

# Principles and Strategies of Nepal's Foreign Policy and Protocol



**National Level Seminar for Representatives of Nepal's Political Parties**



**Institute of Foreign Affairs**



**Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), Nepal**



# **Principles and Strategies of Nepal's Foreign Policy and Protocol**

**National Level Seminar  
for Representatives of Nepal's Political Parties**

*Organized by :*  
**Institute of Foreign Affairs**  
**With Support from Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), Nepal**

T.U. Central Library of Nepal Cataloguing - in -  
Publication Data

Seminar on principles and strategies of Nepal's foreign  
policy and protocol Kathmandu, 14 Dec, 2012.

Principles and strategies of Nepal's foreign policy and  
protocol. - Kathmandu, 2014.

74p.

ISBN : 978-9937-8459-7-7

1. Foreign policy - Nepal. I. Title  
327.1095436

Se52

dc 22

201403598

## Published By

### Institute of Foreign Affairs (IFA)

Kathmandu, Nepal

<b>Phone</b>	977-1-4266954 977-1-4266955
<b>Fax</b>	977-1-4266956
<b>E-mail</b>	ifa@mail.com.np ifa7nepal@gmail.com
<b>URL</b>	www.ifa.org.np
<b>ISBN</b>	978-9937-8459-7-7

© Institute of Foreign Affairs

**First Published** IFA, April 2014  
500 pcs

**Printed at** Heidel Press Pvt. Ltd.  
Dillibazar, Kathmandu, Nepal.  
977-1-4439812, 4441712

# Contents

1.	Concept of the Seminar on Principles and Strategies of Nepal’s Foreign Policy and Protocol .....	1
2.	Welcome address by Deputy Executive Director Mr. Khush N. Shrestha .....	3
3.	Keynote speech by Hon’ble Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Narayan Kaji Shrestha ‘Prakash’ .....	5
4.	Remarks by Dr. Rishi Raj Adhikari Executive Director of the Institute of Foreign Affairs.....	10
5.	Seminar Proceedings.....	13
6.	Paper Presentation on, “Conducting Nepal’s Foreign Policy: Present Context” By Binod P. Bista .....	20
7.	Paper Presentation on “A Few Very Important Tips for Public Figures, Diplomats and State Actors on their Ceremonial and Protocol Functions”, - Former Ambassador Bala Bahadur Kunwar .....	32
8.	Annex 1: Diplomatic Code of Conduct, 2011.....	52
9.	Annex 2: List of Participants .....	65



## Preface

Foreign policy is the extension of domestic policy. So, the foreign policy is determined by how we are handling our domestic affairs right now. At present the whole Nepalese society seems to be divided on many aspects. Because of the political instability and pervasive poverty, Nepalese foreign policy seems to be weak and liable to be influenced easily against our national interests. It seems to be in a state of flux, thus delaying the emergence of a stable, institutionalized foreign policy.

Ironically, our leaders seem to look at foreign policy only in relation to his or her own rise to or fall from power. Different actors of the society have their own views on foreign policy. We do not have institutionalized national foreign policy thus putting ourselves in vulnerable situation vis a vis our neighbors. It allows the foreign diplomats especially the immediate neighbors to easily breach the established protocol norms while dealing with our higher, sometimes even highest, officials and the leaders.

Nepal has become vulnerable recently as some of us are whipping up nationalistic feelings against the foreign involvement in the internal politics, and others are openly becoming aligned with the foreign powers to suppress their domestic opponents.

A vigorous national debate is need of the hour on identifying key issues of national interests and understanding among the main political actors despite ideological differences or competition for power. And that they will not compromise on national interests or use foreign policy for domestic political ends.

In such a situation it is highly recommended that the government issues a blue print on its foreign policy after taking into account the views of all the stakeholders including all the political parties to come up with a common vision on foreign affairs. We must make a joint declaration against foreign interference, committing to sort out the internal political differences of diplomacy through genuine national reconciliation. We can make agenda on minimum agreement on our foreign policy.

All political parties, including all other major stakeholders must agree to make consensual approach to conduct foreign policy of Nepal. In view of Nepal's highly sensitive and delicate geographic location, no political party should take the view detrimental to Nepal's position and stance in the world.

On the question of the conduct of foreign policy, even about the matter of economic, social and cultural concerns, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as a main window to external relations has to be ensconced as coordination authority of the country, if foreign policy is to be conducted in a truly institutionalized manner.

Realizing the need to orient the potential policy makers belonging to different political parties to have a common understanding on our foreign policy and follow proper protocol and diplomatic code of conduct, IFA organized one day seminar on “Principles and Strategies on Nepal’s Foreign Policy and Protocol”.

We invited 40 plus political personalities from about 18 different political parties who dealt with international affairs of their respective parties. A free and frank discussion was initiated to bring about a common understanding on the minimum national agenda on our foreign policy for our vital national interests that we all agree and pledge to follow.

IFA extends appreciation to the Chief Guest Hon. DPM & Foreign Minister Mr. Narayan Kaji Shrestha “Prakash” for his active participation and key note speech. Similarly, Mr. Leela Mani Paudyal, Chief Secretary, Government of Nepal Mr. Durga Prasad Bhattarai, Foreign Secretary, MoFA deserve our appreciation for chairing the sessions. Mr. Binod Prasad Bista, Foreign Policy Expert on “Foreign Policy Issues” and Mr. Bal Bahadur Kunwar, Former Ambassador to Sri-Lanka & Pakistan on “Diplomatic Practices and Code of Conduct” are thankful for their interesting presentations.

All the participants who interacted actively during the deliberation of the seminars also deserve appreciations.

I also wish to thank Mr. Khush N. Shrestha, Deputy Executive Director, IFA, and Sanu Raja Puri Librarian for their overall contribution to the seminar and this publication. The institute welcomes comments, suggestions and feedbacks so as to refine the future publications of IFA.

**Dr. Rishi Raj Adhikari**  
**Executive Director**



# **Principles and Strategies of Nepal's Foreign Policy and Protocol**

## **Background:**

Supreme goals of Nepal's foreign policy are to preserve, safeguard and nourish the core national interests, namely Nepal's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity as well as socio-economic progress and prosperity of Nepali people. It is the prime duty of every Nepali to promote Nepal's national interests in the international arena for the larger benefit of Nepal and Nepalese People. Stakeholders of every sphere --- government as well as non-government --- engaged in interaction with representatives of foreign governments and non-government institutions must speak with single voice on key issues of foreign policy. A uniform and consistent stand within the provision of Nepal's interim constitution, to be followed by the new constitution in-the-making, is the only way to go about sustaining the interest and preserving the dignity of Nepal. Conflicting views from high level representatives at important interactions and meetings, a frequent affair in current times, can not only confuse the participants attending the meetings but also Nepal's representatives themselves. Essentially, political parties' unwarranted views and opinions at the cost of Nepal's national interest, simply to get even with the rival parties can harm a great deal to the image of Nepal.

## **Program objective:**

The Institute of Foreign Affairs (IFA), realizing the necessity of having an informed discourse on vital issues of Nepal's foreign policy among the representatives of the political parties at this critical stage, has organized an interaction program. The program modality was to give a brief introduction of key elements of Nepal's foreign policy by the resource person that was followed by intensive interaction among participants with a view to making these agendas clearer and transparent. To supplement the former part of the program, sharing of information and knowledge on diplomatic practices and code of conduct was imparted.

### **Organizers:**

The institute of Foreign Affairs (IFA) with support from Frederich Ebert Stiftung (FES) organized a one-day orientation program on the vital issues of Nepal's foreign policy and diplomatic practices, code of conduct and protocol and etiquettes for the leaders of the various political parties of Nepal, especially working in the international departments of the parties.

### **Program outline:**

The program was divided into two parts as follows:

#### **A. Nepal's Foreign Policy Execution: An Overview**

The objective of this discourse was to provide focus on key elements of Nepal's foreign policy by enhancing the knowledge of the basic tenets of our foreign policy through interaction of views and ideas experienced by the national level political representatives of Nepal.

#### **B. Diplomatic Practices, Diplomatic Code of Conduct, Protocol and Etiquettes: Guidelines**

The objective of this session was to share important information and knowledge while meeting with foreign persons and representatives of the Governments in the country and abroad.

### **Organization of the Program:**

A resource person facilitated each session and shared views and experience on established core issues on foreign policy. Other presenters dealt with diplomatic practices, diplomatic code of conduct and protocol matters. Intensive floor discussions follow each presentations.

Welcome address by  
**Deputy Executive Director**  
**Mr. Khush N. Shrestha**

**Chairman,**  
**Chief Guest Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Narayan Kaji Shrestha,**  
**Chief Secretary Mr. Leela Mani Paudyal,**  
**Foreign Secretary Mr. Durga Prasad Bhattarai,**  
**Distinguished Participants,**  
**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is my privilege to extend my hearty welcome to you all to the inaugural ceremony of this very important seminar on "Principles and Strategies of Nepal's Foreign Policy and Protocols" being held here today.

Epoch-making changes are taking place in the political history of Nepal that is expected to transform the future image of Nepal. New political order is being shaped. As such, consolidation of fundamental principles of Nepal's foreign policy into one unanimous voice for all parties and leaders is a must for Nepal's interactions with the international community.

Nepal's core national interests namely, country's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity have to be retained and continuously nurtured by all the country men for the sake of larger benefits of Nepal and Nepalese. It is with this realization, we are here to deliberate on these vital issues on foreign policy matters. And to achieve these goals, we have to abide by the core values of diplomatic conduct through the proper demeanor and behavior as agreed in international diplomatic practices, code of conduct and protocol.

In view of the above consideration, Institute of Foreign Affairs (IFA) with support from Frederich Ebert Stiftung (FES) is pleased to organize this interaction program, divided into two segments. First one deals with the key elements of Nepal's foreign policy with a view to enhance the knowledge of

the basic tenets of our policy through intensive interaction with distinguished participants. The next session is mainly confined to diplomatic practices, code of conduct and protocol and etiquettes to enhance information and knowledge while meeting with foreign dignitaries in the country and abroad.

On behalf of the Institute of Foreign Affairs, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all the distinguished participants for accepting our invitation and attending this seminar. This is our first endeavor in these areas for the much-needed deliberations with key representatives of political parties. Your suggestions will be solicited even after this program for developing the program for future participants. I would also like to thank all distinguished chairs, paper presenters, rapporteur and IFA support staff for their valuable contribution to the seminar. Finally, I would like to thank today's Chief Guest Hon'able Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Narayan Kaji Shrestha for gracing the inaugural function of this very important program.

**Thank You.**

Keynote speech by  
**Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister and  
Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Narayan Kaji  
Shrestha 'Prakash'**

**Mr. Chairman, the Executive Director of the  
Institute of Foreign Affairs,  
Distinguished Participants,  
Friends from the Media,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It gives me great pleasure to be amongst you this morning to share some of my thoughts on the very important topic of national importance entitled "Principles and Strategies of Nepal's Foreign Policy and Protocol". I thank the Institute of Foreign Affairs for selecting this pertinent topic and bringing together the representatives from major political parties of Nepal along with scholars, experts, professionals and academics for deliberations. I hope that the interaction program comes up with some important suggestions and recommendations which would be useful for forging common understanding in the conduct of foreign policy in the difficult time of protracted transition in Nepal's political development process.

As we are all aware, the paramount goal of our foreign policy is to safeguard our sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence while pursuing our 'national interests' across the border. Our national interest include basic factors like the image and identity of the nation in the international arena, desire for peace and security and the aspirations and priorities of our people for development and upgrade of living standard. In a volatile and complex world, foreign policy constitutes a domain that is sensitive and ever-challenging. It calls for enlightened efforts in adjustment and readjustment of priorities in consonance with change in the domestic circumstances and the external environment. The fundamental guiding principles and objectives

of the foreign policy in essence, however, remain unalterable and form the cornerstone of institutionalized foreign policy.

Foreign policy, therefore, constitute components which represent continuity as well as change. The core principles and objectives of foreign policy as stipulated in the constitution go beyond the ambit of vested interests and whimsical behavior on the part of some national actors that may occasionally seek to alter the course. But we must remember that our national interests can only thrive on our collective strengths to forge national unity and consensus on core issues of common concerns. Even when certain timely changes are warranted in the foreign policy domain, it can be brought about by systematic and informed choice based on analysis of internal and external situations.

As a sovereign, independent nation, we have longstanding commitment to the principles and purposes of the United Nations charter, the principles of non-alignment, including the five principles of peaceful coexistence and merit-based decision-making on international affairs, the norms and principles of international laws and the values of world peace. For us, these components constitute the essential framework for maintaining relations among sovereign nations, irrespective of their strength, size and ideological orientation.

Maintaining good neighborly relations with our immediate neighbors in accordance with the principles of mutual respect, non-interference, and mutually beneficial cooperation as well as understanding of each other's sensitivities and aspirations has always been a priority attention and pragmatic consideration in our foreign policy orientation. The phenomenal growth in the economies of our immediate neighborhood has offered us unique opportunities to enhance our own economic prospects in trade, investment and tourism. In order to seize the opportunities, we must rise above what has been termed as 'yam syndrome' to an enlightened state of partnership for peace, progress and prosperity. We have unique geo-strategic location to become a vibrant bridge between two big and fast-developing big neighbors to realize our own desire for a faster and inclusive growth and development.

Regionalism and regional integration provides us more leverage in terms of creating higher synergy of economic complementarities and cooperation by enhancing our policy and institutional capabilities to expand trade, attract investments, augment transport and transit connectivity to ensure higher growth rate. Nepal is firmly committed to harness vast potential for cooperation in our region and beyond by working through SAARC and BIMSTEC and render these entities into dynamic regional organizations capable of fulfilling the aspirations of all the peoples in the equitable manner.

Nepal remains fully committed to the principles and purposes of the United Nations. Our engagement with the UN is borne out of our firm conviction in multilateralism and multilateral solutions to global problems. The role played by Nepal in the maintenance of world peace and security through continued participation in the UN peacekeeping has received international recognition, and we are committed to further contribute in this direction as per the need of the international community. We stand firm to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations as the most representative and legitimate global body to handle global challenges and seize the available development opportunities in the best interests of all nations of the world, especially the weak and vulnerable countries. Nepal will continue to play an active role in furthering the cause of the least developed and land-locked countries through appropriate UN forums, including ECOSOC in which Nepal was elected a member recently.

The world is beset with financial and economic crisis, food crisis and the sinister onslaught of climate change. In times of such multiple crises and vulnerabilities, protecting the interests of the least developed and vulnerable countries like Nepal becomes even more challenging. We as an independent nation has to take the ownership and responsibility of our development agenda but need to seek all possible supports from bilateral, regional and international levels to bolster our national efforts. We need to ensure that our interests and priorities are duly reflected in the development cooperation frameworks and assistance program of the development partners in line with the internationally agreed development goals, conventions, agreements and consensus. There is a need to understand the recent trends on the development front and get prepared to harness these opportunities at the national level. The role of non-state actors, the global civil society and the private sector has been growing enormously in the recent times.

Nepal is in the historic process of socio-economic and political transformation process for ensuring an inclusive society based on more equitable distribution of income opportunities as well as equity and justice. Promotion of its economic interests in the international field in the identified areas of economic diplomacy, namely trade, tourism, foreign aid, foreign investment and foreign employment along with exploring other associated potential areas is of utmost importance to enhance the pace of our development. We must look at the opportunities available in the immediate neighborhood as well as at the bilateral, regional and international levels. However, the world community is looking at us-how we are managing our overall internal affairs, our political development process, socio-economic development process, strengthening the capacity of our policies and institutions to ensure democratic rights,

progressive realization of human rights for all and so on. Without reaching to consensus on these issues and taking concrete initiatives in these directions, we will not be in a position to keep the international community convinced in our intentions. We need to shape our behavior accordingly, more so in the conduct of foreign policy and diplomacy which is a distilled form of our internal policy.

When we talk about protocol matters, traditional diplomatic practices, diplomatic code of conduct and etiquettes are essential parts of diplomacy. They are also considered as significant tools for maintaining the dignity and integrity of officials involved in this field, which ultimately enhance the national identity at bilateral, regional and international forums. Proper observance and follow-up of these protocol related matters are equally important not only for officials working in the Foreign Ministry and other Government agencies, but also for political parties and their leaders who deal in matters related to the conduct of foreign policy, and often get engaged with foreign leaders, diplomats and officials in the friendly exchanges. The Government introduced the Diplomatic Code of Conduct last year aiming at rationalizing the behavior of all those holding public paid positions. It, however, excludes political parties and their leaders. To further enlarge the scope of this practical code, the Government is in the process of amending the existing Diplomatic Code of Conduct to encompass the political circle and their leaders also. It has been deeply felt that we need to rise above self-interests and the narrower interests of political parties to safeguard the broader interests of the nation, more so in the difficult time of painful transition.

Diplomacy is a tool of using tactfulness and dexterity in implementing the foreign policy, which is based on the prioritized national interests. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is responsible for coordinated handling of the foreign policy issues in day-to-day interactions with foreign interlocutors in Kathmandu as well as in the foreign countries through the Embassies, Permanent Missions and Consulates. We have also designated three dozen Honorary Consuls in the major cities of the world who work to serve our interests. It is extremely important to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the Foreign Ministry and diplomatic missions by the provision of adequate manpower, motivational force and other necessary resources on one hand, and through the adoption of strategic guidelines and timely initiatives on the other. Since I took the leadership of the Foreign Ministry, a number of activities have been undertaken in these directions, and these efforts would continue further in the days ahead.



In conclusion, foreign policy has both the permanent elements of continuity guided by national circumstances and contemporary elements of change triggered by a change in the international environment. These two need to be amalgamated in a given situation through effective conduct of diplomacy to ensure the maximization of national interests. As foreign policy is referred to as an extension of domestic policy, the acts and behaviors of national players leave impacts on the achievement of its goals. Foreign policy must be a single and unified voice of the nation to achieve its vital national interests, but not fragmented, volatile and diverging views of various political parties and the political leaders to deceive the greater cause of the nation. The basic tenets of our foreign policy as enshrined in the Constitution and as dictated by the geo-political realities in which we live must be respected by all. For this we must follow the etiquettes and behaviors traditionally practiced through protocol and the code of conduct modeled in line with the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic/Consular Relations, which are universally upheld as best model behavior in pursuing successful foreign policy objectives.

**I thank you for your kind attention.**

Remarks by  
**Executive Director Of the IFA**  
**Dr. Rishi Raj Adhikari**

**Hon'able Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister,  
Mr. Narayan Kaji Shrestha "Prakash"**  
**Chief Secretary, Mr. Leela Mani Poudyal**  
**Secretary, Foreign Ministry, Mr. Durga Prasad Bhattarai**  
**Former Minister Kamala Pant**  
**Distinguished representatives of different political parties**  
**Paper presenters, chairpersons and commentators**  
**Friends from media, and**  
**Friends from FES as co-organizer and my own colleagues from IFA.**

A very good morning to all of you.

I am thankful to you all for your valued participation in this important interaction program on our request in spite of your busy schedule; especially when most of you are at the final stage of political negotiations for much awaited national consensus. I thank Honorable DPM and Foreign Minister for his eloquent and thought provoking ideas on the theme of the program and for setting the tone for the following two sessions.

Nepal has undergone a massive paradigm shift in her political, social and cultural life of the people, from Monarchy to Federal Democratic Republic set up. This has tremendously enhanced the expectations of the Nepalese people towards better socio-economic status in their livelihoods and honorable and dignified life amongst the friendly countries. This is possible only by implementing a well thought-out foreign policy.

Foreign Policy of any country is focused to preserve and promote the core national interests i.e. independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. The guiding principles of Nepal's foreign policy are enshrined in the Interim

Constitution of Nepal 2007. It explicitly states that the foreign policy shall be guided by the principles of Panchasheel, non-alignment, value of world peace and UN Charter.

Of late, we have realized that we have not been able to promote our national interest significantly. One of the main factors that is lacking in our foreign policy is consensus among the political actors of Nepal on the primary interests of the country. The never ending political transition which Nepal has been undergoing ever since the establishment of democratic up to the recent time is another factor. It poses a major challenge in the implementation of Nepal's foreign policy.

We all say foreign policy is the extension of domestic policy and it is the mirror of the current domestic situation. For an effective foreign policy, enduring peace and political stability at home is a pre-requisite. A house in order ensures the accomplishment of foreign policy goals of a country. We are the people of a country which could be a bridge between the two emerging economic and military super powers. We do have tremendous opportunities for economic prosperity but we have utterly failed to grab it. Is it a self-interest of our political leaders that is the root cause of this problem? Nepal's responsible political stakeholders ought to envision that it should remain a country in which the two emerging powers of Asia would act as co-operative partners and not distrustful rivals.

Currently, it has been observed that some hiccups do exist in the consistency in evolving a proactive foreign policy that would help the country effectively face the emerging challenges on its international relations. Regular monitoring and review of our policy is a must for effective implementation. A sound foreign policy enhances national dignity and honor before the international community and protects and promotes national interests on the basis of sovereign, equal and mutual respect.

All political parties, including the major stakeholders, must agree to make consensual approach to conduct foreign policy of Nepal. In view of Nepal's highly sensitive and delicate geographic location, no political party should take the views that are detrimental to Nepal's position and stance in the world.

On the question of the conduct of foreign policy, even about the matter of economic, social and cultural concerns, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as a main window to external relations, has to be ensconced as coordination authority of the country, if foreign policy is to be conducted in a truly institutionalized

manner.

### **In conclusion,**

Therefore, a vigorous national debate is required on identifying key issues of national interests and understanding among the main political actors despite ideological differences or competition for power at home. It has to be reaffirmed that they will not compromise on national interests or use foreign policy for domestic political ends or partisan political gains.

It is urgent that political consensus be reached in the issues of our national interests so that it can be promoted nationally and through diplomatic missions abroad. Also the deteriorating image of Nepal in international arena has to be improved through sound governance, transparency, accountability among others.

That is why we are here this morning to discuss on ways and means to come up with a minimum national agenda of foreign policy. We have invited 40 plus political personalities from about 18 different political parties. You all deal with international affairs of your respective parties. Let us discuss freely and frankly today and decide on the minimum national agenda on our foreign policy that we all agree and pledge to follow. There are two presenters/facilitators this morning dealing with foreign policy and protocol. Thank you all again for coming over and invite you all for a lively discussion.

**Thank you**

## **Seminar Proceedings**

The Institute of Foreign Affairs (IFA) with support from Frederich-Ebert-Stiftung (Nepal) organized an interaction program titled “Principles and Strategies of Nepal’s Foreign Policy and Protocol” on 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2012. The program was divided into two main sessions. Mr. Leela Mani Paudyal, Chief Secretary of the Government of Nepal acted as the chair in the first session that consisted of a presentation by foreign policy expert, Mr Binod Prasad Bista. Foreign Secretary, Mr. Durga Prasad Bhattarai, acted as the chair in the second session, the highlight of which was the presentation on diplomatic practices and code of conduct by Mr. Bal Bahadur Kunwar, former Ambassador to Sri Lanka and Pakistan. The objective of this program was to bring together the representatives of various political parties in an effort to project a unified foreign policy of the country at various international events.

First of all, Mr. Khush Narayan Shrestha delivered the welcome remarks. He said that new political order being set called for the consolidation of fundamental principles of Nepal’s foreign policy into one unanimous voice. Nepal’s core national interests such as the country’s independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity had to be retained and nurtured by all concerned for the sake of larger benefit of the country and its people.

In the absence of Chief Guest Honorable Deputy Prime Minister & foreign minister Mr. Shrestha, his keynote address was delivered by Mr. Ram Babu Dhakal, representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The DPM’s speech focused on the goals of Nepal’s foreign policy, which were to safeguard our sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence while pursuing our national interests in international communities. He also pointed out that the principles and objectives of our foreign policy go beyond the ambit of whimsical behavior and vested interest of some national actors. He said that the government introduced the diplomatic code of conduct last year aiming at rationalizing the behavior of all those holding public paid positions but it however excluded political parties and their leaders. He hoped that input from the audience, consisting mostly of representatives of political parties, would

be useful in forging common understanding in the conduct of foreign policy in the difficult time of transition in Nepal's political development process.

Dr Rishi Raj Adhikari Executive Director of IFA delivered closing remarks for the inaugural session. Thanking IFA's supporter FES, all those present and his team, he went on to say that foreign policy is said to be an extension of national policy and for a sound foreign policy, the prerequisites are enduring peace and political stability within our own country. This, according to Dr. Adhikari, had been difficult to attain due to the never ending political transition that Nepal has been undergoing ever since the establishment of democracy. He said that an institutionalized foreign policy should be developed with the help of the Foreign Ministry, which would then be promoted by representatives and missions abroad. Nepal had not been able to promote its national interests significantly – one of the main factors for this being lack of consensus among the political actors of Nepal about the primary interests of the country. This program, he said, was an effort to bring together the political parties in order to discuss the means of coming up with the minimum national agenda of foreign policy that everybody agreed on.

After the break, the program continued with Mr. Binod Prasad Bista's presentation. Mr. Bista gave an introduction of the purpose of his presentation, which was to bring together the representatives of various political parties, shed light on their partisan foreign policies and to consolidate the knowledge and experience acquired by these key players (See Annex 1 – "Conducting Nepal's Foreign Policy: Present Context" by Binod P. Bista, Former Advisor to Institute of Foreign Affairs.)

The floor was opened by Mr. Durga Prasad Bhattarai for questions, suggestions and comments. First, Mr. Anil Giri of The Kathmandu Post made a few suggestions. He said that Nepal should rise above the "yam syndrome", stop talking about much clichéd subjects like UN Charter etc and pay attention to redefine the country's position in the geopolitical context. Specific issues like security, trade, water resources etc. need to be identified and worked on with regards to policies involving neighboring countries India and China. Mr. Giri also suggested specific policies to be made with regards to Nepalese working abroad, relationships with powerful countries, definitions of refugees and also stressed that political actors should learn to trust their qualified people.

Journalist Yuba Nath Lamsal asked what components of foreign policies should be changed and what should be given continuity, referring to Dr. Adhikari's speech. He inquired whether Nepal followed an "equidistance" policy; he was concerned about Nepal's positive stance regarding Non Aligned Movement

(NAM) while simultaneously allowing Gorkhali recruitment to Afghanistan, India etc. Mr. Lamsal asked if this was not a contradiction, and should Nepal not acknowledge the issue. He also inquired about the specific diplomatic tools that were available to use to preserve national interests and achieve foreign policy priorities.

Next, Rajan Bhattarai of CPN (UML) presented his contradictory opinions on components of Mr. Bista's presentation. Some of the things he said were that we had to abide by the rules of the international institutions like NAM and UN that we are a part of. He added that the principles of such organizations were mentioned in their policies not merely because Nepal is their member, but because those principles converged with our national ones and these principles would thrive even if the organizations themselves became defunct. He opposed Mr. Bista's view that Nepal as a poor, backward and weak country should not over ambitiously aim at contributing to make SAARC more effective and stated that the outlines of the policies each party provided was a framework through which they would run the foreign ministry if they came to power.

Mr Durga Prasad Bhattarai, Foreign Secretary shared his thoughts and answered some of the comments and queries put forward. He said that political parties were the decision making bodies for foreign policy and parties should find common denominators and put it on their foreign policy manifesto. He also said that although some policies may need to be kept vague, there was a need for clearly defined policies as well. He said that our institutions who translate our policies needed to be strengthened with qualified human capital. He talked about the issue of hypocrisy which plagues our officials. Dr. Bhattarai said that favoring personal over national gain, lack of seriousness, prioritizing short term benefits over long term ones and lack of consensus among political parties had created a divide between them, and weakened Nepal's position as a whole.

Mr. Chandra Bhandari of the Nepali Congress asked what our nation's current challenges were regarding foreign policy. He expressed his doubt over the development in this front giving example of political leaders' dependency on India and other countries for the most basic of things like ambulances, schools, scholarships etc., and the level at which foreigners are impacting Nepal weakening Nepal's power to stand for itself in front of these countries.

Dr. RD Singh from Rashtriya Madhesh Samajwadi Party said that there was a culture of lack of trust on own people's capacity and regional ignorance is widespread. He said that until our administrators acknowledged these issues and made sound internal policies, the making of a sound foreign policy would not be successful.

Nepali Congress's Ram Kumar Chaudhary commented on the ongoing trend of NGOs and INGOs. He raised the issue of border security and asked for clear policies regarding the import of goods so as to prevent harassment of the importers.

Kamala Panta of Nepali Congress talked about the issue of Nepalese army recruitment in foreign military and ask to include this important issue in the presentation. She suggested that a more in-depth paper be produced next time, maybe highlighting national policies before individual party's policies were analyzed. She reinforced the view that there may be instances where rigidity in policy was required if it favored the common people of the country.

Mr. Raghu Chandra Bahadur Singh of RPP-Nepal said that emphasis should also be given to the implementation of policies, not just formulation. He also asked the audience about rejecting Nepal's relationship with India or limiting it.

Sujita Shakya of CPN-UML spoke about territorial issues at the border of Nepal and India. She said that it was not a lack of planning but ineffective implementation that is also acting as a barrier to our development. She also raised the issue of climate change to which Nepal is vulnerable, and that aggressive action should be taken actively. She said effective foreign employment and labor policies should be made.

Mr. Durga Prasad Bhattarai spoke about the trust issue that was raised in the discussion pointing out that Nepal's politicians go to foreign ambassadors, put forth their needs and most times don't bother to communicate it to the Nepali ambassador delegated to that country. This leads to foreign ambassadors having more control and power.

Mr. Binod Bista commented on the various issues raised that Nepal could be playing a strong role in SAARC regardless of its size, but given the situation Nepal is in, he didn't think it was currently possible. He said that as a newly formed Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, our internal policies should be clear before proceeding to foreign policy. He expressed the view that policies should be clear regarding what principles of UN, NAM etc apply to the tenets of our foreign policy.

Mr. Durga Prasad Bhattarai then gave an introduction of former ambassador Mr. Bal Bahadur Kunwar and invited him to start his presentation.

Mr. Kunwar's presentation started with a brief history of diplomatic missions. In wars of the past, nations involved learnt that offices must be present in both belligerent nations that would monitor the war and facilitate



communications between them so that further destruction could be avoided. Today, these missions have taken up multilateral and multidimensional roles. His presentation focused on the ceremonials and behavioral protocols that came into play while officials represent their countries internationally. Protocol, he said, was a sensitive matter and had political implications as well. Mr. Kunwar gave examples of situations where he felt protocols were being violated. He also talked about protocols involving a wide range of subjects including attire during parties/funerals, sitting arrangements, etiquette during meals, car seating, exiting from parties etc. (Annex 1 – “*Diplomatic Code of Conduct-2011*” released by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nepal)

Mr. Durga Prasad Bhattarai suggested parties have an official appointed for protocol adherence and volunteered his inputs if needed. He encouraged people to communicate freely with the chief of protocol when needed because these were serious matters especially in international dealings when a person represented a state and not just himself or herself.

After the presentation the floor was opened once again for discussion.

Mr. Anil Giri from The Kathmandu Post questioned whether it was a violation of protocol when Mr. Kunwar ran for office with affiliation to a certain political party while being an ambassador representing the state. Also, in the absence of an order of precedence in Nepal, he asked how ambassadors would conduct national ceremonies. Rajan Bhattarai, from CPN – UML, said that he felt the program lacked specificity and topics such as shift of global powers and its implications should have been focused on. He suggested a more rigorous program be held in order to produce a unified foreign policy of Nepal – one framework in which political parties could choose what to focus on during their term, but not change the framework itself. Mr. Chauyen Lai of Nepali Congress stressed on the appointment of qualified personnels. Dr. Singh said that the presentation by Mr. Kunwar focused on cosmetic diplomacy. He said that economic diplomacy was more pertinent in today's globalized situation.

Ramji suggested that an expert make the paper regarding foreign policy and come up with a strong proposal, instead of only superficially comparing those of various political parties. These papers should be made available to political parties in advance which would result in a productive discussion.

Mr. Jayant Chand of Rashtriya Prajatantra Party said that we should be able to impose the diplomatic code of conduct on heads of diplomatic missions, donor agencies etc and its flagrant violation should not be tolerated.

Mr. Bal Bahadur Kunwar responded to Mr. Anil Giri's question saying that he

was a political appointee and not serving as a career diplomat at the time he ran for office in Nepali Congress. Agreeing with Dr. Singh, he said that in today's interconnected world, we definitely need to talk about economic diplomacy but unfortunately, Nepal was not in position to provide the basic infrastructures like electricity and water to facilitate international trade set up within the country. Further, Mr. Kunwar brought everybody's attention to the handouts provided during the session since it was not possible to include all topics in a 40 minute presentation.

Then, Mr. Bista said that Nepali recruitment in international military may sometimes be only for personal gain of the involved, and not the nation's. He said that this talk program was only a beginning of the efforts and was thankful to people who pointed out its deficiencies.

Dr. Rishi Raj Adhikari then delivered his closing remarks thanking the audience for their participation and discussion. He said that IFA hoped to make contribution for substantial results regarding the topics discussed in the program.

## **Conducting Nepal's Foreign Policy: Present Context**

**- Binod P. Bista**

Former Advisor to Institute of Foreign Affairs

### **Brief introduction:**

- 1) **Foreign Policy**-- To serve nation's interest by influencing other countries behavior through the established actions of the international community.\* In the conduct of relations with other countries, it is to preserve and promote nation's welfare, aspiration and objective by upholding national interest supreme and full consideration given to nation's geography, socio-economic/cultural situation in the prevailing national and international contexts.
- 2) **Diplomacy**: To remain continuously effortful with necessary strategic effectiveness, maturity, and understanding in the achievement of the values, objectives and goals delineated by nation's foreign policy.\*\*

### **Objective of interaction program:**

To consolidate the knowledge and experience acquired by national level representatives in the conduct of foreign policy through interactions with subject experts and colleagues. The primary objective is to engage in proper dissemination and conduct of foreign policy initiatives of the government for upholding Nepal's image as an Independent, Sovereign and Federal Democratic Republic in the changed context.

- 3) **Understanding constitution**: Directive Principles and policies on international relations as stipulated under the interim constitution 2063 (Part 4, Article 35, clauses 21 and 22) forms the main basis for conducting Nepal's foreign policy that is constitutional, lawful and acceptable

to majority of citizens. (Since some sections of society including the lawyers are challenging the validity and their acceptance to the interim constitution after the demise of Constituent Assembly).

Clause 21: Nepal shall conduct its foreign policy according to the principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter, doctrine of Non Aligned Movement, International Law and values of World Peace.

Clause 22: Nepal shall adopt the policy of institutionalizing peace on the foundation of international standard and values by closely cooperating/ collaborating with its neighbors, and other countries of the world on the basis of equality in the areas of economic, social and other spheres.

**4) Political parties' outlook on international relations:** Key features of manifestos released by Nepal's major political parties on the eve of Constituent Assembly elections are as follows:

**i) Unified Communist Party of Nepal -Maoist, Manifesto 2064-**

- a. Unequal treaties and agreements with special reference to Indo Nepal treaty of peace and friendship 1950 and other agreements needed to be acted upon seriously through diplomatic and other means with a view to amending, refining or annulment;
- b. Priority would be given to sort out border encroachment in Susta, Kalapani and other places on the basis of facts and figures. Indo-Nepal open border shall be organized and controlled;
- c. Relations between China and India would be maintained on the basis of the five principles of peaceful coexistence; past mentality of regarding Nepal as a buffer state between the two contiguous neighbors would be shed off and a policy of vibrant bridge between the emerging economies would be adopted;
- d. Appropriate action would be taken to provide employment in the country and end the current state of compulsion of taking foreign employment. However, at present special attention would be paid to protect the rights and welfare of Nepalis working outside of the country;
- e. Efforts would be employed to protect the rights of Nepalis living in India and abroad and non-resident Nepalis would be encouraged to the extent of providing dual citizenship for making investment in Nepal, if found necessary and appropriate;

- f. Phase wise plans for making national economy self-sustaining will be formulated and assistance shall be accepted from foreign donors and international financial institutions on the basis of national necessity benefiting the Nepali people.
- g. For repatriating Bhutanese refugees to their homeland necessary initiatives shall be taken in the international stage.
- ii) Nepali Congress, Manifesto 2064-

Main aim of Nepal's foreign policy would be to promote and safeguard Nepal's national identity, sovereignty and national welfare in the comity of nations and contribute to the causes of world peace, goodwill and prosperity. It would rest on the following principles and objectives:

- a. Charter of the United Nations, five principles of peaceful coexistence, non-alignment, national welfare and security would form the core of foreign policy and international relations;
- b. Relations and friendship will be maintained with all nations on the basis of mutual respect, goodwill and equality;
- c. As a member of the United Nations, Nepal's international image would be projected as a peaceful, democratic, sovereign and independent nation;
- d. Relations with Nepal's neighbors, India and China, will be promoted on the strength of practical and objective considerations based on the norms and values of international relations;
- e. Efforts would be made to transform SAARC with a view to achieving concrete outcome for regional development and understanding;
- f. Nepali Congress fully supports the Bhutanese Refugees' right to return to their homeland;
- g. Foreign missions of Nepal will be channelized for foreign trade, tourism promotion, foreign investment in Nepal, safeguarding the rights and welfare of Nepalis in foreign employment. Attention would be paid to streamline the rights and security of non resident Nepalis, Nepali emigrants;
- i. Strong efforts would be made to utilize the special exemptions accorded by the World Trade Organization (WTO) to the least developed countries (LDCs);

- j. National ownership would be fully exercised in the utilization of foreign aid and its execution.
- iii. Communist Party of Nepal-Unified Marxist Leninist Manifesto 2064-  
Prime objective of international relations and foreign policy is to establish the identity, sovereignty and national welfare of Nepal in the midst of international community, and enhance global peace, humanity, goodwill and friendly relations, and contribute concretely to the development and prosperity of the Nepal and her people. To this end, Charter of the United Nations, five principles of peaceful coexistence, non-alignment, regional relation and cooperation would form the main basis. Following activities would be undertaken in this direction:
  - a. Directed against all anti-people activities such as expansionism, imperialism, neo-colonialism, armament, discrimination on the basis of ethnic and color, and terrorism and providing support to global peace, disarmament, national and social campaign against bondage of every kind would be the mainstay of the policy;
  - b. Focus would be given to make SAARC more effective and expand mutual cooperation with its member states;
  - c. Problems relating to border and border points will be managed properly;
  - d. Maximum efforts would be given to create a suitable environment for return of Bhutanese refugees to their homeland with dignity and honor and other necessary measures would be adopted to resolve the issue of Bhutanese refugees;
  - e. Would prevent any activity in Nepalese soil that would affect friendly countries and expect reciprocal action from Nepal's neighbors and friends;
  - f. Nepal's participation in the United Nations Peace Keeping Operations would be increased to support global peace;
  - g. Nepal's missions abroad would be activated in making economic diplomacy effective;
  - h. Existing treaties against Nepal's interest and unequal in nature would be reviewed and amended for the welfare and dignity of the Nepalese.

- iv. Madhesi Janadhikar Forum Nepal did not mention anything specific on international relations in its manifesto.
- v. Terai-Madhesh Democratic Party Manifesto 2064-
- a. Nepal's foreign policy mainstay should rest on non-aligned policy based on the five principles of peaceful coexistence.

Friendship with all countries of the world should be established for international cooperation and support with the objective of broad based change in the economic, social and political spheres and uplift of marginalized group while preserving territorial integrity and independence. Party's stand is based on the need to respect the Charter of the United Nations, and accept democracy and human rights as integral parts of foreign policy and full utilization of economic diplomacy.

- vi. Nepal Workers and Peasants Party manifesto 2064-

It opposes Gorkha recruitment center, manpower company's operations for foreign employment under its economic policy although it has not placed any clause under Nepal's foreign policy/ international relations. It also opposes the agreements on Koshi, Gandak and Mahakali and mentions encroachment of Nepali border at 54 points.

- vii. Communist Party of Nepal - Marxist Leninist Manifesto 2064 -

- a. Sovereign people of Nepal would promote and develop its friendly relations with other countries of the world on the basis of five principles of peaceful coexistence and take necessary decisions to strengthen Nepal's independence.
- b. It talks about setting up of Security Committee under the chairmanship of Prime Minister for preservation of Nepal's independence and national security and also establishment of Security Council comprising civil servants and other experts;
- c. It will take initiative towards the substitution of unequal treaties such as 1950 treaty of peace and friendship with India, Mahakali Agreement with new agreements on the strength of five principles of peaceful coexistence fully preserving Nepal's interest;
- d. Priority would be given to resolve border issues with India, particularly of Kalapani area and Susta, on the basis of historic maps, records, facts and international norms;

- e. As citizenship matter is integrally linked with Nepal's stability, independence and sovereignty, Nepal needs to adopt a conservative policy for awarding citizenship only on the strength of ancestry and birthright and the Centre alone would be empowered to approve such action;
- f. The party would revoke citizenship certificates given without properly following the laws and regulations of Nepal after the cut off point set at 2046 B.S.
- g. Monitoring of Indo-Nepal border would be carried out while putting in place necessary measures for facilitating smooth contacts between the citizens of Nepal and India living on either side of the border;
- h. Nepal would maintain its relations with India and China with equal importance and value and ensures that it will prevent any activity in its soil directed against its neighbors;
- i. Nepal has respected and supported the territorial integrity of independent India and would uphold one China policy including acceptance of Tibet as an integral part of China;

viii. Janamorcha Nepal Manifesto 2064-

Mutual equality, mutual benefit and non-interference should be made the main basis of Nepal's foreign policy. Relations should be expanded with all countries for preserving Nepal's sovereignty, territorial integrity and economic prosperity and independence. The 1950 Treaty and all other unequal treaties with India should be revoked and the open border with India should be closed and managed.

ix. Rastriya Prajatantra Party Nepal 2064 Manifesto-

Main basis of Nepal's foreign policy should be to preserve Nepal's interest and welfare. The party would continue to treat the United Nations Charter, non-aligned movement and Panchsheel as integral parts of Nepal's foreign policy. It would adopt the policy of developing Nepal's relations with all countries for peace and friendship and expand its traditional relations with neighbors for mutual benefit and mutual equality. The party would reject any outside interference and influence in Nepal's internal affairs.



- x. Rastriya Janamorcha Manifesto 2064-
  - a. Termination of all unequal treaties, agreements and understandings;
  - b. Friendship with all countries of the world on the basis of mutual equality and mutual respect;
  - c. Support should be given to oppressed countries and their people's campaign to free themselves from bondage;
  - d. Opposition to political, military, economic and cultural organizations set up with a view to subjugate other countries as well as support to anti ethnic, anti color campaigns;
  - e. Initiative will be taken to form in the international level an unified force against samrajyabad (empiricism)
- xi. Rastriya Janashakti Party Manifesto 2064-

National welfare would form the basis of foreign policy. Conduct of non aligned policy under the principles of Panchsheel will be the policy of the party. International cooperation and support would be obtained for transformation of Nepal's new identity while upholding national unity, territorial integrity and independence. For achieving this goal relations will be established with all nations in line with the Charter of the UN, principles of Panchsheel, international law and norms. The party takes a clear view that Nepal should give special importance in the expansion of its relations with India and China. It also accepts economic diplomacy, democracy and human rights as newer elements of Nepal's foreign policy.

- xii. Rastriya Prajatantra Party Manifesto 2064-

Foreign policy should be adopted for the welfare of Nepal and the Nepalis and Nepal's national interest. In line with the UN Charter, Non-Aligned Movement, principles of Panchsheel, international law and world peace, Nepal's foreign policy will be guided for up-keeping multilateral and regional perspective, globalization, human rights, civil and human freedoms. Main objective of foreign policy should serve national interest, preserve territorial integrity, national security and advance economic development. Traditional political diplomacy should be directed to economic diplomacy. Pragmatic diplomacy is called for to benefit from Nepal's emerging regional powers and also resolve issues of refugees, both Bhutanese and Tibetans. The party feels that Nepal is in short supply of qualified

manpower to conduct sensitive diplomatic environment faced by Nepal.

xiii. Nepal Sadbhawana Party (A) Manifesto 2064-

Relations with all countries of the world would be established on the basis of mutual equality, mutual respect in line with UN Charter and principles of Panchsheel. Continuity would be given to maintain Nepal's special relations with India for maintaining social, historical, cultural and regional security and stability.

xiv. Nepal Sadbhawana Party Manifesto 2064-

The party is for establishing international relations for preserving and promoting Nepal's multi identity character, national sovereignty, peace, progress and goodwill in line with UN Charter and principles of Panchsheel. The party will uphold Nepal's commitments and obligations as a member of the United Nations, SAARC and other multilateral and bilateral groupings. With India, Nepal's relations will be nurtured in a time relevant and practical basis as it has natural cultural uniformity with that country. With other neighbor China and other countries, relations will be expanded for mutual benefit. The party will take initiative to create suitable environment for the return of refugees from Bhutan and other countries. Prudent utilization of concession and exemption provided to the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) by the WTO and other International Organizations would be carried out along with execution of foreign aid utilization policy. The party is committed to project Nepal's image internationally as a country free from discrimination and having peaceful and democratic character.

xv. Churebhar Rastriya Ekata Party Nepal Manifesto 2064-

The policy of the party would be conduct Nepal's relations with its neighbors India and China on the basis of equality and goodwill in line with Nepal's established non-aligned foreign policy and alsomaintain relations with other friendly countries. It would also promote industry and commerce by inviting multinational companies to assist Nepal work as a transit point between its two neighbors.

5. Recommendations forwarded by the “International Relations and Human Rights Committee” of the Constituent Assembly (dissolved in May 2012):\*\*\*
  - 1.1: It recommends that Nepal needed to be proactive in executing its foreign policy at the bilateral and multilateral levels for achieving economic transformation and prosperity of the people of Nepal while preserving Nepal’s national security, inviolability, independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and the social and cultural norms and values of its citizens;
  - 1.2: Formulation of foreign policy requires a comprehensive analysis of Nepal’s geo-political, economic, social, technological state and thus a review of different strategies and lessons learned in the history is warranted for coming up with a unified foreign policy for modern Nepal. Nepal now has to adopt an independent and self-reliant foreign policy by paying regard to the UN Charter, Non-aligned Movement, Principles of Panchsheel, and SAARC Charter;
  - 1.3: The main aim of Nepal’s foreign policy would be to protect national security, independence and territorial integrity and to this end necessary institutions should be developed, promoted and preserved;
  - 1.4: National interest must be above all other considerations for a Federal Democratic Republic Nepal;
  - 1.5: Nepal needs to adopt an independent and self-reliant foreign policy while maintaining close and harmonious relations with its neighbors on the basis of mutual equality and mutual benefit.
  - 1.6: Culture of national consensus needs to be developed while formulating foreign policy in the changed context;
  - 1.7: Maximum efforts to be employed to obtain economic benefit and elevate Nepal’s image by maintaining close and cooperative relations with SAARC, UN and other international organizations;
  - 1.8: For developing and utilizing natural resources, particularly water resource, biological diversity and minerals, creation of suitable environment is called for;
  - 1.9: Continuity needs to be given against the production, storage, sales and use of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction by Nepal as a member of CTBT;

- 2.0: Border diplomacy is to be executed for resolving several outstanding issues with India and some with China. (ref: 57 pillar in Dolkha –China; Jange pillars of 1816 *Sugauli Sandhi* with India, measures against cross border terrorism, opt for controlled border, Nepal's concern on India's river linking project, encroachment in 10 yards area along the border etc.);
- 2.1: Review and amendment of 1947 tripartite agreement for Gurkha recruitment, 1950 treaty of peace and friendship with India Koshi agreement, Gandak agreement (1959), 1965 agreement on military strengthening and arms procurement, and 1996 Mahakali agreement (Pancheswor, Tanakpur package);
- 2.2: New treaties and agreements called for with China replacing 1960 agreement of peace and friendship and 1999 cultural agreement;
- 2.3: For advancing economic diplomacy priority areas for foreign investment to be identified in the commerce, tourism, transportation, technology transfer, hydropower and agriculture;
- 2.4: Institutional reform of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- 2.5: Make use of grant to be given to LDCs (Kopenhagen Summit)—Nepal being the fourth country at great environmental risk in the agricultural, health, infrastructure development, and employment generation;
- 2.6: Priority to be given to repatriate the Bhutanese refugees and other refugees and checking the inflow of refugees from Afghanistan, Sudan, Somalia;
- 2.7: Nepal must prevent any untoward activities on its soil affecting its neighbors;
- 2.8: Special policy for building electric rail with help from China and India;
- 2.9: Labor Diplomacy;
- 3.0: Linkage between National stability and foreign policy and other matters a High Level Foreign Policy Advisory Council comprising former ambassadors, former foreign secretaries, foreign policy experts, development experts to be formed under the chairmanship of the executive chief of the country;
- 3.1: Economic Diplomacy, Extradition Treaty, action on protection and safety of Nepali nationals residing in foreign countries as well as Nepal's contribution to UN peace keeping operations and development of Lumbini.

Important note: English translations of all available documents such as political parties' manifestos and International Relations and Human Rights Committee was done by the paper presenter. Any omission or error in translation is deeply regretted.

## **6. Unified Foreign Policy**

**Objective:** From political parties manifestos it is quite clear that they have hardly any significant deviations between them on Nepal's established principles in international relations and practices of its foreign policy conduct. Apparently, there should be no big hassle to come to a uniform position on core aspects of Nepal's foreign policy.

**Issues complicated:** It appears from the manifestos as well as the International Relations and Human Rights Committee (of CA-now dissolved) report that in outlining policies, specific actions as well as programs are also clubbed together with policies—the cause of major confusion and dissention among parties. If the policies are clearly separated from either the nitty-gritty of action plans and programs or new ideas, it could be a matter of some time to come to a consensual agreement on all major foreign policy imperatives and initiatives. The parties and their leaders could engage in this exercise with a view to arriving at acceptable elements of Nepal's foreign policy, so very necessary in the present context. Additionally, it is equally important to clearly spell out certain established and well-tested principles and strategies of Nepal's foreign policy pillars.

**Conduct of international relations:** Whether in transition or with new constitution in full force Nepal's government (as well as key political parties' representatives) cannot shirk away from its responsibility of protecting and preserving Nepal's national interest including safeguarding country's independence and territorial integrity and preserving people's sovereignty. All required actions together with socio-economic development require that Nepal's foreign policy measures be based on a comprehensive and coherent footing. Adventurism of any sort causes frequent embarrassment and sometimes it harms the nation seriously. It can only be hoped that Nepal's leaders exercise sufficient restraint and move cautiously for the welfare of all of the people.

**Desired action:** At a prolonged transition period, it is the responsibility of all parties, in government and outside, to carefully tread on uncharted ground, however necessary and desired. The government as well as the responsible

leaders of political parties must not waver from the agreed basis of Nepal's foreign policy that has served Nepal well since its existence as an independent and sovereign country.

**Future course:** The foreign policy issue of a nation that, too, in transition cannot be fully deliberated in one session. It requires subsequent sessions (workshops) to deal with every single major aspect of Nepal's conduct in international relations. The objective of such sessions would be to examine the pros and cons of action, non-action, over-action and its consequences in the short and long term. However, an overview of the political parties' aspirations and desires to make Nepal fully independent, sovereign and prosperous can be understood. In the process, the limitations of newer policy initiatives, not yet executed, can be realized by the proponents of such initiatives. Restrain and perseverance being the critical elements of diplomacy, no Nepali should lose his/her temper and good humor causing an irreparable loss to our great nation.

## References:

- \* George Modelski, The Theory of Foreign Policy.
- \*\* Quincy Wright, The Study of International Relations
- \*\*\* International Relations and Human Rights Committee report 2068

## **A Few Very Important Tips for Public Figures, Diplomats and State Actors on their Ceremonial, Protocol and Consular Functions**

(Designed focusing especially Honorary Consuls General / Honorary Consuls / Consuls General / Consuls/  
Political Leaders/ Government Delegations)

Ambassador H.E. Bala Bahadur Kunwar

- National dress of the represented country (Nepal) or a suit must be worn while going to the airport to receive Nepalese dignitaries. National dress you may get sewn when you are on a visit to Nepal.
- Ambassador should go himself/herself to the airport to receive the dignitaries, such as, Foreign Secretary, and the ones above that rank by facilitating necessary protocol. Request to the concerned authorities of your country of assignment to open up the VIP lounge should be made in advance. Similar protocol should be provided at the time of departure of the dignitary/delegation, as the case may be.
- If the visit of a dignitary is an official one, the host country (organizers) will provide the car with a flag on it, depending upon the position of the dignitary. The convoy will move in a motorcade and Ambassador's car will follow behind, right next to the VIP guest's car. But if the visiting dignitary is not provided with a separate car, then he will go in the Ambassador's car, seated in the seat of honor (i.e, Ambassador will put the VIP in his seat and he himself will be seated next to him). Under the rules of the host country if the dignitary is not entitled to the VIP lounge facility, then he may be received at the exit gate outside the arrival lounge. Placard with the name/s of the dignitaries on it should be displayed at that point. In this case, Honorary Consul General/Honorary consul instead of presenting himself /herself at the airport, can depute his/her staff and a car to receive him/her/them. To go to the airport with a flower of bouquet to be presented while welcoming the guest/s is highly recommended.
- While presenting the Letters of Credence by an Ambassador to the Head of State, host country's ceremonial and protocol procedure shall prevail. Protocol officers will thoroughly brief the Ambassador

on the protocol to be followed at the ceremony well in advance, and during the ceremony as well.

- While calling on somebody, bring a gift packet (not a very expensive one) with you, on the outside of which should be pasted two printed cards, (1) one with your name, designation and address printed on it and, (2) the other with "With compliments of the Honorary Consulate of Nepal for ....." printed on it.
- Do private parties from time to time to establish and nurture good relations with the public and private sectors both.
- Send out invitation cards for any party two weeks in advance so there would be enough time for the guests to block the date for the party. A small strip of paper mentioning the purpose of hosting the party printed on it may be stapled on top of the invitation card. For example, "To Welcome Mr. X" or "To say Goodbye to Mr. Y" or "In honor of Mr. Z", or "To meet Mr. X, etc."
- Before sending out such invitation, a person desired to be invited may be called by phone, personally by the Ambassador/Hon. Consul General/ Hon. Consul is better, to know his convenient time so he could attend the party.
- Parties can be different types depending upon the occasion and the status of the prospective attendees. If a large number of people are to be invited, then it can just be a reception party, at which light snacks and beverages are served. On the National Day, it would be appropriate to organize this kind of reception. One should also not look too frugal while doing such reception.
- There can be small private dinner parties, such as, buffet, cocktail dinner, etc. When you are doing a buffet party, you can make it a free sitting arrangement. But if you are doing a formal dinner party, then you must strictly adhere to the sitting arrangement as appended to this document in tabulated form and you should obtain the list of order of precedence (order of seniority) from the Protocol Department of the Foreign Ministry of the host country, if diplomats, bureaucrats and politicians are on the list of invitees. The order of seniority for Honorary Consuls General/ Hon. Consuls may be obtained from the Office of the Dean of the Hon. Consuls/ Consuls General. The dress code for formal dinners must be a lounge suit/National dress/ uniform.
- At a formal dinner party hosted in honor of a dignitary from Nepal, you should also be making a short welcome speech. This speech



can be made at the dinner table after having served beverages but before the meal is served. It can also be made after dinner and before the dessert is eaten. You can also propose a toast at the end of your speech, by raising a glass of wine/water/juice and saying, "May I ask all of you to join me in proposing a toast to the health and happiness of President.... to the ever-growing friendship between {name of your receiving (host) country} and Nepal." Add some more points if you like, etc.

- Dress code can vary from formal to informal to casual. If the party is a highly formal one, which in the present times is rarely done, a guest must be wearing a black suit, white shirt with a frill on it, a black bow-tie, a pair of black socks and black shoes. But this is almost vogue now as mentioned above. In the dress code you can alternatively either mention Informal / National / Uniform or lounge suit / National / Uniform to mean the same thing. Other dress codes are smart casual and casual. In smart casual parties, you do not have to wear a jacket; shirt with a tie is more than enough. In a casual one, it can be any dress of the attendee's choice except shortpants.
- While doing big parties/small parties/reception, some staff should invariably be kept outside at the entrance into the premises to receive the guests, usher them to the register placed on the desk outside the hall at the entrance door, and then presented to the host/hostess, who would be standing lined up with other staff in attendance to the right side, inside the gate of the hall or party room. Once the party is over, the host/hostess standing inside at the entrance/exit gate should shake hands and thank the guests for their attendance. At smaller parties, officials on duty can show the guests to the car. This will look quite courteous. While doing small parties, it is mandatory to designate officials to receive the guests, usher them to the register for them to sign their name and address in and then present them to the host/hostess, waiting inside to welcome them.
- If the party is a stag (only for the males) one, the hostess should not be seen around, let alone attend the party.
- At the National Day reception party, on the podium to the right side should be placed the National Flag of Nepal and on the left that of the host country. Similarly, National Anthem of Nepal should be played first, followed by that of the host country. Some countries do just the opposite also. You may check on this with the Protocol

Division of the host country. Notation of the National Anthem can be obtained from the Embassy. A recorded version also may be made available. You may also make a brief speech on Nepal and bilateral relations. Then the Chief Guest follows with his speech. After the Chief Guest is done with his speech, you may announce that formal part of the ceremony is over and the guests may so enjoy the food, drinks and conversation, etc. It may be noted that the Chief Guest must be from the Government, a Minister or at least a senior level bureaucrat, preferably from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Ambassador/Hon. Consul General/Hon. Consul should write to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the host country at least one month in advance requesting to assign the Chief Guest for the occasion. Once the Ministry assigns somebody, the Hon. Consulate General/Hon. Consulate should send a formal invitation to such person. On the National Day, a supplement on Nepal should be published in the prominent dailies of the host country. The Ambassador / Hon. Consul General/Hon. Consul must put and fly Nepal's flag on his/her car while attending a formal function of any country. On Nepal's National Day also, he/she must fly the flag on his/her car.

- Celebrate Nepal's National Day by necessarily publishing a supplement on Nepal and by simultaneously holding a reception by inviting people from different walks of life. Before bringing out such supplement you may request for feedback and guidance from your Embassy (This applies specifically to the Hon. Consuls General/Hon. Consuls). The supplement should carry pictures of Nepalese flag, those of the incumbent President and Prime Minister, Ambassador, and of yourself (Consul General/Hon. Consul), with the respective names and designations appearing below the picture. The supplement should include message from the Ambassador as well.
- On the premises of the Embassy, on the front side and prominently visible, a big flag hoisted on a long post should be displayed at all times. There should also be a flag mounted on a wooden post placed to the right of the Hon. Consul's desk. In addition, a small table flag can be placed on his working desk. In the meeting room also, a flag placed in the appropriate corner would be highly advisable.
- In case of mournings, as and when decided upon by the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, the National flag of Nepal should be flown at half mast.
- If the car is left-hand drive, then the flag should be placed on the

right-hand side of the bonnet, as, in this case, the right hand rear seat would be the seat of honor, where the Ambassador /Hon. Consul General /Hon. Consul should be seated. If the car is a right-hand drive one, then the arrangement should be just the opposite.

- If the car is left-hand drive, then the spouse should be seated to the left of the Ambassador/Hon. Consul General/Hon. Consul. And if the car is right-hand drive, then the spouse should be seated to the right of the Ambassador/Hon. Consul General/Hon. Consul.
- Open up a book of condolence as and when instructed to by The Embassy. Make a circular to this effect to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the host country, all Foreign Missions, UN organizations, Honorary Consulates General and Honorary Consulates based in the capital saying, you have opened up a book of condolence to mourn the passing away of Mr. X, and it will remain open for signing from .... hours to .... hours on such and such dates, etc.. You should sign, on behalf of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal and, on your own, as Hon. Consul General/Hon. Consul, the book of condolence opened up by other embassies/ Hon. consulates. Wear a dark suit, white shirt, black tie and dark glasses on such occasions if you can. Fly the flag on your car while going to sign it.
- While showing up to sign the book of condolence, you will be received by the officials of that particular Embassy and ushered in and shown to your seat. After your turn comes to sign in, you will be asked to do so. After having signed the book of condolence you will have to observe at least half a minute's silence by standing still in front of the picture of the deceased laid on the desk by bending your head slightly forward and with your eyes closed. Bow your head forward in respect once you are done. Now you are ready to proceed to the next room where the Ambassador will be waiting to meet you. You should again verbally express your condolence to him. You may have coffee/tea/soft drink if it is being served, otherwise you will be off to leave. Someone will be there to escort you to your car. On the book of condolence you should write, example: "I, on behalf of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Nepal, and, on my own, would like to express to the people and the Government of....and the members of the bereaved family our deepest condolences on the sad, untimely demise (passing away) of Mr. X..... May his soul rest in eternal peace.... etc..etc..." Then you would put your name

and designation under it and sign it.

- When you have opened up the book of condolence at your Hon. consulate, you should also make similar arrangements as mentioned above. Framed picture of the deceased adorned with a flower-garland should be laid on the desk. Oil-fed lamp and incense stick should be kept burning. This is our Nepali tradition.
- During mourning periods, as determined by the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, Nepal's flag must be flown at half mast.
- The more your office is active the more recognition will come to you from both the Government and the business community. You can then be effective in furthering bilateral relations between the two countries, thereby as well enhancing the image of Nepal in the process.
- One should never forward his/her hand first to shake hands with one's superior, rather s/he should wait until the superior offers his/her hand first.
- While making a speech, never mention about your shortcomings, as you may look weak and inferior before the audience. For example, never say "I am just learning. I know very little about it", and so on and so forth.
- Always act confident (not arrogant though!) and speak with authority without mincing words.
- Be a patient listener. Do not shout loud while talking. Let the other finish talking before you start talking.
- Always keep a smiling face and polite demeanor.
- To produce noise (clanking) while using cutlery (fork, spoon, etc) is an ill-manner.
- It is also an ill-manner not to cover one's mouth while yawning.
- Slurping and chewing by producing noise are also ill-manners.
- To protrude (stick out) one's tongue out while opening up one's mouth to eat is ugly and disgusting.
- To cough without covering one's mouth is also unhygienic and impolite.
- While seated cross-legged, it is very impolite to keep the sole of your shoe facing the person/s you are with, especially so in the Muslim world.

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs should inform the Prime Minister and the Cabinet Secretariat about its upcoming meeting/conference beforehand, and subsequent to such meeting, submit in writing the report, detailing the contents of the discussion. If the Foreign Secretary is attending a meeting, then he should report the matter to the Chief Secretary. The other attendees should report to their seniors in likewise order.
- Nepalese foreign missions should prepare a detailed yearly report on the entire activities/tasks accomplished by them and send it to the Foreign Ministry within three months of expiration of that year.
- One should not abuse diplomatic immunity and privilege.
- Spouses of diplomats should not be running any business, nor hold any position that accrues economic benefit to him/her.
- The ones holding public/diplomatic positions should not engage in making acrimonious remarks or be involved in activities that would jeopardize existing bilateral relations between the two countries.
- In performing consular functions, help people from Nepal who are travelling or living there, and protect their interests.

### **Following Tips apply mainly to Honorary Consuls General/Honorary Consuls**

- At all times, strictly adhere to instructions coming from the Embassy under whom you are functioning.
- Always report to the Embassy on any matter, as your country falls under its accreditation.
- Collect and get renewed in time the identity card issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the host country. Otherwise, you will not be able to access sensitive/important places such as VIP lounge, etc..
- Obtain in a timely manner from the Embassy pictures of President and Prime Minister of Nepal. Mount frames on and hang them on the wall at your office and at your residence. At the National Day Reception, they must be displayed on a desk and even be put on the wall from where they should be clearly visible to all guests in attendance.
- Inform at least three months well in advance about when your tenure is going to expire. Based on your performance, you (If your are an Hon. Consul ?) may also be elevated to the position of Hon. Consul

General. If you think you deserve promotion, write to the Embassy giving valid reasons for it. For your promotion, the Embassy's recommendation will be highly crucial and, in fact, mandatory.

- While issuing a Nepalese visa, should you feel to make a background check on a particular applicant, you may do so by asking for a police report on him. You may also altogether deny one a Nepalese Visa, if you see a valid reason to do so.
- Ask the Embassy for the Visa stickers well in advance.
- If somebody has lost a Nepali passport and approaches you for a one-way travel document, you should collect his application, supporting documents and fee plus postage charge from him/her and forward them to the Embassy. The embassy will prepare relevant documents and send them back to you to be handed over to the applicant in due course of time.
- If someone approaches you for the passport, you may send his/her application form, supporting documents with the fee plus postage charge to the Embassy. The Embassy, after scrutiny, will issue a temporary passport with up to a maximum of one year validity period (This provision is likely to change from time to time).
- If someone applies for the machine readable passport (MRP) valid for a ten-year period, then you should collect from him his application, two passport-size photographs, other supporting documents, the fee plus postage charge and send them to the Embassy. The embassy will, in this case, forward these documents and the fee received to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for its processing. Once the Embassy receives back the MRP, it will promptly send it to your good office for delivery.
- Send in to the Embassy payments collected from visa fees, etc. in time and in a designated manner. Accounts keeping also must be done in a designated manner and should be transparent.
- Do seminars to disseminate information about Nepal, to encourage business leaders to enter into business relations with Nepal.
- Send political reports to the Embassy at regular intervals, stating the events done by you and a brief report on the eco-politico-social situation of your country.
- Organize and lead a business delegation to Nepal. Inform the Embassy beforehand for coordination. While in Nepal, you must have a meeting with the concerned desk in the Ministry of Foreign

Affairs, Nepal, so it can facilitate your trip to make it more productive.

- Identify the potentials for business and investment opportunities between Nepal and your country and always aim to bring out results in action for the benefit of the two countries.
- Continue meeting and seeking assistance of your country's political leaders and concerned bureaucrats, as and when necessary. Always try to take entrepreneurs, traders, tour operators on board.
- Liaise between the various business chambers of Nepal and those of your country, encouraging them to exchange visits between the two countries, as it will be an effective way to convince them to enter into partnership with each other.
- Does not matter even if you have already become functional as an Honorary Consul, you can still hold an inaugural ceremony for your office at a later date amidst a fanfare by inviting media representatives, etc to it. You should make sure leading dailies in your language and English language give a good coverage to the event. This can be an important occasion to give publicity to your newly-opened office (This applies to a newly opened Consulate).

**Footnote:**

- *Under the dress code, "informal" and "lounge suit" may be used alternatively. In other words, "informal" and "lounge suit" convey the same meaning when it comes to the dress code. Mistakenly, some put "informal" under dress code to mean "casual". But this is a blunder one must always remember.*
- *In Nepal, even though it is right-hand-drive, the flag post is still put on the right- hand side of the bonnet. This is a mistake. Actually the flag post, according to international practice, should have been put on the left- hand side as, in this case, the left- hand rear (back) seat would be the seat of honor, where the dignitary should be seated.*

**Following tips apply mainly to Political Leaders/ Government Delegations**

- Leader/ or representative of a party/organization must inform the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of his/her meeting or courtesy call on a foreign visiting minister, ambassador or senior official of a foreign country so these ministries could depute representatives to such

meeting. Foreign Ministry representative shall act as a rapporteur, who will prepare a report on matters that have surfaced in the meeting, to circulate it around to the concerned. Just in case the Ministries' representatives cannot be invited, it shall be incumbent upon the leader/representative to submit a summary report on the conversation and send one copy each to the Foreign Ministry and the other concerned ministries.

- Except for courtesy calls, visits/substantive discussions/dialogues must be conducted with one's counterpart.
- Leaders/diplomats may attend national day parties and parties done to honor foreign visiting dignitaries. If unsure whether or not to attend a particular party, one may solicit Foreign Ministry's advice.
- While attending a function/meeting, one should adhere to the decorum and decency as demanded by his position.
- If ministries, constitutional bodies and concerned officials are to make any commitment within or outside the country, they must put the Foreign Ministry in the picture well in time. Similarly, if the Foreign Ministry is to touch upon any matter falling within the jurisdiction and interest of the other ministries, it should do so in coordination with them.
- If one wants to invite his counterpart/guest to visit Nepal, it should be done with the prior approval of the Foreign Ministry.
- Any correspondence to be done by different ministries/organizations to foreign missions, regional and international representatives must be channelled through the Foreign Ministry. Advice sought by other ministries with the Foreign Ministry on any matter must be made available promptly and with priority.
- Foreign Ministry also, on its part, should make all correspondences to foreign Governments/ institutions/ regional and international organizations through its foreign missions abroad. But if, for some practical reasons, it has to forward its correspondences through the foreign missions based in Kathmandu, then it also has to subsequently send all the details to its concerned mission abroad for better coordination and efficiency.
- All political parties and organs of the Government, while channeling their correspondences through the Foreign Ministry, should mention in their correspondences Nepal's contact point, their official address, phone number, fax number, etc. For all Government



tasks, such Government organization's contact number/address must be used.

- Any statement/discussion / speech/ comment to be made by a Nepalese delegation/ official/ leader/ representative of a political party must be in line with the Government policy. On such matters, advice of Foreign Ministry shall be mandatory.
- Any proposal, which requires Foreign Ministry's authority letter, should not be presented for approval before the Cabinet without it.
- The Embassy concerned should provide all necessary assistance and cooperation to the visiting Nepalese Government delegation.
- If a special class bureaucrat or one above that rank is participating in a meeting on foreign soil, as far as possible, the concerned Embassy and Foreign Ministry official/s must be included on the delegation.
- Government delegation, before deciding to undertake a foreign trip, should obtain prior approval of the Foreign Ministry. If the Foreign Ministry does not think it appropriate for the delegation to undertake the trip, then it should inform the concerned in time, by giving sound and valid reason/s thereof.
- Government delegation, while participating in a foreign meeting, should use proper kind of passport as stipulated in the Passport Act and Rules.
- With the prior approval of the Foreign Ministry, an Embassy may create an emergency welfare fund and raise funds for it. Such fund shall be for the purpose of helping/rescuing Nepalese nationals in dire need of such help. Book-keeping of income and expenditure must be transparent and the Foreign Ministry must be advised on the matter at regular intervals. The needy Nepalese migrant workers and their kith and kin must be provided with prompt assistance, so their interests can be safeguarded.
- If signing a treaty/agreement/understanding entails liability on the Government, then prior approval of the Foreign Ministry shall be mandatory.
- Obtain beforehand the list of guests/delegation along with their detailed itinerary. Obtain permission through the Protocol Department (Chief of Protocol) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to keep the VIP lounge open, in case the dignitaries are entitled to the facility, according to the rules of the Government. Be dressed up in a lounge suit/national dress to receive the guests/delegation. If the

guests are the invitees of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, necessary protocol, vehicle facility and motorcade, as the case may be, shall be provided by the Government. In such a case, the ones that need to go to the airport to receive the guests/delegation by representing their respective parties will have to coordinate the matter with the Protocol Department of the Foreign Ministry, so they can also be allowed to have admittance into the VIP lounge at the time. The hosts should have booked the hotel for the guests in advance, with the room allocation made beforehand. A file each containing details of the entire programme schedule, along with telephone numbers of the liaison officer and security-in-charge, and room numbers of each individual members, along with those of the programme organizers should be given to all members of the delegation at the time of their checking-in into the hotel.

- If the delegates are not entitled to the VIP lounge facility, they should be received at the exit gate by holding a placard containing the name of the delegation, and subsequently driven to the hotel, where prior arrangement has been made for their stay.
- While visiting foreign countries to participate in a meeting/conference, the guests have to fix their itinerary to fit into the programme fixed by the hosts and intimate them of the same well in advance. Be well prepared about the subject matter before taking part in a meeting/conference. Have a thorough knowledge about the position Nepal should take on matters that are on the agenda of the conference. Be well briefed beforehand by the concerned authorities in the Government on the matters. All documents prepared for the purpose should be brought along. The leader should be speaking at the conference table, while other members will assist, as and when necessary, by whispering into the ear of the leader or passing a chit on to him. Only if directed by the leader, a member may take the floor.
- Before embarking on a trip abroad to participate in a meeting/conference, gift items in proper packaging should be made ready and brought along. These items, preferably depicting Nepalese craftsmanship, should be of varying prices, from relatively expensive to less and less expensive ones in descending order, so they may be gifted in the order of precedence of the host country. Such order of precedence of the concerned authorities should be solicited in advance. Each package should contain the name of the presenter and the recipient.

- These apart, each delegate should be familiar with the geography, history and culture of Nepal, most importantly the current political and economic situation of the country. One should also be well educated about the rules in place governing trade and investment policy of Nepal. One should know what Nepal can import from the host country and what items it can export to the host country.
- Act very friendly, yet dignified in a meeting/conference. One should always be conscious about maximizing national interest. And one should always appreciate and say good words about the culture and history of the host country.
- Nepal's national anthem and national table flags should be brought along.

### **What one should not do:**

- One should not pass on to anybody any state secret and sensitive information.
- While the process of negotiation is on, one should not leak any information, nor make public part or whole content of it.
- Foreign Minister, Foreign Secretary or Spokesperson or an authorized person only should make public any decisions relating to the Foreign Ministry.
- One should not accept expensive gifts, salary, loan and personal favor from any individual/ organization.
- One should not register, manage a foreign company, nor be a partner in it.
- One should not hold any position availed from the influence of foreign diplomatic mission.
- One should not disclose salaries of the Embassy staff, nor talk about age and marital status, etc.
- One should not accept invitation from a foreign mission/ international organization to participate in a foreign meeting without the approval of the authorized officials.
- One should not accept, without the prior approval of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, decoration, honour, medal or honorary degree from foreign Governments/institutions. One may take educational degree, though.
- One should not enter premises of foreign embassies, unless attending a party or paying a courtesy call on a diplomat.

## **Very Important Terminologies in Diplomatic Usage**

**Protocol:** It means to glue together by observing mutual respect and consideration. In diplomacy, the aspect that deals with diplomatic courtesy, etiquette and precedence is called protocol. It prescribes complete respect to superior rank and strict adherence to proper procedure. Protocol is also another name for an agreement. And sometimes, it may also mean sections added to an agreement.

**Ceremony:** It is a gesture of respect and politeness done elaborately.

**Precedence:** It means order of seniority among ambassadors, consuls general or consuls on formal occasions. Ambassadors' seniority is based on the order in which they have presented their credentials to the host government. In case of others, it is based on the order in which they have reported to the host country about their arrival.

**Persona Non Grata:** A person/diplomat who is unwelcome by the host government.

**Letter of Recall:** It is an official letter from one head of state to another, which formally informs of the recall of the predecessor of the newly-appointed ambassador. This letter is presented by the new ambassador to the head of state of the host country along with his letter of credence amid a grand ceremony.

**En tente:** Less binding than a treaty, it is an understanding arrived at between two countries.

**De' tente:** It means the reduction of dangerous tension, especially between countries.

**Diplomatic Immunity:** Under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations (1961), a UN Convention, diplomats are immune from lawsuit or prosecution under the host country's laws on a reciprocal basis, although they can still be expelled. But, owing to security reasons, in practice, we see in the present times the infringement upon these rights here and there.

**Extradition:** It is the process in which, under treaties signed between two countries, a fugitive fleeing justice from one country is extradited (returned) from the country where he has sought refuge. It does not apply to political offences, though.

**Extraterritoriality:** If, under a formally concluded agreement, one nation is allowed to carry out certain functions within the territory of another state, thus curtailing the jurisdiction of the host country in certain fixed areas and/or in certain specified respects, it is called extraterritoriality.

**Full powers:** It is a legal document which a diplomat tasked to carry out special duties is supposed to bring with him and show it to the other party involved, before signing a treaty/ agreement/ understanding/ memorandum, etc.

**Good Offices:** It is an involvement of a third state/individual/ or an international body to stimulate the process of settlement in a dispute between two other states.

**Ratification:** Subsequent to the signing of a treaty, a government is supposed to get it ratified by its legislative branch (parliament), following which only, the treaty becomes binding upon the state.

**Consular Agent:** It is an official doing consular work for a nation in a locality where it does not maintain a regular consulate. This official is usually a national of the host state, and his/her work is usually part-time.

**Declaration:** This is a joint statement by two or more states having the same binding effect as a treaty. Such declarations can be made on a stand-alone basis or appended to a treaty as an added understanding or interpretation.

**De marche':** This is a request or intercession with a foreign official, e.g., a request for support of a policy, or a protest about the host government's policy or actions.

**De marche:** It is a formal approach or intervention by a diplomat making representation to an other government. Normally, it indicates formally raising an issue with the host country government, usually involving a specific request for some action or decision in connection with the issue.

**Diplomatic Bag:** This is a bag in which mail is sent to and from diplomatic/ consular missions and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. If the bag contains classified documents, it is carried by a special security-cleared courier, if not, the bag is sent by airfreight.

**Diplomatic Illness:** It is the practice of feigning illness to avoid participation in a diplomatic event of one kind or another and at the same time to avoid giving formal offence. Diplomatic deafness is a somewhat related concept whereby older diplomats allegedly turn this infirmity to advantage by not hearing what they prefer not to hear.

**Cross Accreditation/Dual Accreditation:** When an ambassador or high commissioner is concurrently accredited to two or more countries, It is called cross accreditation/dual accreditation.

**Ex Gratia:** It is something which is done as a gesture of goodwill and not on the basis of an accepted legal obligation.

**Exchanges of notes:** It is a common way of recording an agreement as agreed upon in advance by the two governments participating in the exchange.

**Rapporteur:** It is an official of a committee or subcommittee entrusted with the job of preparing summary report of its discussions and conclusions.

**Rapprochement:** It is the establishment of improved relations between two countries.

**Tour d'horizon:** It is a diplomatic discussion, covering a range of subjects of current and common interest.

**Treaty:** It is a formal binding agreement between countries.

**Ultimatum:** It is a formal statement indicating serious displeasure. On occasion, it may be a prelude to taking serious action, e.g, military activities, trade embargo, severance of diplomatic relations, etc.

**Visa:** It is a written authority to enter a country for either temporary residence (e.g., for tourism, education, or business) or for permanent residence.

**Mission:** It is a generic term for an embassy, high commission, consulate-general or consulate.

**Modus Vivendi:** It is a temporary agreement, in writing, of an interim character, pending the negotiation of more definitive arrangements.

**Accession:** It is the procedure by which a nation becomes a party to an agreement already in force between other nations.

**Accords:** These are international agreements originally thought to be for lesser subjects than covered by treaties, but now really treaties by a different name.

**Ad Referendum:** Ad referendum means an agreement reached by negotiators at the table, subject to the subsequent concurrence of their governments.

**Agre'ment:** Diplomatic courtesy requires that before a state appoints a new head of a diplomatic mission, it must first ascertain whether the proposed appointee is acceptable to the receiving state. The agreement of the receiving state is signified by its granting agreement to the appointment. It is unusual for an agreement to be refused, but it occasionally happens.

**Aide Memoire:** It is a written summary of the key points made by a diplomat in an official conversation. Literally, it is a document left with the other party to the conversation, either at the time of the conversation or subsequently, as an aid to memory.

**Alternat:** When an agreement is signed between two states, or among several states, each signatory keeps an official copy for itself. The term alternat refers to the principle, which provides that a state's own name will be listed ahead of the other signatory, or signatories, in its own official copy. It is a practice devised centuries ago to handle sensitivities over precedence.

**Bout de Papier:** It is a very informal means of conveying written information, more informal than an aide memoire, memorandum or a letter.

**Casus Belli:** It is an action by one state regarded as so contrary to the interests of another state as to be considered by that second state as a cause of war.

**Chancelleries:** As in 'Chancelleries of Europe', i.e., foreign offices.

**Charge' d' Affaires e.p. (en pied):** It is a diplomat accredited by letter to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of a country in lieu of an accredited residential ambassador.

**Charge d' Affairs, a.e. (ad Interim):** It is a senior officer taking charge of the embassy when the ambassador is absent from the post (e.g., on leave) or in the interval between the departure of the ambassador and the arrival of a successor. At high commissions, the senior officer taking charge of the post temporarily is designated as acting high commissioner.

**Chief of Mission:** It is the senior officer in an embassy, high commission, permanent mission, legation, consulate general or consulate (i.e., ambassador, high commissioner, minister, consul-general or consul, respectively).

**Communique:** It is a brief public summary statement issued, following important bilateral or multilateral meetings.

**Conciliation:** It is an effort to achieve agreement and, hopefully, increased goodwill between two opposed parties.

**Concordat:** It is a treaty to which the Pope is a party.

**Consul, Honorary:** It is a host country national appointed by a foreign state to perform limited consular functions in a locality where the appointing state has no other consular representation.

**Exequatur:** It is a document issued to a consular officer by the host country government, authorizing the officer to carry out his/her consular activities.

**Final Act:** It is a formal summary statement, prepared at the conclusion of a seminar.

**Legation:** Rarely found now, a legation is lower in rank to an embassy and is headed by a minister. British Legation in Nepal was the first foreign mission ever established in Nepal under the Sugauli Treaty, 1816.

**TABLE I**  
**SITTING ARRANGEMENT AT A FORMAL DINNER PARTY**

		Chief Guest ↓									
		3	7	11	15	18	14	10	6	2	
<p><b>HEAD OF THE TABLE</b> (Face of the table is one which is closest to the kitchen)</p> <p><b>HOST</b></p>	<p><b>TAIL OF THE TABLE</b> (Tail of the table is one which is right opposite to the head of the table)</p> <p><b>HOSTESS</b></p>	<p>Flower Vase (Flower stems should be short)      → Candle stand (with a candle mounted on it)      Flower Vase (stems should be short)      → Candle stand (with a candle mounted on it)      Flower Vase (stems should be short)</p>									
<p>1</p> <p>↑</p> <p>Spouse of the Chief Guest</p> <p>(Switch this seating arrangement with the Chief Guest if the society is shy/conservative)</p> <p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food must be served from the left side and first to ladies.</li> <li>• At every party, an entry book should be placed on a desk at the entrance, wherein the guests attending the party may enter their name and designation.</li> <li>• On the folio to be used for this purpose, at the head should be mentioned the occasion/date.</li> <li>• Candles must be lit right before the guests are directed to the table.</li> <li>• Cutleries must be set properly, with the one to be used first placed on the outermost fringes, and the others in similar regressive orders.</li> <li>• Crockeries and beverage glasses also must be placed in proper order.</li> <li>• Name plate bearing the name of the individual guest must be placed in front of him so he would know the seat assigned to him according to the order of precedence.</li> </ul>	<p>5</p> <p>9</p> <p>13</p> <p>17</p> <p>16</p> <p>12</p> <p>8</p> <p>4'</p>										



**TABLE II**  
**SITTING ARRANGEMENT IN CASE OF A STAG (only males) PARTY**

3	7	11	15	18	14	10	6	2
Flower Vase (Flower stems should be short)	→ Candle stand (with a candle mounted on it)	Flower Vase (stems should be short)	→ Candle stand (with a candle mounted on it)	Flower Vase (stems should be short)	→ Candle stand (with a candle mounted on it)	Flower Vase (stems should be short)	Flower Vase (stems should be short)	

**HEAD OF THE TABLE**  
(face of the table is one which is closest to the kitchen)

**HOST**

**TAIL OF THE TABLE**  
(Tail of the table is one which is right opposite to the head of the table)  
**CHIEF GUEST**  
**OR GUEST OF HONOR**

Note:

- Food must be served from the left side and first to ladies.
- At every party, an entry book should be placed on a desk at the entrance, wherein the guests attending the party may enter their name and designation.
- On the folio to be used for this purpose, at the head should be mentioned the occasion/date.
- Candles must be lit right before the guests are directed to the table.
- Cutleries must be set properly, with the one to be used first placed on the outermost fringes, and the others in similar regressive orders.
- Crockeries and beverage glasses also must be placed in proper order.
- Name plate bearing the name of the individual guest must be placed on the table in front of him so he would know the seat assigned to him according to the order of precedence.

**TABLE III**  
**ALTERNATE SITTING ARRANGEMENT AT A FORMAL PARTY**

**TAIL OF THE TABLE**

Tail of the table is one which is right opposite to the head of the table)

↓  
SPOUSE OF CHIEF GUEST

18      14      10      6      2      4      8      12      16      20

↓  
HOSTESS

Flower Vase (Flower stems should be short)

→ Candle stand (with a candle mounted on it)

Flower Vase (stems should be short)

→ Candle stand (with a candle mounted on it)

Flower Vase ( stems should be short)

19

15

11

7

3

1

5

9

13

17

↑  
HOST

↑  
CHIEF GUEST

**HEAD OF THE TABLE**

(Face of the table is one which is closest to the kitchen)

Note:

- Food must be served from the left side and first to ladies.
- At every party, an entry book should be placed on a desk at the entrance, wherein the guests attending the party may enter their name and designation.
- On the folio to be used for this purpose, at the head should be mentioned the occasion/date.
- Candles must be lit right before the guests are directed to the table.
- Cutleries must be set properly, with the one to be used first placed on the outermost fringes, and the others in similar regressive orders.
- Crockeries and beverage glasses also must be placed in proper order.
- Name plate bearing the name of the individual guest must be placed on the table in front of him so he would know the seat assigned to him according to the order of precedence.

# Annex

## Annex 1

# Diplomatic Code of Conduct, 2011

### Table of Contents

#### Preamble

1. Short Title and Commencement
2. Definition
3. Observance of the Code
4. Courtesy Calls, Official Talks and Meetings
5. Organizing Official Ceremonies, Participation and Courtesies
6. Agreements and Commitments with Foreigners and Diplomatic Correspondence
7. Foreign Visits, Representations, Presentations and Reporting
8. Dress Code and Language
9. Conduct of Diplomatic Functionaries or those Holding such Responsibilities
10. Prohibited Acts
11. Monitoring of the Observance of the Code
12. Miscellaneous

## **Diplomatic Code of Conduct, 2011**

### **Preamble**

With the objective of conducting the official meetings, contacts, negotiations and communications of the Government of Nepal with foreign governments, international organizations, their representatives and other officials in a more systematic and dignified manner consistent with diplomatic norms and international practices, this Diplomatic Code of Conduct has hereby been issued as per the Cabinet decision of the Government of Nepal.

### **1. Short Title and Commencement**

- 1.1 This code shall be called the "Diplomatic Code of Conduct, 2011."
- 1.2 This Code shall come into effect immediately.

### **2. Definition**

Unless the subject or context otherwise requires, in this Code:-

- 2.1 "Person holding public office" means any individual holding a position empowered to exercise public authority, observe any duty or shoulder any responsibility in accordance with the constitution or any other prevailing law or the decision or instructions of the organization or officer concerned. This phrase also refers to the officials and staff occupying positions in public institutions or any other officer so designated from time to time by the Government of Nepal by a notice published in the Nepal Gazette.
- 2.2 "Nepalese Mission" refers to Nepalese Embassies, Permanent Missions of Nepal to the United Nations, Consulates-General, Consulates, Honorary Consulates-General and Consulates abroad and other agencies as designated by the Government of Nepal by a notice published in the Nepal Gazette.
- 2.3 "Foreign Mission" means Nepal-based foreign Embassies, Missions, Consulates-General, Consulates, Liaison Offices and Honorary Consulates-General or Consulates.
- 2.4 "International Organization" refers to the United Nations, specialized and other agencies under it, the SAARC Secretariat or the Delegation of the European

Union. This phrase also refers to the inter-governmental organizations of regional or international nature.

- 2.5 "International Non-Governmental Organization" means the non-governmental organizations registered in a country and conducting activities in two or more countries. This phrase also refers to the organizations of regional nature based in Nepal.
- 2.6 "Foreign Diplomats" means diplomatic officials of Nepal-based foreign missions. This phrase also refers to any other officials enjoying diplomatic privileges as decided by the Government of Nepal.
- 2.7 "Administrative and Technical Staff of Foreign Missions" means all non-Nepalese employees working in foreign missions other than diplomats.
- 2.8 "Local staff" means Nepalese employees of foreign missions, United Nations and other international and regional organizations based in Nepal and the non-diplomatic staff working in Nepalese missions abroad.

### **3. Observance of the Code**

- 3.1 This code is applicable to persons holding public office and officials drawing remunerations and perks from the state treasury.
- 3.2 It shall be the duty of all, including persons holding public office and officials drawing remunerations from the state treasury, to observe this Code.

### **4. Courtesy Calls, Official Talks and Meetings**

- 4.1 Ministers of the Government of Nepal or officials of the constitutional bodies or other senior officials should invite representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other related ministries while meeting ministers, ambassadors or senior government officials of foreign governments. The representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs should prepare the record of talks held on those occasions. In case of the inability of the representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to be present in the meeting because of short notice or other special reasons, the agency concerned should make available to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs summary report of the talks and the matters discussed during the meeting. Likewise, summary report of meetings, contacts and discussions held by officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs should be sent to the Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers.

- 4.2 Ministers of the Government of Nepal or officials of the constitutional bodies or other senior officials should, as far as possible, give prior intimation to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs while receiving foreign diplomats or other officials for courtesy or farewell calls, formal talks and meetings. Summary report of the talks and discussions held during such meetings should be made available to the Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The supervisor of the individual concerned should be informed verbally or in writing before holding such meetings and talks. In the case of Secretaries of Government of Nepal, the Chief Secretary of Government of Nepal shall be the supervising official.
- 4.3 Ministers of the Government of Nepal or officials of the constitutional bodies or other senior officials should generally contact and hold substantive discussions or talks, other than courtesy meetings, with their counterpart foreign officials. Taking into account the overall interest of the nation and the seriousness of the meeting or issues of discussion, and also keeping in mind the existing hierarchical arrangements and delegation of authority in the country or organization concerned, meetings and discussions may be held with foreign officials of suitable rank. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Nepalese diplomatic missions abroad should make arrangements for meetings and discussions accordingly. For that, the agencies concerned should write to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs well in advance.
- 4.4 Taking into account the level and seriousness of the meeting or talks with foreigners, the officials concerned should seek the advice of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on background information and matters to be raised during such talks. It shall be the duty of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to provide necessary suggestions and relevant information available.
- 4.5 The Honorary Nepalese Consuls-General or Consuls should inform the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Mission concerned about matters relating to Nepal or Nepalese citizens or any other subject including talks on bilateral political, economic, commercial, cultural and other relations, published materials and other matters having direct implications for Nepal that come to their knowledge.

## **5. Organizing Official Ceremonies, Participation and Courtesies**

- 5.1 While accepting invitations to attend events including luncheons, dinners and other social or recreational programs other than receptions, luncheons and dinners organized on the occasion of the visit of foreign government ministers,

officials and delegations, receptions organized by foreign missions to celebrate their National Days and other state programs, such aspects as status of the host, as far as available the level of other invitees, the nature of the event and the purpose of the invitation must be taken into consideration. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs may be consulted in case of any doubt about the advisability of attending any program. One should inform his/her supervisor, verbally or in writing as necessary, about participation in such programs and the conversation and discussions held on those occasions.

- 5.2 Officials attending recreational programs in course of public functions or meetings should maintain the decorum befitting their position while dining and conversing.
- 5.3 Generally, public officials at the level of Gazetted Special Class or above may accept invitations received for programs hosted by the heads of foreign missions or the heads of regional or international organizations. In case of any confusion in this regard, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs may be consulted.
- 5.4 Persons holding public office and other government officials, while inviting foreigners to such programs as luncheons, dinners or receptions organized on various occasions including the National Day, must take into account such aspects as reciprocity and status as well as goodwill, friendliness and cooperative feelings towards Nepal and the Nepalese people to determine the appropriateness of such invitation.

## **6. Agreements and Commitments with Foreigners and Diplomatic Correspondence**

- 6.1 While concluding an agreement or an understanding of any kind with a foreign government or a regional or an international organization or in situations creating any obligation, prior approval and participation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs must be ensured in keeping with the Rules of Business Allocation of the Government of Nepal.
- 6.2 Commitments made by ministries, constitutional bodies and other government agency officials in meetings held at home or abroad with the representatives of foreign governments and organizations must be communicated to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as soon as possible. Likewise, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and its officials should keep the relevant agencies of the Government of Nepal informed about their own activities if related to these agencies and facilitate as necessary. Annual progress report of the performances of Nepalese diplomatic



officials and representatives abroad should be prepared and submitted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers within three months of the end of the fiscal year.

- 6.3 Concurrence of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs shall have to be obtained before inviting foreign government counterparts and other guests to visit Nepal.
- 6.4 Correspondence done on behalf of the Government of Nepal with foreign missions, resident representatives of regional and international organizations and diplomatic officials must be sent through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in keeping with the Rules of Business Allocation of the Government of Nepal. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs may provide any advice or suggestion to the agencies concerned as necessary.
- 6.5 Correspondence on behalf of the Government of Nepal with foreign governments or organizations, must be channeled through the Nepalese mission stationed in or accredited to the country or organization concerned. In case such correspondence is needed to be done through foreign missions in Nepal for some practical reasons, the details must immediately be made available to the Nepalese mission abroad concerned.
- 6.6 Various agencies of the Government of Nepal, while designating focal point for correspondence and contact with foreign governments, agencies and regional and international organizations, must designate the agency concerned of the Government of Nepal or a particular position, not an individual. The postal and email addresses and phone and fax numbers of the designated focal point should be those of the government agency concerned. For official business, the official contact number and address must be used.

## **7. Foreign Visits, Representations, Presentations and Reporting**

- 7.1 The address, speech, statement or remarks to be made by Nepalese delegations or officials visiting abroad to attend any meeting, conference, ceremony, debate and programs must be in accordance with the policies of the Government of Nepal. The opinion of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs should be sought in respect of the policy position, address, speech, statement or comments to be made abroad by the leader and members of the delegation on behalf of the Government of Nepal. Similarly, concurrence of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs must be obtained before submitting proposals to the Cabinet on matters requiring the Ministry to issue credentials. It shall be the duty of Nepalese

missions concerned to extend necessary cooperation on substantive part of related programs to the high-level delegations visiting abroad in connection with official business. Those individuals must submit summary report to the agency concerned upon completion of the visit. The agency concerned must provide information promptly to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on matters so required in accordance with the rules of Business Allocation. No one should initial on any type of understanding without having prior approval from the authorized official on agency.

- 7.2 While sending delegations on behalf of the Government of Nepal for participation in various events at the invitation of foreign governments or the regional or international organizations, the ministry or agency concerned should channel its communication with the host country, mission or organization through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- 7.3 Every Nepalese delegation led by an official of or above the Gazetted Special Class visiting abroad on official assignment must, as far as possible, include representatives from the Nepalese mission concerned and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as necessary.
- 7.4 Representation of the Ministry of foreign Affairs must be ensured in internal discussions preparatory to the participation of Nepalese delegations to meetings abroad.
- 7.5 Persons holding public office must use the kind of passport as specified in the Passport Act and the Passport Regulations while visiting abroad on official business.
- 7.6 Correspondences relating the foreign trips of government delegations should be made through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In case Ministry of Foreign Affairs holds contrary opinion regarding the appropriateness of certain visits, that should be communicated to the agencies concerned for reconsideration well in time.

## **8. Dress Code and Language**

- 8.1 Persons holding public office, while attending events like formal ceremony, luncheon, dinner, reception etc. on the occasion of the National Day of Nepal or of any foreign country, should wear the National dress or formal attire in

accordance with international practice also taking into account the dress code indicated in the invitation card.

- 8.2 Persons holding public office and government officials should wear a decent dress befitting the occasion or a formal dress in accordance with international practice at formal meetings, negotiations and discussions with representatives of foreign governments or agencies and officials of international organizations.
- 8.3 All personnel working at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Nepalese missions abroad should behave with courtesy and wear suitable and decent dress.
- 8.4 Courteous and decent language should be used during contacts, communications and interactions with foreigners. If an English language interpreter is needed for a formal interaction with foreigners, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs may be approached and the Ministry shall depute a qualified foreign-service officer for the purpose. Officials who do not have the requisite level of proficiency in English shall communicate through the interpreter.
- 8.5 Care should be given to use correct, courteous and comprehensible language.

## **9. Conduct of Diplomatic Functionaries or Those Holding Such Responsibilities**

- 9.1 All individuals including public office bearers performing diplomatic functions and holding diplomatic responsibilities shall have to conduct in accordance with international standards.
- 9.2 Foreign Secretary and members of Nepal Foreign Service as well as Nepalese Ambassadors, Consuls-General and other officials from outside the Foreign Service should conduct in accordance with the internationally accepted diplomatic norms, values and practices.
- 9.3 Heads of Nepalese Diplomatic Missions and other officials of the Mission should not abuse their diplomatic privileges and immunities.
- 9.4 The Heads of Nepalese Diplomatic Missions or their spouses or diplomatic officials should not hold any position of benefit or engage in business activities.
- 9.5 Diplomatic Bag/Pouch should not be used for private purposes.
- 9.6 Persons holding public office should not give statements, publish materials and engage in activities detrimental to the existing relations of Nepal with friendly

countries, or be part of any such activities. They should neither act in contravention to the agreements concluded with regional and multilateral organizations to which Nepal is a party nor be part of any such acts.

- 9.7 The Heads of Mission and other officials should not charge any kind of fee or money to Nepalese or foreign nationals, except as provided for by the existing laws, rules, and bylaws or as otherwise determined by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or any other agency of the Government of Nepal on the basis of specified standards, directives or decisions. The record of income and expenditure of funds collected as above should be maintained in a transparent manner and the statement of which should be reported to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs regularly. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Head of the Mission concerned should regularly supervise and monitor for ensuring the effective implementation and full compliance of this provision.
- 9.8 While creating welfare funds in the Missions for the benefit or rescue of Nepalese workers abroad, prior approval of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs should be obtained and necessary directives, standards and operating procedures in this regard should be prepared and arrangements should be made to maintain the record of income and expenditure in a transparent manner. The receipt of any salary, allowance, insurance, or blood money payable to the Nepalese workers abroad or their legal heirs, when received through any Mission, should be communicated to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the person concerned or his/her legal heirs as soon as possible. Arrangement should be made to handover such amount of money to the person concerned through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as soon as possible. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Head of Mission concerned should regularly supervise and monitor for ensuring the effective implementation and full compliance of this provision.
- 9.9 The Ministry of Foreign Affairs should submit an annual report of compliance of this Code by the individuals and officials with diplomatic functions and responsibilities to the Council of Ministers.

## **10. Prohibited Acts**

Individuals holding public offices and those drawing remuneration or other perks from the national treasury are prohibited to do the following:

- 10.1 Provide any confidential and sensitive national information to anyone including foreign diplomats and administrative or technical employees and local staff of foreign missions.

- 10.2 Leak or publicize information relating to talks or negotiations, while they are in progress, in a manner that could affect the outcome of such talks or negotiations.
- 10.3 Issuance of public notice relating to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or to the conduct of foreign relations of Nepal by individuals other than the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Foreign Secretary and Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or any other authorized official.
- 10.4 Accept any gift, donation, grant, loan, remuneration or any other special favor except simple gifts offered during special occasions by any foreign diplomat, mission or officer thereof, without prior approval of the Government of Nepal or of the agency concerned.
- "Special Occasion" refers to National Days, festivals, exchange of bilateral visits at various levels and courtesy or farewell calls.
- 10.5 Avail or make efforts to avail any personal benefit, expensive gifts except simple gifts offered as a token of courtesy, or any other favor relating to such opportunities as employment, scholarship or medical treatment for oneself or family members from functionally associated foreign individuals, organizations, governments or agencies.
- 10.6 Be a partner or an associate in the establishment, registration or management of any foreign company or organization.
- 10.7 Accept any full time or part time outside job supported and endorsed by a foreign diplomat or a foreign mission.
- 10.8 Unnecessarily share information with foreigners on the pay or other emoluments and benefits of oneself or of others or make comments on aspects of personal life such as marital status, age and the like.
- 10.9 Seek personal invitation or financial assistance from any foreign mission, regional or international inter-governmental organization or international non-governmental organization for study tours or any other visit without proper authorization.
- 10.10 Request any foreign mission, regional or international inter-governmental organization or international non-governmental organization or an officer thereof to invest in or provide assistance to projects exclusively designed on

political considerations or to cater to the interest of a person or certain individuals or of any other vested interest group.

- 10.11 Make unauthorized correspondence or contact or meet and discuss with foreign diplomats or any officer in a foreign mission or with officials of any regional or international inter-governmental organization or international non-governmental organization.
- 10.12 Make unauthorized representation or unauthorized commitment on behalf of the Government to foreign diplomats or foreign missions.
- 10.13 Make false claims as regards one's own official status and authority with foreign diplomats, employees of foreign missions or anyone else.
- 10.14 Accept invitation to; deliver a speech, address or make statement, express views or make comments in programs not relevant to one's own official duty and responsibility.
- 10.15 Abuse authority in a manner to mete special favor to any foreign diplomat or an employee of a foreign mission.
- 10.16 Accept invitations to functions that are not relevant and consistent with the individual's official responsibility, status or position.
- 10.17 Correspond with countries or foreign organizations not recognized by the Government of Nepal or meet with representatives thereof and participate in events organized by such organizations and individuals.
- 10.18 Establish undignified contacts or relations with or take personal benefits from foreign governments, diplomats, diplomatic agencies or delegations.
- 10.19 Accept any foreign decoration, medal, honor or honorary degree other than academic degrees or those that are directly connected with academic achievement or academic excellence without prior approval of the Government of Nepal.
- 10.20 Use foreign diplomats, foreign missions or employees of regional or international inter-governmental or international non-governmental organizations or development co-operation missions in putting undue pressure or influence on officials of the Government of Nepal or any other agency for personal interest.
- 10.21 Enter into the chancery or residential premises of foreign diplomatic missions based in Nepal except for formal programs or duly accepted invitations.

- 10.22 Oppose prevailing laws, official policies, plans, proclamations, decisions and approved programs of the Government of Nepal or make adverse comments thereof.

**11. Monitoring of the Observance of the Code**

- 11.1 There shall be one High-level Monitoring Committee and one Standing Monitoring Committee to monitor the compliance of this Code.

- 11.2 **High-level Committee for Monitoring:** For officials equivalent to or above the rank of Gazetted Special Class of the Government of Nepal, there shall be a High-level Monitoring Committee consisting of the following:

(a)	Minister for Foreign Affairs	Coordinator
(b)	Chief Secretary to the Government of Nepal	Member
(c)	Secretary, Office of Prime Minister and Council of Ministers	Member
(d)	Secretary, Ministry of Law and Justice	Member
(e)	Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs	Member
(f)	Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Member

Chief of Protocol of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs shall act as Secretary of the High-level Committee for Monitoring.

- 11.3 **Standing Committee for Monitoring:** For officials of the rank of Gazetted First Class or below, there shall be a Permanent Monitoring Committee consisting of the following:

(a)	Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Coordinator
(b)	Joint Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers	Member
(c)	Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance	Member
(d)	Joint Secretary, Ministry of Law and Justice	Member
(e)	Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs	Member
(f)	Joint Secretary, Ministry of General Administration	Member





## Annex 2

# List of Participants

1. Hon'ble Mr. Narayan Kaji Shrestha  
DPM & Foreign Minister, MoFA
2. Mr. Leela Mani Paudyal  
Chief Secretary  
Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Minister  
Government of Nepal
3. Mr. Durga Prasad Bhattarai  
Foreign Secretary, MoFA
4. Mr. Bal Bahadur Kunwar  
Former Ambassador to Sri-Lanka & Pakistan.
5. Mr. Binod Prasad Bista  
Foreign Policy Expert
6. Mr. Yuvaraj Baskota  
Balkhu.
7. Ms. Annie Acharya  
Gyaneshwor
8. Ms. Sarmila Thapa  
Himalayan TV
9. Mr. Rajesh Rajak  
Himalayan TV
10. Mr. Sunil Baral  
UML-CPN (Moist)
11. Mr. Ram Kumar Chaudhary  
Nepali Congress
12. Mr. JB Madai  
Union
13. Mr. Sanjeev Kumar Shah  
News 24 TV

- 14 Mr. Shreedhar Gautam  
NCWA
- 15 Dr. R.D. Singh  
NMSP
- 16 Mr. Ram Babu Dhakal  
Under Secretary, MoFA
- 17 Mr. Shankar Bhandari  
NCCCM
- 18 Mr. Dipak Sapakota  
Tinkune
- 19 Mr. Nabin Dhungel
- 20 Mr. Chauyen Lai  
Nepali Congress
- 21 Mr. Niraj Basnyat  
Joint Secretary, MoFA
- 22 Mr. Rakesh Hamal  
Nepali Congress
- 23 Mr. Keshav Pandey  
CPN-UML
- 24 Mr. Saroj Dhakal  
Nepal Samacharpatra
- 25 Mr. Rajan Bhattarai  
CPN-UML
- 26 Mr. JP Aryal  
MoFA
- 27 Mr. Dilip K Paudel  
MoFA
- 28 Mr. Ramesh K Charmakar  
MoFA
- 29 Mr. Kapil Pokharel  
CPN-ML
- 30 Dr. Shivjee Yadav  
MJF Nepal

- 31 Mr. Ram Kumar Khanal  
NTC
- 32 Mr. Jayant Chand  
RPP
- 33 Mr. Dhruva Raj Adhikari  
UCPN-Maoist
- 34 Mr. Bharat P. Pathak  
RPP
- 35 Mr. Chandra Bhandari  
Nepali Congress
- 36 Mr. Bikash Lohani  
RSS
- 37 Mr. Yuba Nath Lamsal  
The Rising Nepal
- 38 Ms. Sujita Shakya  
CPN-UML
- 39 Ms. Kamala Panta  
Former Minister  
Nepali Congress
- 40 Mr. Hari Bahadur Basnet  
Former Minister  
New Baneshwor
- 41 Mr. Daman Katuwal  
Koteshwor
- 42 Mr. Suman Shrestha  
News 24 TV
- 43 Mr. Ram Karki  
UCPN (M)
- 44 Mr. Ramchandra Basnet  
Kathmandu
- 45 Dr. Dhawal S Rana  
RPP N
- 46 Mr. Kiran Giri  
RJP

- 47 Mr. Anil Giri  
The Kathmandu Post
- 48 Dr. Gopal Pokharel  
Former Executive Director of IFA
- 49 Mr. Roshan Thapa  
Avenues TV
- 50 Dr. Rishi Raj Adhikari  
Executive Director, IFA
- 51 Mr. Khush Narayan Shrestha  
Deputy Executive Director, IFA
- 52 Mr. Mahendra Joshi  
IFA
- 53 Mr. Subhash Lohani  
IFA
- 54 Ms. Binita Shrestha  
IFA
- 55 Mr. Sanuraja Puri  
IFA
- 56 Mr. Rajendra Magar  
IFA
- 57 Mr. Nish Magar  
IFA
- 58 Ms. Mina Magar  
IFA.

## IFA Publications

1.	Report on the National Seminar on Nepal's Foreign Policy	–	1993
2.	Report of the Seminar on the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations and their Implications of the Nepalese Economy	–	1994
3.	Nepal's Participation in the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations (Report of the Seminar Organized in Cooperation with UN Association of Nepal)	–	1994
4.	Nepal's Foreign Policy: Issues and Options (Report of the National Seminar Organized in Cooperation with FES)	–	1999
5.	The SAARC Process and Poverty Eradication in South Asia (Report of the Talk Programme Organized in Cooperation with SAPPROS-Nepal)	–	1999
6.	Policy Study Series-1 (Nepal-India, Nepal-China and U.N., LDC and Nepal) – 1999	–	2001
7.	Policy Study Series II (Security in South Asia)	–	2001
8.	नेपाल-भारत खुल्ला सिमाना : सकारात्मक तथा नकारात्मक पक्षहरु विषयक गोष्ठीहरुको प्रतिवेदन	–	2002
9.	Report of the Seminar on Follow-up of the Eleventh SAARC Summit	–	2003
10.	Policy Study Series III (Nepal's Relations with Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka)	–	2003
11.	Future of South Asia: A New Generational Perspective	–	2004
12.	Policy Study Series IV (Nepal's Relations with United States of America)	–	2004
13.	Report on Nepal's Foreign Affairs (2002-2003)	–	2004
14.	Trade Facilitation: Nepal's Priorities	–	2005
15.	Policy Study Series V: Labour Issues and Foreign Policy	–	2005
16.	Nepal-China Relations	–	2005
17.	Nepal and the United Nations in Cooperation with NCWA and UNAN	–	2005
18.	New Life within SAARC in Cooperation with FES	–	2005
19.	Comprehensive Security in South Asia in Cooperation with FES	–	2005
20.	Nepal as a Transit State: Emerging Possibilities	–	2006
21.	Nepal-Japan Relations	–	2006

*Continue*

# IFA Publications

22. Report on Special Orientation Programme for Nepalese Foreign Service Officials (Deputed) working in different missions abroad – 2007
23. Different Dimensions of Bhutanese Refugee Problem: Its Implications and Lasting Solutions- – 2007
24. Water Resource Management of Nepal: A Strong Means for Sustainable National Development – 2007
25. A Report on Briefing-Cum-Interaction Programme for the Nepalese Ambassadors (Designate) to Different Missions Abroad. – 2007
26. Nepal: A Generic Guideline for Development through Economic Diplomacy – 2008
27. Expansion of SAARC: Challenges and Opportunities – 2008
28. Nepal-German Relations – 2009
29. Course Design for Ambassador Designate and Officials of Ministry of Foreign Affairs – 2009
30. A Compilation of Joint communiqués and Press Statements Issues by Governments of Nepal and India during Prime Minister's Officials Visits (1990 to 2009) – 2009
31. Foreign Policy of Nepal: "Challenges and Opportunities" – 2009
32. Statements and Declarations of SAARC Summits of the Heads of State or Government (1985-2010) – 2010
33. Speeches of Heads of the Nepalese Delegation to the United Nations General Assembly 1990-2009 – 2010
34. Summit Declarations of Non-Aligned Movement (1961-2009) – 2011
35. Speeches of Heads of the Nepalese Delegation to the Non-Aligned Movement (1961-2009) – 2011
36. Translating Commitments, Accountability and Partnership into Actions: A case of Nepal. – 2011
37. A Report on Emerging Challenges of Nepal's Foreign Policy – National Level Seminar. – 2012
38. Institutionalization of Nepal's Foreign Policy – 2013
39. Foreign Policy of Nepal: Enhancing Effective Participation of Nepal in Regional and International Systems & Risk of Climate Change in South Asia – 2013
40. From a buffer towards a bridge: Nepal's new foreign policy agenda – 2013
41. Role of NRN in Effective Mobilization of Economic Diplomacy in Nepal – 2014
42. "International Cooperation in Commercialization & Industrialization of Nepalese Agriculture: From Policy to Practice" – 2014