



PERMANENT MISSION OF NEPAL
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Press Release

Mr. Leela Mani Paudyal, Chief Secretary of the Government of Nepal, met Ms. Navanatham Pillay, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in Geneva today. During the meeting discussions were held between the two sides on the commitment of Nepal in the areas of human rights, the peace process and the latest developments in Nepal including the formation of the new Council of Ministers and the announcement of 19 November 2013 as the date for the Constituent Assembly election.

While reiterating the unflinching commitment of Nepal for the promotion and protection of human rights, the Chief Secretary elaborated on the tireless efforts made by the Government of Nepal for the fulfillment of its commitments despite innumerable challenges. The action plan for the implementation of the Universal Periodic Review recommendations and voluntary commitments as well as many other action plans in different areas, among others, amply demonstrate such commitments, he said. He also informed about the capacity enhancement of the national human rights institutions and preparations for the formulation of the National Human Rights Action Plan.

The Chief Secretary informed the High Commissioner of the current developments in Nepal including the legal and technical preparations made so far in order to ensure a free and fair election with wider participation of all stakeholders in the process.

While welcoming the announcement of the election for the Constituent Assembly, the High Commissioner for Human Rights wished an early resolution of the transition in Nepal and expressed willingness to work with the Government of Nepal.

The two sides also held discussions on the High Commissioner's open letter on human rights and the post-2015 agenda.

Earlier today, Chief Secretary Mr. Leela Mani Paudyal had a separate meeting with Mr. William Lacy Swing, Director General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

During the meeting, Mr. Paudyal appreciated the role IOM has been playing in the area of migration management. In particular, he thanked IOM for its valuable assistance in the repatriation process of stranded Nepalese migrant workers in different crisis situations.

Referring to the growing trend of migration for foreign employment, he said that due to our limited capabilities at home, migration for foreign employment has become a compulsion. Views on promoting welfare and safety of the Nepalese migrant workers were exchanged in the meeting.

While conceding the fact that remittances constitute a significant portion of national GDP, he said remittances were 'private flows' and could not substitute official development assistance. The key is to create jobs, promote sustainable development and secure economic growth, he highlighted.

He also said that the Government of Nepal would continue to work in collaboration with IOM,

receiving countries and the international community to solve the persisting problems of managing labour migration.

The Chief Secretary stated that it has not been the policy of the Government of Nepal to integrate refugees into the Nepalese society and that durable solution to the problem lies in voluntary repatriation of refugees to their homeland with dignity and honour.

The Director General appreciated the cooperation of the Government of Nepal in the third country resettlement of the Bhutanese refugees. He assured the Chief Secretary of IOM's continued support to Nepal including in the role of functioning as a front office to help the Nepalese migrant workers in the countries where Nepal can provide only limited consular services to its people.

Ambassador/Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva H. E. Mr. Shanker D. Bairagi was also present during the meetings.

**Permanent Mission of Nepal
Geneva**

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81, rue de la Servette, CH-1202 Geneva, Switzerland

Tel: ++41(0)22 733 2600/2621, Fax: ++41(0)22 733 2722, E-mail: mission.nepal@bluewin.ch