOs, development partners, NGOs and civil societies. MOWCSC organizes consultations at national, provincial and local levels as and when required. It also forms core team of senior officials at different intervals to analyze the situation and develop strategies when needed.

34.2 Accordingly, the MoWCSC works as coordinator and is free to invite any relevant organization/s on individual or collective basis. During preparation of periodic progress report it carries out consultation with cross section of stakeholders. The MoWCSC has different thematic committees headed by senior officials. Through these committees they are always in touch with the representatives of all groups identified above including parliamentarians, academia, think tanks, and private sector.

- **Do you have mechanisms in place to ensure that women and girls from marginalized groups can participate and that their concerns are reflected in these processes?**

YES/NO

Please provide further details about the mechanisms used. (2 pages max.)

34.3 MoWCSC as a national focal agency of women and children has established the practice of ensuring their participation in formulating relevant policies, plans as well as in producing progress reports. Two plan of actions (phase I and phase II) for the implementation of Beijing Declaration and PfA were prepared in consultation with the key stakeholders. Central Child Welfare Broad (CCWB) has been so far the channel through which it brings in the voices of children in policies and plans pertaining to them. The CCWB in turn selects the representative through its wide network of child clubs. As child participation is one of the four key rights of children as spelt out by CRC the Ministry has always respected their rights to participate both in planning, evaluation and reporting processes. The CCWB ensures that the child participants represent all social groups and classes particularly the most vulnerable and at risk children. Similarly, the MoWCSC has always consulted and interacted with women representing different class and social groups during its planning and evaluation process. It is not only in the case of PfA but in general. It uses the channel of beneficiaries of WDP through Department of Women and Children as well as many human rights organizations and

women's rights organizations in the civil society who are often in touch with marginalized women and girls.

34.4 Moreover, the NPC also always carries out consultation during planning, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programs. During planning it often goes down to the regional, district and in some case to the local levels to organize consultation workshops. It also forms thematic committees and brings in the impressions and ideas of cross section of people including the children and women. In this process ideas and inputs from representatives of private sector, academia, and development partners to marginalized communities are solicited.

- **Please describe how stakeholders have contributed to the preparation of the present national report.**

34.5 Apart from desk review, information and inputs for this review were collected in three stages using three channels. First, was individual interview with key informants from different agencies responsible for planning, monitoring and evaluation of 12 identified sectors. Secondly, preliminary draft was shared with different agencies and group of the eminent experts established by the MoWCSC for comments and inputs. In some cases, commentators were also consulted in person for further discussions and clarifications. Finally, the report was shared in a national consultation which was represented by all key stakeholders representing 12 critical areas of action as identified by BPfA.

35. Is gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls included as a key priority in the national plan/strategy for SDG implementation?

- Yes,
- No
- There is no national plan/strategy for SDG implementation
Please explain.

35.1 Since the decade of 1990s gender mainstreaming has remained a constant cross cutting theme in national planning and monitoring as a matter of priority. The establishment of GFP in all ministries and departments was the result of this priority. Not only in national plans a separate chapter on gender mainstreaming was included but other sectoral plans also were not complete unless they were analysed through gender lens. There may have been deficits in terms of skills, expertise, and implementation, but not in terms of commitment. During MDGs era gender targets were almost achieved in education and health sectors because they were made integral part of national and sectoral plans and strategies. They were also integrated in the national monitoring framework. The GoN is adopting the same approach for the SDGs as well. Even before the SDGs were formally adopted, the NPC had carried out the preliminary analysis of the Nepal's situation to establish benchmarks in all 16 goals as one goal does not seem very relevant to Nepal. The Fourteenth Plan was also made consistent with SDGs. In 2017, NPC developed Sustainable Goals Status and Roadmap: 2016-2030. It contextualizes

SDG targets and indicators for Nepal and provides benchmarks for most of them. For SDG 5 it defines 18 indicators. Apart from that gender indicators are defined across all sectors (Please refer to Annex). It also tries to provide timeline for specific outputs. The approach paper of upcoming Fifteenth Plan has fully internalized SDGs across all sectors.

Section Four: Data and statistics

36. What are the top three areas in which your country has made most progress over the past five years when it comes to gender statistics at the national level?

(Please provide details of up to three concrete examples of measures taken, including aims and scope of measures taken, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)

- Promulgated laws, regulations, or statistical programme/strategy setting out the development of gender statistics
- Established an inter-agency coordination mechanism on gender statistics (e.g., technical working group, inter-agency committee)
- Used more gender-sensitive data in the formulation of policy and implementation of programmes and projects
- Re-processed existing data (e.g., censuses and surveys) to produce more disaggregated and/or new gender statistics
- Conducted new surveys to produce national baseline information on specialized topics (e.g., time use, gender-based violence, asset ownership, poverty, disability)
- Improved administrative-based or alternative data sources to address gender data gaps
- Produced knowledge products on gender statistics (e.g., user-friendly reports, policy briefs, research papers)
- Developed a centralized web-based database and/or dashboard on gender statistics
- Engaged in capacity building to strengthen the use of gender statistics (e.g., trainings, statistical appreciation seminars)
- Other

36.1 Development of Sectoral MIS: Over the years GoN has developed management information system (MIS) for the key sectors. In education sector, there are two MIS for school education (EMIS) and higher education (HEMIS) maintained by Department of Education and University Grant Commission. Together, the two MISs provide updated largely gender-disaggregated information on overall enrolments at various levels, performance of students across various subjects, completion rates at various levels, availability and quality of teachers, and the provision of scholarships at higher levels of education. Of late MoEST has begun to publish yearly data for TVET sector as well mostly gender-disaggregated.

36.1.1 In health sector, NDHS and HMIS together provide entire data series necessary to monitor SDG3's indicators and even some of the indicators of SDG 1 and SDG 2 including those requiring gender disaggregation. Certain aspects of health like food and nutrition, access to health facilities and expenditure on health care are covered by the NLSS as well. Department National ID and Civil Registration (DoNIDCR) maintains the Vital Events Registration and Social Protection Management Information System (VERSPMIS). DoWC maintains Women and Child Development Management Information System. Department of Water Supply and Sewerage maintains data on water and sanitation sector (WATSAN). Department of Cottage and Small Industry's MIS provides small and cottage industry sub-sector data. The Tourism Management Information system (TMIS) collects, processes and provides information on tourism activities. The web-based Environment Management Information System under DoEn provides information on environmental indicators. A NDRR portal under the MoHA provides information on casualties and losses caused by disasters. The LMIS under the DoL provides data on labor market and the skill make-up of the population. The ICT based Agriculture Management Information System collects and provides data on agriculture, weather, and climate. The NPC has developed a web based PPIS with information on project performance from across the sectors. NPC also houses Nepal Nutrition and Food Security Portal. Most of these data sources provide gender disaggregated data.

36.2 Development and approval of NSDS: GoN has developed and approved a National Statistics Development Strategy (NSDS) which aims to improve and modernize the system of data collection and dissemination by the CBS and other organizations within the national statistical system. The NSDS is aligned with SDG Roadmap and is expected to cater all data needs for SDG monitoring. The NSDS is a global initiative of PARIS21 to strengthen national statistical system (NSS). PARIS21 calls all low-income and lower middle-income countries to design, implement, and monitor NSDSs with short, medium and long-term goals for their NSSs. The NSDS provides a comprehensive and unified framework to assess data needs of the users and build capacity to cater those needs. The NSDS was prepared by CBS based on the inputs received from different stakeholders. The NSDS emphasizes the need so as to cater the needs of national and international users in terms of data quality and quantity; for better alignment with international classification, formats and standards; for maintenance of an integrated data base of indicators; for improved statistical infrastructure; and for improved capacity of the system to deliver a range of services. In sum, it is prepared keeping in view of all national and international reporting needs.

36.3 New Surveys and Census:GoN has embarked upon new surveys and censuses in the last five years and can be expected to undertake more to meet the new data needs. Censuses like NPHC and individual and household surveys like NLSS, MICS, NDHS, and Annual Household Surveys have been the regular features of national statistical system (NSS) for long. These also include information on women's ownership of assets, education and qualification of mothers and time use not only in a working space but also within household premises. New census and surveys have been undertaken by CBS and other actors in NSS. One such census was the first ever Economic Census, 2018 carried out by CBS. The Ministry of Law Justice and Parliamentary Affairs conducted Crime Survey and the Nepal Administrative Staff College undertook Governance Survey

(2018). Similarly, CBS has carried out environmental survey (2016). These censuses and surveys have generated data in new areas catering for gender specific data needs.

37. Out of the following which are your country's top three priorities for strengthening national gender statistics over the next five years?

Please provide a brief explanation and examples of your plans (2 pages max.).

- Use more gender-sensitive data in the formulation of policy and implementation of programmes and projects
- Conduct of new surveys to produce national baseline information on specialized topics (e.g., time use, gender-based violence, asset ownership, poverty, disability)
- Greater utilization and/or improvement of administrative-based or alternative data sources to address gender data gaps

37.1 Use of more gender-sensitive data in the formulation of policy and implementation of programs and projects: In most of the areas the NSS has started generating gender-disaggregated data already. The challenge now is to use them for evidence-based policy making and programming. The deeper engagement with data and their use in informing policy decisions will also help identify areas where the gap remains. GoN has already embarked upon evidence-based policymaking. In future it will be processing, analyzing and using data from both sources, i.e. censuses/surveys as well as regular MIS of different sectors. By doing so, the GoN expects to make greater impact in the life of women and girls through its interventions.

37.2 Greater utilization and/or improvement of administrative data to address gender data gaps: From the past experience, it seems that there is more scope to generate more gender disaggregated robust data from already available sectoral management information systems. There is also possibility to establish MIS in new sectors where they do not exist now. The sectoral MIS can generate a wide range of disaggregated data through regular administrative process which GoN has been already using for making policy decisions. Similarly, sectoral ministries and departments also appear to be relying more on their own MIS. The benefit of administrative sources is that they get regularly updated and new data formats can be easily adjusted. With little efforts made to improve the integrity of the process these data can be even more useful.

37.3 Conduct new surveys: GoN will conduct new surveys where data gaps are apparent. For example, During, 15th Plan National Time Use Survey is expected to take place to measure the extent of women's care work. Many of the data needs will inform the ongoing design of NPHC that is to take place in 2021. GoN will sponsor survey in any new areas wherever felt necessary.

38. Have you defined a national set of indicators for monitoring progress on the SDGs?

Yes: No

If YES, how many indicators does it include and how many of those are gender-specific^{xxvi}

If YES, how many of the gender-specific indicators are additional country indicators (i.e., not part of the global SDG monitoring and indicator framework)?

38.1 NPC has defined altogether 430 indicators for 126 SDG targets. Sustainable Development Goals Status and Roadmap: 2016 – 2030 was an important task accomplished by NPC. It was realized that all the global SDG targets and indicators are not fully applicable to Nepal's conditions and in some aspects they also do not fully capture the country's specific SDG related issues. In the first phase, NPC had defined 425 indicators out of whom 10 were repeating. The NPC after mapping the situation and SDG data requirements, at the end of 2017, found large data gaps for monitoring the targets. Out of 425 indicators, data for only 249 indicators are regularly or intermittently available whereas the data for 76 indicators are partially available and data for 100 indicators are not available at all.^{xxvii} Nevertheless, the recent progress is that NPC has added 5 other indicators after the roadmap was prepared. It also indicates that the number of indicators can change over time. This is exclusive of the global indicators to be jointly monitored at the national and global levels. The indicators contained in this report are mainly derived from the Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators agreed upon at the UN Statistical Commission in March 2017.^{xxviii} The GoN has included 18 indicators for Goal 5. The GoN has also included gender specific indicators in all sectors wherever felt relevant and necessary. Please refer to annex 1.

If NO, how many global gender-specific SDG indicators (list provided in Annex 1) are available in your country?

Please refer to annex 1.

No

If YES, please describe which indicators have been prioritized

39.1 The indicators are prepared so far. Nevertheless, these are not yet prioritized . With regards to the indicators Please refer to Annex 1.

If NO, explain the main challenges for collecting and compiling data on these indicators

40. Which of the following disaggregations^{xxix} is routinely provided by major surveys in your country?

Geographic location

Income

sex

Age

Education

Marital status

- Race/ethnicity
- Migratory status
- 70 Disability
- Other characteristics relevant in national contexts

Most of the MIS as well as new Census/Surveys tend to generate gender disaggregated data. The NPHC produces by far the most inclusive datasets. All of the elements mentioned above are included in it. Education sector EMIS also generates all the categories of data except migratory status. Nepal Labor Force Survey and NLSS also almost covers all these characteristics. HMIS also generates most of the data. Where they are not covered now, they will be taken care of in the next cycle of surveys.* * *

Annex 1: List of Gender Specific Indicators in SDG Roadmap (Goal 5)

- % ever married women aged 15-49 years who ever experienced physical or sexual violence
- Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in union before 18
- Women aged 15-19 years who are married or in union
- Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in union before age 15
- Ratio of women to men participation in labor force (%)
- Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work (%)
- Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work by male
- Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work by female
- Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work by age 0-18
- Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work by age 19-64
- Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work by 65 and above
- Proportion of women age 15-49 years who make their own informed decision regarding contraceptive use
- Women's ownership of property (land)
- Women's ownership of property (house)
- Women's ownership of property (land and house) in a household
- Proportion of women age 15-49 who own mobile phone
- Proportion of men age 15-49 who own mobile phone
- Proportion of men age 15-49 years who own mobile telephone

Annex: 2 List of Other Key Gender Specific Indicators (in SDG Roadmap) across Other SDGs

- Women of all ages below national poverty line
- Prevalence of amenia among women of reproductive age
- Average income of small scale food producer by female
- Percentage of birth attended by skilled health personnel
- Proportion of women of reproductive age (15-49 years) who have their needs for family planning satisfied through modern methods
- TFR (birth per women aged 15-49 years)
- % of women having 4 ANC visits as per protocol
- % of institutional delivery
- Women of all ages below national poverty line
- Prevalence of amenia among women of reproductive age
- Average income of small scale food producer by female
- Percentage of birth attended by skilled health personnel
- Proportion of women of reproductive age (15-49 years) who have their needs for family planning satisfied through modern methods
- TFR (birth per women aged 15-49 years)
- % of women having 4 ANC visits as per protocol
- % of institutional delivery
- % of women attending 3 PNC as per protocol
- % of women aged 15 years and above with raised blood pressure who are currently taking medication
- Gender parity index (Primary School)
- Gender parity index (lower secondary level)
- Literacy rate women (15-24%)
- Literacy rate women (15-49)
- % of ever married women aged 15-49 year who ever experienced physical and sexual violence
- Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or were in union before age

- Women aged 15-19 years who are married or in union
- Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in union before age 15
- Ratio of women to men participation in labor force (%)
- Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic care work female
- Proportion of women aged 15-49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding contraceptive use
- Women's ownership of property (land)
- Women's ownership of property (house)
- Women's ownership of property (land and house) in a household
- Proportion of women aged 15-49 years who own mobile-phone
- Households with access to piped water supply (%)
- Households that use improved sanitation facilities which are not shared (%)
- Households using clean fuels and technology as primary source of energy for cooking (%)
- Households using LPG for cooking (%)
- Households using solid fuel as primary source of energy for cooking
- Proportion of informal employment in non-agriculture sector female (%)
- Total number of children aged 5-17 years age engaged in child labor female
- Proportion of children aged 5-17 years age engaged in child labor female
- Proportion of women 15-49 who experienced sexual violence

Annex III. Progress across some of the key indicators since 1995 (data in round figures)

S.N.	Indicators	1996	2011	2016
1	Poverty rate	42	25	19 (2019)
2	Multi-dimensional poverty	-	39	29 (2019)
3	Delivered in Health Facility (%)	8	35	57
4	Had 4 + ANC Visits (%)	14	29	69
5	Total Fertility Rate	4.6	2.6	2.3
6	Proportion of never married young women 15-19 years (%)	56	71	73
7	Under 5 mortality rate(in 1000 live births)	118	54	39
8	Infant mortality rate (in 1000 live births)	78	46	32
9	Neonatal mortality rate(in 1000 live births)	50	33	21
10	Maternal mortality ratio per 100000 live births	539	281 (2006)	239
11	Children 12-23 months receiving all basic vaccine (%)	43	87	78
12	Gender Development Index	0.312	-	0.912
13	Spousal physical, sexual, or emotional violence	-	32	26
14	Contraceptive currently used any method	28.5	49.7	53
15	Never married women 15-49 years (%)	17	21	21
16	Proportion of women parliamentarians (%)	-	33	33 (2017)
17	Women engaged in agriculture (%)	-	75	70
18	Women engaged in professional	-	4	6

	/technical/managerial work (%)			
19	Percentage of women owing land and property	-	20	28
20	Women with secondary or higher level of education (%)	-	29	35
21	Median number of years of schooling among women of 15-25 years	-	3	5
22	Households having access to improved water sources (%)	-	89	95
23	Households using improved sanitation facilities (%)	-	29	35
24	Proportion of directly gender responsive budget (%)	-	18	37
25	Annual budget of MoWCSC in NPRs	15,109,000/-	1,213,255,000/-	2,057,148,323/-

Annex IV . Some of the indicators of the selected countries, 2017

Indicators	USA	China	Niger	S. Korea	India	Nepal	Pakistan	Srilanka	Bhutan
Total Fertility Rate	1.8	1.8	7.2	1.1	2.3	2.3	3.1	2.1	2.1
Life Expectancy at Birth Male	76	75	59	79	67	70	66	72	70
Life Expectancy at Birth Female	81	78	61	85	70	71	68	79	70
Infant Mortality Rate	5.6	10	60	2.8	34	32	66	7	26
Contraceptive Prevalence Rate Modern Method	63	84	18	-	48	43	26	51	65
Contraceptive Prevalence	73	85	19	80	54	53	35	62	66

Rate All Method									
HIV AIDS Prevalence Rate Male	-	-	-	-	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2
HIV AIDS Prevalence Rate Female	-	-	-	-	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
Employment in agriculture ,female % in 2017	1	24	71	-	57	80	73	29	65
Employment in agriculture ,female % in 1991	1	57	73	-	76	90	73	44	80

Annex V: List of major policies and legislations introduced/amended since 1995 contributing to gender equality and women's empowerment

Laws

Local Level Election Act, 2017

Local Government (Operation) Act, 2017

Victims of Crimes Protection Act, 2018

Contribution-based Social Security Act, 2017

Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Right Act, 2018

The National Civil Code Act, 2017

The Civil Procedure Code Act, 2017,

The Panel Code Act, 2017,

The Panel Procedure Code Act, 2017

National Women's Commission Act, 2017

Tharu Commission Act, 2017

Indigenous Nationalities Commission Act, 2017

The Children Act, 2018

Compulsory and Free Education Act, 2018

Gunasosunuwai Karyabidhi in Schools (Complaint Hearing Procedure) 2017

Labor Act, 2017, and Labour Regulations 2018

Public Health Act, 2018

The Immunization Act, 2016

The Sexual Harassment at Workplace (Prevention) Act, 2015

Witchcraft-related Accusation (Crime and Punishment) Act, 2015

Human Trafficking and Transportation Control Act 2007

Right to Employment Act, 2018 and Regulations, 2018

Caste Based Discrimination and Untouchability (Offence and Punishment) Act, 2011

National Minimum Standards for Victim Protection

Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act, 2017

Enforced Disappearances Enquiry, Truth and Reconciliation Commission Act, 2014

Domestic Violence (Offence and Punishment) Act, 2009 and the Domestic Violence (Offence and Punishment) Regulation, 2010

Gender Equality Act, 2006

Policies, Plans and Programs

Organizational GESI Policies and Action Plans of all line ministries, departments and organizations including Nepal Army and Nepal Police

Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Implementation Action Plan (2016-2020)

School Sector Reform Plan (SSRP-2009/15)

School Sector Development Plan (SSDP 2016-2023)

Consolidated equity strategy, 2014 (education),

Inclusive Education Policy for Disabled Children, 2016,

ICT in Education Master Plan 2013-2017

Higher Education Policy 2017,

Nepal EFA National Plan of Action (2001-2015)

Secondary Education Support Program (2003-2008),

Community School Support Project (2003-2008),

Teacher Education Project (TEP, 2002-2007)

Pro-poor targeted Scholarship Procedures, 2017,

Comprehensive School Safety implementation Procedures 2018,

Policy Paper on Literate Nepal 2019

Comprehensive School Safety Master Plan

TEVT Policy, 2012

National Action Plan (NAP I) on UNSCR 1325 and 1820 (2011-2016)

Integrated Platform for Gender-based Violence Prevention and Response (IPGBVPR) Project 2016

Sex- and Gender-based Violence and Gender Empowerment Strategy and Work Plan (2012/13-2016/17)

Strategy and Operational Guidelines for Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Mainstreaming in the Health Sector (2013)

Nepal Health Sector Plan — Implementation Plan — II (2010-15)

National Health Policy-2014

Nepal Health Sector Strategy, 2015-2020

National Neonatal Health Strategy in 2004

Community Based Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (CB-IMNCI) Program

Every Newborn Action Plan

Safe Motherhood Program

Multi-Sector Nutritional Plan (MSNP I 2013-2017)

Gender Responsive Budget Initiative (GRBI) in 2008.

Multi-Sector Nutritional Plan (MSNP II, 2018-22)

HIV Investment Plan 2014-2016

National Malaria Strategic Plan (NMSP) 2014- 2025

Public Health Insurance Plan, 2016

Women Development Program

President Women's Upliftment Program

National Plan of Action on Anti-human Trafficking (2012-2022)

Combating Trafficking in Persons (CTIP) Program

National Strategy to End Child Marriage, 2016

National Plan of Action against Child Bonded Labour, 2009.

Prime Minister Employment Program, 2018.

National Country Program on Decent Work

Information Technology Policy 2011

Mass Media Policy, 2017

ICT Master Plan, 2015

Nepal Army Gender Code of Conduct Guidelines (2013)

Nepal Army Women Recruitment Guidelines, 2012

Nepal Police Gender Policy (2012)

Nepal Police Code of Conduct Against Gender-based Violence (2012)

National Plan of Action for Children, 2004-2014

National Adolescent Health and Development Strategy, 2000 (DoH)

National Child Policy, 2012

The Agro-biodiversity Policy, 2014

Agriculture Development Strategy (2015-2035)

Agriculture Mechanization Promotion Policy (2014)

National Trust for Natural Conservation GESI Policy (2017)

Nepal's National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA), 2010

National Rural and Renewable Energy Program (NRREP 2012-2017)

Forest Sector Strategy (2016-2025)

National Forest Policy (2019)

Community Forestry Development Program (CFDP)

Community Forestry Development Program (CFDP) Guidelines 2014

Community Forest User Group Financial Procedure Guidelines, 2016

National Strategy for Disaster Risk Management (NSDRM) 2009

National Disaster Response Framework, 2013

Nationally Determined Contribution (2017),

Nepal National REDD+ Strategy (2018),

Emission Reduction Program Document (2018)

Endnotes

- ⁱNPC. 2015. Nepal Earthquake 2015: Post Disaster Needs Assessment. Kathmandu: National Planning Commission.
- ⁱⁱNPC. 2017. *The Fourteenth Plan (2016/17-2018/19)*. Kathmandu: National Planning Commission. Also, NPC.2018.NPC. (2017). *Nepal Sustainable Development Goals: Status and Roadmap 2016-2030*. Kathmandu: National Planning Commission.
- ⁱⁱⁱMOE. 2015. *Higher Education Policy, 2072*. Kathmandu: Ministry of Education.
- ^{iv} One of the major outcome areas of the SSRP was the improvement of access. The SSDP though does not include access in the main outcome areas, its emphasis on access remains evident.
- ^vNPC. 2019. *15th Plan Approach Paper draft*. Kathmandu: National Planning Commission. Available at: https://www.npc.gov.np/images/category/15th_Plan_Approach_Paper_Draft.pdf
- ^{vi}DoE. 2018. Flash Report. Department of Education.
- ^{vii}MoEST (2018). *Comprehensive Annual TVET Report, 2075*. Kathmandu: Ministry of Education, Science and Technology.
- ^{viii} *ibid.*
- ^{ix} *ibid.*
- ^x These committees are: International Relations Committee, Agriculture, Cooperative and Natural Resource Committee, Women and Social Development Committee, State Affairs and Good Governance Committee, Development and Technology Committee, Education and Health Committee in the House of Representative. Similarly 2 committees in National Assembly, namely, National Concern and Coordination Committee and Sustainable Development and Good Governance Committee. Moreover, one joint committee for Monitoring and Evaluation of Implementation of the Directive Principles, Policies and Obligations of the State is also headed by a female parliamentarian.
- ^{xi}ADB.2013. The Role of Women in Peace Building in Nepal. Available at: <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/30271/role-women-peacebuilding-nepal.pdf>
- ^{xii}NWC (2018) *Documentation of Achievements, Change Stories and Lessons Learnt from Sambodhan: Integrated Platform for Gender-based Violence Prevention and Response Project*. Kathmandu: National Women Commission.
- ^{xiii}Ministry of Health, Nepal; New ERA; and ICF. 2017. *Nepal Demographic and Health Survey 2016*. Kathmandu, Nepal: Ministry of Health, Nepal.
- ^{xiv}MOH. 2016a. Nepal's Every Newborn Action Plan. Kathmandu: Ministry of Health.
- ^{xv}DoHS. 2018. *Annual Report 2016/17*. Kathmandu: Department of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Population.
- ^{xvi}MoHet. al.2016.
- ^{xvii}NPC. 2019. Nepal's performance in poverty reduction over the last two decades has been impressive. Between 1995 to 2014 Gender Development Index has improved 3 fold from 0.312 to 0.912. Data from the National Living Standards Survey (NLSS) reveal that the poverty rate fell from 41.8 per cent in 1995/96 to 30.8 per cent in 2003/04, before dropping to 25.2 per cent in 2010/11 though there continues to exist considerable variation in poverty rates across regions and social groups. Poverty is lower in urban areas compared to rural areas.
- ^{xviii}https://medpa.moics.gov.np/Home/Download?fileLocation=/Content/Uploads/DownloadPublications/856f149a441742408639923c6c5d2c06_MEDEP%20Factsheet%202017.pdf .And also: <https://medpa.moics.gov.np/Home/About?infold=1018>
- ^{xix}MoC&IT. 2018. *Employment Generated by FMs in Nepal: A Sample Survey*. Kathmandu: Ministry of Communication and Information Technology.
- ^{xx}MoHP et al. 2016.
- ^{xxi} <https://www.nepalitimes.com/banner/how-nepals-media-landscape-is-being-transformed/>
- ^{xxii}LPCs consists of up to 24 members depending upon number of political parties, non government organizations, business community and representative from security forces, District Administration Office and other politically or socially significant groups in the district or local levels.
- ^{xxiii} The others are: ; Child Labor (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1999; Breast Milk Substitution Act, 2049; Juvenile Justice (Procedures) Regulation, 2063 ; Emergency Child Rescue Fund (Operation) Regulation, 2067 ; Inter-country Adoption Management Development Committee (Formation Order), 2067 ; Civil Registration Act, 2033; Child Friendly Local Governance National Strategy and Implementation Guidelines, 2068, Standards for Operation and Management of Residential Child Care Homes, 2069. Similarly, a number of other laws like Legal Aid Act, 2054; Prison Act, 2019; Cinema Making, Dissemination/ Showing and Distribution Act, 2026; Printing Press and

Publication Act, 2048; Pesticide Act, 2048; and Natural Calamities Rescue Act, 2039 also have some provisions that address the issues related to children. Most of the years mentioned in the laws are in B.S.

^{xxiv} In the process of state restructuring many of these institutions are rendered redundant. District Women and Children Offices have been dissolved and women and children portfolios are being institutionalized in 7 provincial ministries for social development and 753 local government bodies. Women and Children Service Centers continue to exist. However, the transition has not yet been completed.

^{xxv} NPC. 2012. *Multi-sector Nutrition Plan (2013-2017)*. Kathmandu: National Planning Commission.

^{xxvi} The term ‘gender-specific indicators’ is used to refer to indicators that explicitly call for disaggregation by sex and/or refer to gender equality as the underlying objective. For example, SDG indicator 5.c.1 captures the percentage of countries with systems to track public allocations that are directed towards policies and programmes that promote gender equality—the underlying objective is the promotion of gender equality. The term is also used for indicators where women and girls are specified within the indicator as the targeted population (see UN Women. 2018. *Turning Promises into Action: Gender Equality in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. New York).

^{xxvii} NPC. (2017). *Nepal's Sustainable Development Goals: Status and Roadmap 2016-2030*. Kathmandu: National Planning Commission.

^{xxviii} <http://www.np.undp.org/content/nepal/en/home/library/sustainable-development-goals-national-report---nepal/sustainable-development-goals-status-and-roadmap-2016-2030.html>

^{xxix} As specified in A/RES/70/1, with the addition of education and marital status.