



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



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OHCHR-Nepal discusses human rights in the peace process with local leaders and authorities in Panchthar, Parsa and Kaski

Today, teams from OHCHR-Nepal participated in a series of meetings with members of political parties, civil society and local authorities in three districts across Nepal in order to discuss human rights in the peace process.

In attendance at Wednesday's meetings were the following UN human rights experts, who are on an unofficial visit to Nepal: Mr. Rodolfo Stavenhagen, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people (in Panchthar); Mr. Doudou Diene, Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism of the Human Rights Council (Birgunj); and Mr. Yozo Yokota and Ms. Chinsung Chung, members of the Sub Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Minorities (Kaski).

These meetings, like two previous ones organized by OHCHR-Nepal in Saptari and Sunsari Districts, focused on the challenge of ensuring that human rights, including the human rights provisions in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, the interim Constitution and in the new government's Minimum Programme of Common Consent, are respected in the peace process. Another agenda item was possible ways to ensure inclusive representation in the upcoming Constituent Assembly.

OHCHR-Nepal is organizing this series of meetings, generally in collaboration with the NHRC, to ensure that local actors are aware of their rights, and responsibilities, set out both in international human rights instruments and in the agreements that form part of Nepal's ongoing peace process. Another aim is to assist local leaders to translate human rights commitments into action on the ground during this fragile period in the peace process.

In previous meetings it has been stressed that political actors must accept that respect for the rights of others, including political allies and opponents, is the cornerstone of successful elections in a multi-party democracy. This means that political actors must permit all other actors to hold rallies, meetings, or demonstrations, and must also ensure that their supporters too respect these rights of others.

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“OHCHR-Nepal believes it is essential for the peace process, including Constituent Assembly elections, that human rights information is communicated to, and discussed, at the local level. Having the Special Rapporteurs and Sub-Commission experts at these meetings today to share views with local leaders and members of marginalized groups will also assist OHCHR to continue its work on discrimination and social exclusion,” said Lena Sundh, Representative of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Nepal.