

# Summit for democracy and Nepal commitments



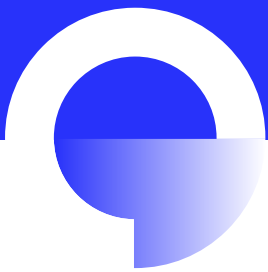
Nepal in S4D process



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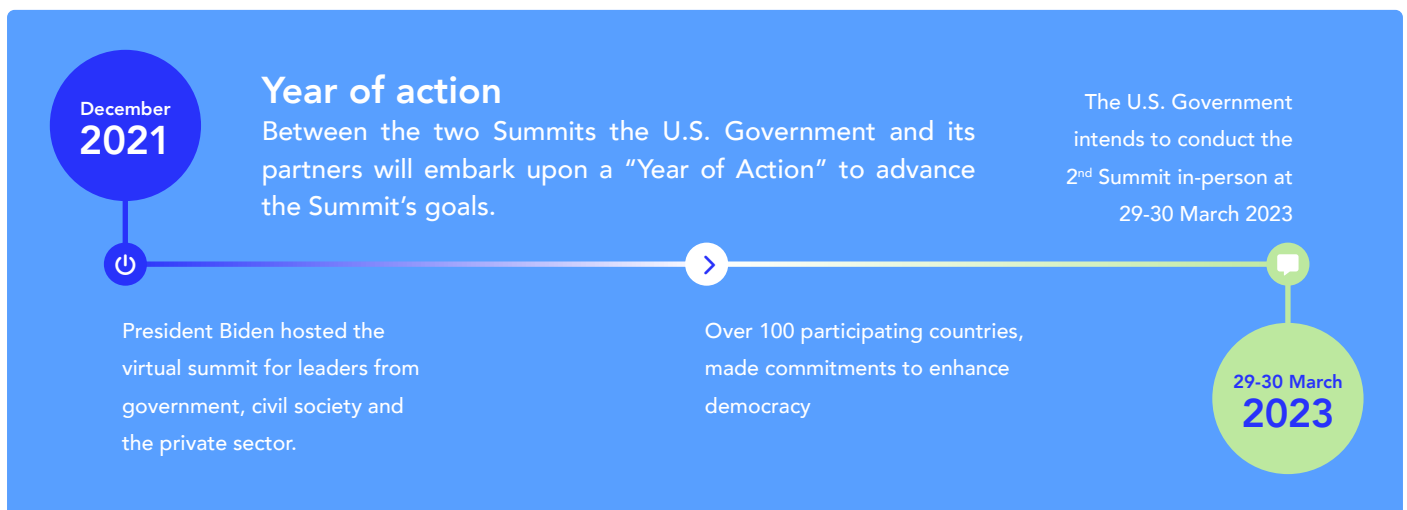
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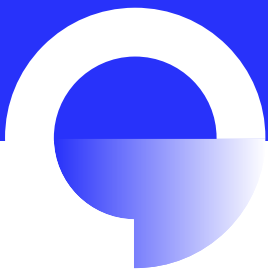
# Summit for democracy and Nepal commitments

The information provided in this factsheet was compiled by Narayan Adhikari, Consultant with support from International IDEA and Accountability Lab. The methodology included a desk study, interviews and a survey completed by civil society on the Summit for Democracy, challenges and opportunities. The information and recommendations provided in this factsheet were drafted by the consultant and discussed during a workshop with civil society organisations and government representatives on 17th October 2022. Views expressed in this factsheet do not necessarily represent the views of International IDEA, or those of its Board or Council members.

The Summit for Democracy is an initiative headed by the United States Government to discuss how to advance the Summit’s three broad themes: strengthening democracy and defending against authoritarianism; addressing and fighting corruption; and advancing respect for human rights. The initiative brings together leaders from governments, civil society and the private sector to set forth an affirmative agenda for democratic renewal and to tackle the greatest threats faced by democracies through collective action.



The Summit for Democracy is organized around two summits. The first summit took place in December 2021. Governments in attendance made a series of commitments around these topics, with progress against these promises to be supported and monitored through the Year of Action (YoA), leading to a 2nd Summit for Democracy (S4D2) scheduled for the 29th and 30th of March 2023. The YoA presents an opportunity for the commitments made in the first summit to be implemented and for civil society to monitor their progress. The Summit for Democracy as a process is an extraordinary opportunity to galvanize attention and mobilize international action; and the process associated with it is a critical platform for engagement around the world.

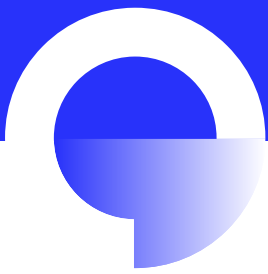


## Commitments

*Nepal participated in the S4D process under the leadership of Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba. Its resulting commitments include:*

- **Human Rights:** Nepal's commitments have reiterated the country's efforts to create an enabling environment for the fulfillment of all 31 fundamental rights.
- **Equal Rights for Women, Gender and Religious Minorities:** through implementation and enforcement of constitutional and legal provisions—that ban harmful traditional practices such as child marriage, for example.
- **Human Trafficking:** amending the existing human trafficking legislation to align with the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children within a year.
- **Transitional Justice:** through resolving issues related to transitional justice with regards to the Comprehensive Peace Accord, previous rulings of the Supreme Court, international commitments and the concerns of victims. Nepal also made a commitment to strengthen the capacity of two commissions, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and the Commission on Investigation of Enforced Disappeared Persons (CIEDP).
- **Anti-Corruption Efforts:** by reviewing relevant policies, legislation and administrative frameworks to align with the United Nations Convention against Corruption priorities.
- **Climate Change:** through ensuring net-zero emissions by 2045, which was also one of Nepal's commitments to the Conference of Parties (COP 26) in 2021; and by putting in place gender-responsive and climate resilient adaptation plans across all 753 local governments by 2030. Nepal also committed to completing the remaining reconstruction of the buildings, infrastructure and cultural heritage sites damaged during the 2015 earthquake.
- **Fight Against Disinformation, Hate Speech and the Protection of Freedom of Expression:** Nepal has expressed full commitment to protect freedom of speech and expression, the right to communication, the right to freedom of religion, the right to information and the right to privacy; curb false information and spreading rumors and ensure law enforcement upon violation.





## Implementation of commitments

*Given the lack of specificity of some of the commitments, it has been challenging to measure progress of commitments to date. However, despite this important challenge, there are some developments to consider for each of the seven commitment areas. These considerations are highlighted below:*

- **Human rights:** There is no specific commitment on human rights, rather the reiteration of all 31 fundamental rights. Few acts such as the Federal Education Bill in the process of election, which ensure equal right to education to all. Also complement to SDG goals, to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
- **Equal rights for women, gender and religious minorities and disadvantaged groups:** There are two major developments: a) the procedure for treatment of acid-attack victims has been endorsed by the parliament, enabling acid-attack victims to receive free-treatment from four health institutions; and b) The statute of limitations to file a rape case increased from 1 year to 2 years in case of adult and 3 years after turning 18 for minors.
- **Human trafficking:** The implementation work plan on countering human trafficking, and the process amending several laws as per the Palermo protocol, is ongoing.
- **Transitional justice:** A consultation with victims across Nepal has been completed and a draft bill regarding the 'Enforced Disappearances Enquiry, Truth and Reconciliation Commission Act 2014' has been submitted to the parliament, and is pending review of the parliament committee of law, justice and human rights.
- **Anti-corruption measures:** there has been no progress to date.
- **Climate change:** about 50 local governments have

developed gender-responsive and climate-resilient adaptation plans.

- **Fight against misinformation, hate speech and protection of freedom of expression:** Bills such as the Electronic Transactions Act, Media Council, Information Technology, and Endura Mass Communication have been drafted and submitted for review to the federal parliament.



## Recommendations

- None of Nepal's commitments focus on youth empowerment or participation. In our recent survey on S4D and Nepal's commitments, 61 per cent of the respondents suggested that Nepal add 'enhancing youth participation' as a commitment.
- Nepal should work on enacting SMART commitments—that are specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-bound.
- Nepal should create a central coordinating body to monitor, coordinate and support the agencies responsible for implementing commitments, and to measure progress against goals.
- Nepal should include Open Government Partnership (OGP) membership as a Commitment.

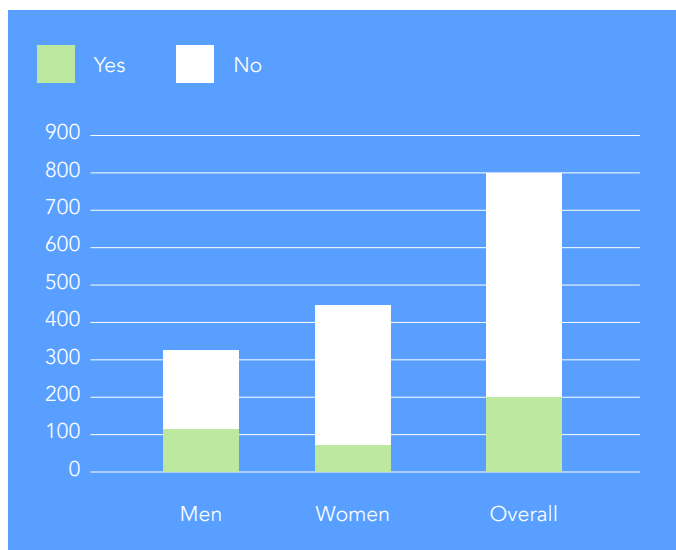


## Summit for Democracy survey

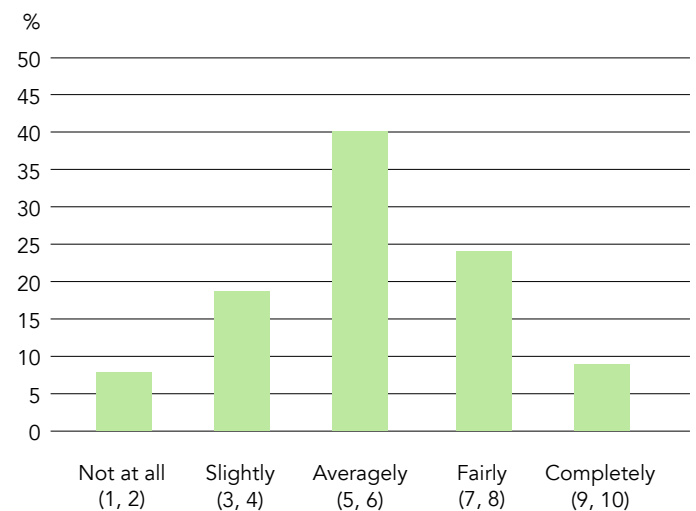
*In August and September 2022, Accountability Lab Nepal, with the support of International IDEA and the European Union, conducted a survey with 800+ Nepali citizens—with a focus on young people in particular—to further understand public perceptions of the Summit for Democracy.*

The survey response suggests that only 25 per cent of the respondents are aware of the Summit for Democracy (S4D), hinting that the majority of the population is not aware of it. The respondents who are aware have shown limited trust that the commitments made at S4D could address the challenges Nepal is facing.

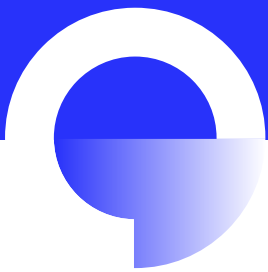
Do you know about the Summit for Democracy convened by the US administration in December 2021?



To what extent do you think the Summit for Democracy commitments made by the Nepali government could help to address the challenges democracy faces in Nepal?



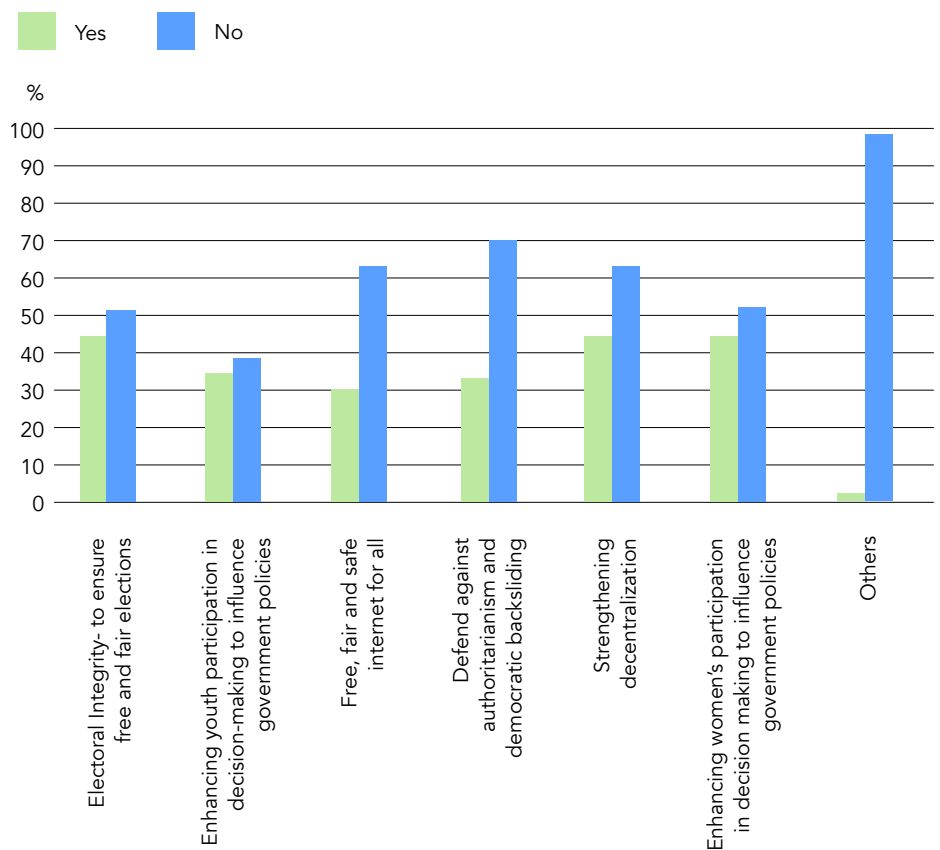


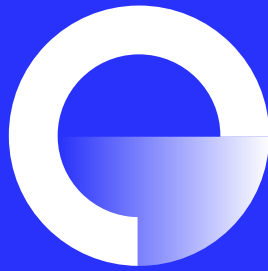


## Summit for Democracy survey

The survey responses have reinforced the need to enhance the participation of youth and their voices to strengthen and defend democracy in Nepal. The majority of the respondents, 61 per cent, believe that Nepal should add 'enhancing youth participation' as an additional commitment.

If the Nepali government could make additional commitments to strengthen democracy what would these address?





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## Nepal in S4D process



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