



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



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**Arbour welcomes Nepal's Constituent Assembly elections**

GENEVA - The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Louise Arbour congratulated the people of Nepal on Thursday's elections for a Constituent Assembly, which she described as a crucial advance in the country's historic transition, and one that should have a very positive long-term impact on the human rights of its citizens.

"Elections for a Constituent Assembly that will be responsible for drafting a new constitution are a major stride towards a new future in Nepal in which the rights of all people – including historically marginalized communities – are respected," Arbour said. The High Commissioner particularly welcomed the reportedly large and enthusiastic participation of women in the election.

"I congratulate the authorities for their success so far in holding a largely peaceful election process despite the difficult circumstances. And I trust that all the political parties in Nepal will accept the decision of the electors, whatever it may be."

The High Commissioner said she was deeply saddened by a number of deaths that occurred during the run up to the election and on Election Day itself. She extended her condolences to the families concerned, and encouraged the Government to act quickly to set up an independent inquiry to investigate the circumstances surrounding the deaths in which security forces were implicated.