



**UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN NEPAL**



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United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights welcomes agreement

The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Louise Arbour, today welcomed the 8 November agreement reached between the Seven-Party Alliance and the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) as a crucial step towards ending the conflict and strengthening respect for human rights.

“This agreement sets the foundation for a peace process and democratic transition in which the protection and promotion of the human rights of all Nepalis must be central”, she said. “It is essential that the parties translate their commitments into meaningful actions to end abuses”.

Ending impunity remains one of the biggest human rights challenges for Nepal, the High Commissioner continued, welcoming the announcement that a high-level truth and reconciliation commission will be formed.

“A truth and reconciliation commission can be an important mechanism to address accountability for past human rights violations, and to tackle the underlying causes of the conflict”, said the High Commissioner. “It can also help to heal wounds and social divisions, as well as to recognise the rights of victims to justice and reparation. To be effective, it is essential that the commission be independent and impartial, and be established only after widespread public consultation as to its mandate and the composition of commissioners. At the same time, it is important that there also be prosecutions for serious human rights violations in order to restore community trust in the rule of law and prevent abuses in the future”.

Reiterating her commitment to support Nepalis in all aspects of human rights promotion and protection, the High Commissioner said, “The parties have asked that OHCHR continue to monitor the human rights situation across the country and I am pleased to recommit my Office to this task. My new Representative in Nepal, Lena Sundh, will arrive in Nepal next week to lead this important work”.