Civil society organizations (CSOs) and National Planning Commission (NPC) held a webinar/virtual meeting on 9th April 2020. The discussion and decision of the meeting are summarized as below. The meeting was coordinated by NGO Federation of Nepal.

**Discussion:**

*Ideas and opinions shared by CSO representatives:*

1. CSOs are keen to collaborate and support the government not only in current COVID-19 prevention and response but also in the long term, at the central, province and local levels. CSOs are expecting the government to incorporate programs that include the role of CSOs. Their role can be instrumental in the game changer programs as well.

2. CSOs wish to be recognized and acknowledged by the government, and also be called for collaboration and support to the government's programs and actions. CSOs focus on more concrete space for social organizations, meaningful participation and mandatory institutional mechanisms in all the levels of government – federal, province and local.

3. Some of the INGOs have started working directly which is against the norm and should be controlled.

4. While the country is struggling to contain COVID-19, CSOs expect the government to assign them roles. But CSOs feel ignored.

5. In this critical time when all the countries are hit hard by COVID-19, it has been more important to develop self-reliance on food. So, production and distribution of agro-products needs to be focused on. Availability of agricultural inputs should not be affected.

6. COVID-19 has posed a new kind of disaster. So, the people who are hit hard this time are different from the previous disasters we used to face. The poor, vulnerable and the people working in informal sector need immediate relief. Cash distribution/transfer can be more effective at the moment.

7. The lockdown has affected many people's livelihood and regular health services have also been affected. Livelihood support is becoming an urgent need in order to prevent mass poverty, and hunger.

8. CSOs can support Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens (MoWCSC) in mobilization of civil society or CSOs and implement its programs. CSOs have a special strength, expertise and outreach on this. MoWCSC can be the coordinating agency for social organizations.

9. Some institutional mechanism that includes representation of CSOs is necessary, from the central to province, district and local levels.

10. Government needs to facilitate for diverting the programs and funds of other sectors in prevention and response against COVID-19.

11. As water and sanitation has been even more important these days, chemicals for water purification should be available in the market.

12. In the context of actions against COVID-19, streamlining of communication and reporting is necessary. Although all levels of governments have their own funds, they lack concrete plans for
13. In the longer term, sustainable management of community forestry and community enterprises need to be prioritized in order to contribute to SDGs.

14. The planning process, from the local to national level, must be inclusive and participatory.

**Ideas and opinions shared by National Planning Commission (NPC):**

1. The government has been attempting to streamline the efforts in prevention and control of COVID-19 and relief to the needy.
2. President women program, an anticipated program, is due to start soon.
3. The government is designing a coordination and partnership mechanism down to the Local Levels. Legal and institutional arrangements, for disaster risks reduction and management, are expected soon in.
4. Need of policies on NGO mobilization and determination of priority areas will be considered.
5. Despite the lockdown, import of goods has been eased.
6. Coming out of the current crisis needs support and contribution from NGOs or social sector. One-door system is being considered to manage this sector.
7. Social organizations need to take this difficult situation as an opportunity to further increase their role and reputation.
8. Sustainable management of resources and ecotourism are definitely important and are considered.
9. Suggestions received from the civil society will be presented to the high level committees.
10. Investment of social sector and promoting entrepreneurship have been included in the Fifteenth Plan.

**Decisions/commitments:**

1. National Planning Commission will seriously consider all the suggestions provided by civil society leaders and will be recommended for consideration by government ministries and institutions.
2. The meetings and interactions between NPC and CSOs will be continued.

**List of Participants**

Hon. Dr. Pushpa Raj Kandel, Vice Chairperson, National Planning Commission
Hon. Mr Min Bahadur Shahi, Member, National Planning Commission
Mr. Jit Ram Lama, President – NGO Federation of Nepal (NFM)
Mr. Ram Pd. Subedi, Secretary General – NFM
Mr. Arjun Kumar Bhattarai, Deputy Secretary General – NFM
Mr. Dillu Pd. Ghimire, Secretary – NFM
Mr Surya Bahadur Thapa, Chair – DPNet-Nepal
Mr Ganesh B.K., Chair – National Dalit Network
Mr Shambhu Dulal, General Secretary - National Federation of Irrigation Water Users
Dr Netra Prasad Timsina, Regional Coordinator - South Asia Alliance for Poverty Eradication (SAAPE)
Mr Bhakta B.K., Chair – Dalit NGO Federation
Dr Padma Prasad Khatiwada, General Secretary – Human Rights Alliance
Mr Ram Gaire, NCE Nepal
Ms. Shanta Laxmi Shrestha, Chair – Beyond Beijing Committee
Mr Rajendra Aryal, Chair – Federation of Water and Sanitation Users Nepal
Mr Jagat Deuja, Executive Director – CSRC Nepal
Mr Bidur Subedi, Vice President – Human Rights Alliance
Ms Bharati Pathak, Chair – FECOFUN
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