



GOVERNANCE

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Nepal's Voice at the United Nations: Promises on Climate Action, Transitional Justice and More

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Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli is on a visit to the United States from September 20 to September 30 2024. In New York, he addressed the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly on 26 September 2024 and co-chaired the United Nations Summit for the Future. In addition to these engagements, the PM participated in several side events where he spoke on key challenges Nepal has been facing, including poverty, climate change, and transitional justice among others. The delegation accompanying PM Oli includes Foreign Minister Arzu Rana Deuba, PM's Advisor Bishnu Prasad Rimal, and Foreign Affairs Secretary Sewa Lamsal, among others. The delegation team has also been a part of different side events and is advocating on different issues.

Here is a snapshot of key commitments and recommendations made by the Nepali delegation during the visit.

- United Nations General Assembly: PM Oli reaffirmed Nepal's commitment to addressing long-standing transitional justice issues, highlighting the recent parliamentary approval of the Enforced Disappearances Enquiry, Truth, and Reconciliation Commission Act.
- United Nations General Assembly: PM Oli emphasized the need for global action to reduce the impacts of climate change, calling for sufficient financing for climate adaptation and the establishment of a dedicated 'loss and damage fund' to help vulnerable countries like Nepal to implement climate-resilient measures and infrastructure.
- Plenary meeting of the Summit of the Future: As a representative of the LDCs, PM Oli reiterated the disproportionate global wealth distribution and its impacts on child hunger and poverty in LDCs; and LDCs bearing the most impacts of climate change despite the countries only contributing to 3.3 percent of global emission. He welcomed the Declaration on the Future Generation, and 'Global Digital Compact'.
- Meeting with Secretary General of the United Nations, Antonio Guterres: PM Oli expressed Nepal's commitment to graduating from the LDC category by 2026 and to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. He called on the Secretary-General to support the process by urging development partners and the international community to enhance the development assistance to Nepal to this end.
- Ministerial Meeting of Non-Aligned Movement: Foreign Minister Rana called the attention of the world community and leaders for the release of Bipin Joshi, a Nepali citizen who was abducted by Hamas terrorists from Kibbutz Alumim on 7 October 2023.
- Meeting with United Nations Under Secretary General for Peace Operations Jean-Pierre Lacroix: Minister Rana, citing the contribution of Nepal to the UN peace mission, stressed that Nepal should be allowed to serve in the higher level positions of the mission.
- Minister Rana also held bilateral meetings with representatives from various countries. During a meeting with the Foreign Minister of Serbia, the two sides agreed to implement visa waivers for diplomatic and official passport holders from both countries.

As transnational challenges such as digital security, climate change, and migration intensify, it has become increasingly crucial for countries like Nepal, with limited economic resources, to actively engage and present themselves effectively to secure international support. While important issues like climate change and transitional justice were rightly highlighted, Nepal could have maximized its impact with more consistent messaging supported by key facts and concrete support. It is also equally important to follow up on these commitments at the national level and continue persistent lobbying at the international level to ensure it gains the support it requires.

Read more: [UN News](#), [The Kathmandu Post](#), [Ratopati](#), [UN Meetings](#)

Governance Issues of the Week

1. The investigation into the land embezzlement case of Bal Mandir has been delayed for six months, even though Nepal's Central Investigation Bureau (CIB) began the investigation in April 2024. The accused Rita Singh Vaidya, who led the organization for 27 years and leased the land to Brihaspati Vidyasadan, was removed from the position. But progress on legal action has been slow as the matter is now moving towards reconciliation. The CIB has until next year to complete its investigation, but concerns remain over the political influence and connection to the case.
Read more: [Kantipur](#)
2. Nepal's Curriculum Development Center plans to entirely change the school-level curriculum within the next five years, starting with primary levels to grade 12, to better align with modern educational needs. While the revisions will be in different phases, its implementation is set to begin from the year 2025 to 2028, focusing more on practical learning and updated evaluation systems. The government will collaborate with educational experts and draw from international practices to create a more student-centered curriculum emphasizing practical needs.
Read more: [Naya Patrika](#)
3. The government of Lumbini Province has created a five-year strategy plan with eleven major priorities to reduce corruption, improve public accountability, and advance ethical governance. The strategy, scheduled for approval by mid-October, calls for implementing an anti-corruption curriculum in secondary schools, enhancing public procurement measures, incorporating citizens in decision-making processes, supporting investigative journalists to uncover corruption, collaborating with organizations such as Lumbini Buddhist University, etc.
Read more: [My Republica](#)
4. The officials at Kathmandu and Lalitpur Metropolitan City have confirmed that fecal coliform has been found in the water samples taken from the respective cities, indicating sewage contamination in the water supply. KMC found 98 samples to be contaminated out of 508, and LMC found 180 samples to be contaminated out of 540 samples. Kathmandu and Lalitpur, have reported a high number of cholera cases this monsoon. Officials also added that safer alternatives like jar water have also been found to be contaminated.
Read more: [The Kathmandu Post](#)
5. The Special Court in Kathmandu has ordered the retrieval of missing documents in a corruption case involving the purchase of the Mobile Device Management System (MDMS) for monitoring mobile sets. The CIAA had filed a case against 20 individuals, including two former chairpersons of the Nepal Telecommunications Authority, alleging corruption and demanding compensation of Rs. 919.83 million in March 2024. The CIAA had filed cases against several international companies and their executives involved in the procurement process and misconduct in the MDMS deal.
Read more: [Onlinekhabar](#)
6. Nepal and India have agreed to reactivate bilateral mechanisms to resolve outstanding issues during a 45-minute meeting between Prime Minister KP Oli and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly. The meeting emphasized strengthening ties in areas such as energy, trade, and investment, with Modi agreeing to visit Nepal later this year. Both leaders reaffirmed their commitment to addressing unresolved matters through established diplomatic channels.
Read more: [The Kathmandu Post](#)

Nepal Governance Weekly is an analytical update of Nepal's current affairs based on media and real sources mining, to sensitize the communities on hot news on various governance issues from the perspective of accountability.

Presented by



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