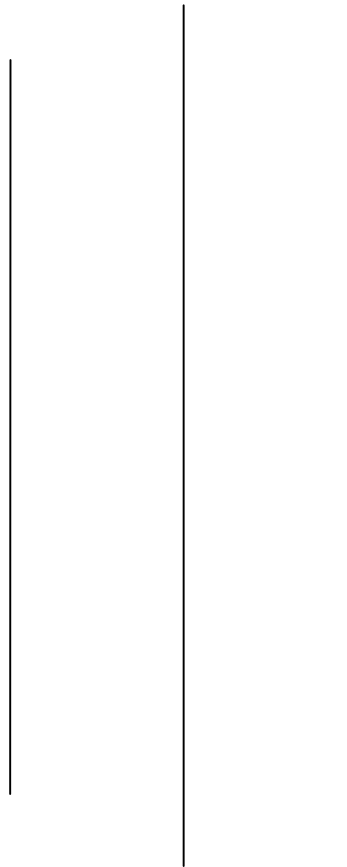


# **National Youth Coordination Committee for Constitution Building (NYCC)**

## **Report of Formation**

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**Charitably Initiated by:**  
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## National Youth Coordination Committee for Constitution Building

The National Youth Coordination Committee for Constitution Building (NYCC) has just been formed in the charitable initiative of the Association of Political Science Students (APSS) and financial support from GTZ/Federalism Support Programme.

The NYCC is intended to work as the national level youth coordination consortium which will bring all major youth and student organizations, young Constituent Assembly members and other youth initiatives in a common single table to facilitate the constitution building process involving massive youths. The Committee has been envisioned to facilitate the CA and key constitution drafters in incorporating youth aspirations and youth related issues for country's change and reform through the new constitution. The Committee is clearly committed to promote youth rights and youth voices in the new constitutions through Constituent Assembly. The NYCC will make influence the CA member to the promotion of youth rights and roles in the new constitution for building 'New Nepal'.



### Youth expectation in relation to constitution building process

Nepal's elder-dominated political system has often reflected elder biases in terms of policies and practices, and has not served the needs of youth as per their requirements.

Making a constitution includes not just what happens at the Constituent Assembly, but all the meetings around the country, including in the villages, where people discuss what sort of constitution they want.

Political stability of Nepal hinges on the level of acceptance and ownership of the new constitution by its citizens. The political upheavals created by *Jan Andolan II* and the recent CA elections have raised the expectation of people and of the youths in particular, to the highest levels. If the youth is deeply informed and involved in the constitutional development process, they will be aware to make their rights and voices stronger and able to solve their issues in a rights based way. The existing disconnect between the youth and those who lead and speak for

the youth is most pronounced in the structure of political parties but, this structural disconnect is likely to influence the content and processes of constitutional development, and the opportunity to generate youth acceptance and ownership of the constitutional foundations of “New Nepal” is likely to be lost if greater youth involvement is not promoted in the constitutional development process.

**Initial goal and objectives** (can be improved further by the Committee)

The goal of the formation of the National Youth Coordination Committee for Constitution Building is to strengthen the youth’s participation, influence and ownership of the constitutional building process. This goal will be achieved through two inter-related objectives:

- To educate the youth on key constitutional debates and define their agenda for change and reform; and
- To strengthen their advocacy skills and promote their meaningful participation in the constitution building process.

However the broader level vision, objectives and activities will be discussed in the upcoming Committee meetings within next two weeks, this was decided in its last meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> Sep. 2008. The Committee will prepare its plan of action, long-term structure, terms of reference for Committee’s member, and operational procedure. The members of the Committee have shown their commitments to set a common minimum agenda of youths that should be incorporated in the new constitution. In its first meeting the Committee members have agreed to accept the APSS as the facilitating and supporting organization of NYCC and the APSS President as the Member Coordinator.

**Association of Political Science Students (APSS)**

The APSS is the national assembly of Nepali youths and students which is working to develop Nepali youths and students capacity for their engagement in national and local level policy influence and process, and creating critical mass of Nepali youth and students towards sustainable peace, democracy and development by stimulating them in careful deliberation of political, social and development issues, and their possible resolutions by exploring their innovative ideas. The APSS is fighting for youth right and their meaningful participation in national policy and programme designing and implementation, by identifying their physical, psychological, social and economic potentialities.

**Process of formation**

Firstly through email and telephone and meetings in person the APSS consulted with the key youth and student leaders associated various political parties, inspiring youth activists and politically non-active youth-student organization to discuss the necessity of such a mechanism that brings all major youth organizations in a single table and work in cooperation with each other to positively support the ongoing constitution building process.

The APSS then drafted a general proposal for the formation of a national level youth coordination committee which would be able to strengthen the constitution writing process through massive youth participation and influence in the constitution building process, and set a common youth agenda to be addressed in the new constitution. The drafted proposal was sent to all youth organizations and if there is; their mother organizations.

The APSS consulted with various representatives of youth organizations individually and in group as per requirement. The APSS members and officials identified conditions on which youth

organizations having different political backgrounds and working strategies can work sitting in a common platforms. The APSS members and officials, in some working issues got mentored by them. After getting their interests to this initiative the APSS called them in a round table discussion to find out the common interests if there is. The meeting was held in Hotel Shangri-La, Lazimpat on 11<sup>th</sup> Sep. 2008. Youth representatives of various youth organizations expressed their commitment in the discussions and they were ready to go ahead.

**Rajkaji Gurung**, a youth Constituent Assembly member of CPN (Maoist) said, “Our commitment firstly should be focused and strong to the youth involvement in the national building process. We can start it by building our new constitution people oriented. The constitution must address youth aspirations and for this we youths should own the common understanding.”

**Kokila KC**, a youth journalist of The Himalayan Times National English Daily said, “It is good to initiate a joint effort of all major youth organizations to youth mobilisation for constitution building, I would like to say thanks to APSS for coordinating this meeting. But we must be work oriented and go in a planned way. This effort should be able to influence and involve all sector youths in this process because building constitution is not just as making a particular law.”

**Lok Raj Awasthi**, Treasurer of Association of Youth Organizations Nepal (AYON) said, “Now we should be clear about the sustainability of the proposed Committee. We need to define its plan of actions and objectives in elaborative and solid way. Legal settlements and terms of reference must be defined in advance before going to carry out any activities. The forum should be able to work in bringing diverse youth voices nationally and draw common consensus to youth empowerment.”

**Hira Bahadur KC**, central member of CPN (UML) affiliated Democratic National Youth Federation (DNYF) said, “We should recognise and materialise all sector youth activities and initiatives in relation to constitution building. We should define our plan of action in participatory way which would include not only the Committee-members but also local and regional youth organization, too. The youths have not been got benefited from the state as their contribution to nation’s democracy building and economic development. We must be able to create real collective strength to what we have initiated.”

**Rambabu Yadav**, vice president of Madhesi Janadhikar Forum affiliated Madhesi Youth Forum said, “First we should agree with a common vision that helps us to work cooperatively to support the constitution building deliberation in youth friendly way. This platform should be able to create a concept of national integration and unity within all marginalised youths including Terai-Madhesi youths, securing and promoting their basic human rights.”

**Bhim Nepali**, member secretary of Samata Mulak Samaj Bikash Kendra, a youth led NGO in Bajura (Karnali) said, “The Committee should be able to coin the marginalised and backward youths interests and needs in the new constitution. Trainings and other capacity building activities should be focused for this committee member. I am really happy to be included in this committee.”



**Shanti Pakhrin**, a youth Constituent Assembly member of CPN (UML) said, “I am really delighted that the proposed members for this committee have very good gender balance. I hope we can influence the whole CA process to draw attention to include marginalised peoples and community in the process. We should get in single stand point for making the new constitution youth friendly.”

**Chandra Bahadur Thapa “Sagar”**, Young Communist League (YCL) Kathmandu In-charge and a youth Constituent Assembly member of CPN (Maoist) said, “I say to the APSS a sincere thanks first for coordinating this initiatives and request APSS to lead the further coordination. This national level team should include youths from all fields as they are related to all major issues of development e.g. education, employment, agriculture, health, labour, army etc. This committee should be able to define youth with broader national perspective. It should be able to work as the youth vigilance group during constitution building process. Resource and academic backups can be generated from internal and external development donors.”

**Dilip Agrawal**, Young ICT entrepreneur, Managing Director of World Link Communication Pvt. Ltd. It is a leading ICT company in Nepal for one and half decades. Mr. Agrawal said, “The Committee should work democratically. This should focus youth to define their common interest, and find out their economic and political influence in the country. Of course it’s a good effort, but it should go further ahead through strategically planned way. Sub-committees within this national committee should be formed so that it could be easy to consult with youth organizations

having different fields and their members for their voices to be included in the Committee's periodic forums.”

**Laxmi Pariyar**, Constituent Assembly member of Nepali Congress said, “It should be able to create a democratic culture in national and local level political discourses and debates. This committee should focus consultative dialogues from local to national level. We should inform and build awareness to the local peoples on the CA process and major issues of constitution.”

The round table was finally able to get written minutes of forming the national youth consortium to positively influence and participate youths in the constitution building process. It was named National Youth Coordination Committee for Constitution Building (*“Sambidhan Nirman Ka Lagi Rastriya Yuba Samanwaya Samiti*). The minutes are the primary document that proofs their (members of the Committee) level of commitment to the intended missions. The members of the Committee showed their commitment with highest level to work participatory and coordinative way to each other's organizations and their members. At the same time they stressed to formulate an operational procedure of the Committee which would ensure democratic norms and values in decision process.

The Committee had a common consensus that it will hold a national meeting with the senior most government members, Constituent Assembly member, political leaders, donors, civil society, universities, international experts, media and other concerned groups to seek their deepened commitments for support to it.

**For further information, please contact:**

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**Please find Appendix I for the Committee details.**

Thank you.

**Appendix I: Name of representing youths and their organizations in the Committee**

<b>S.N.</b>	<b>Name and position in their organization</b>	<b>NYCC portfolio</b>	<b>M/F</b>	<b>Age</b>
1.	Rajendra Prasain, President, Association of Political Science Students (APSS)	Member Coordinator	M	29
2.	Raj Kaji Gurung, CA Member, CPN (Maoist)	Member	M	31
3.	Laxmi Pariyar, CA Members, Nepali Congress	Member	F	31
4.	Shanti Pakhrin, CA Member, CPN (UML)	Member	F	32
5.	Asha Kumari Sardar, CA Member, MJF	Member	F	30
6.	Chandan Sah, CA Member, TMDP	Member	F	33
7.	Kunti Shahi, CA Member, RPP Nepal	Member	F	32
8.	Rukmini Choudhary, CA Member, FDNF	Member	F	31
9.	Chandra Bahadur Thapa 'Sagar', Kathmandu In-Charge of YCL (Maoist affiliated youth wing), CA Member of CPN (Maoist)	Member	M	32
10.	Hira B. KC, Central Member, Democratic National Youth Federation (UML affiliated youth wing)	Member	M	31
11.	Diwa Adhikari, Central Member, Nepal Tarun Dal (Nepali Congress affiliated youth wing)	Member	F	32
12.	Rambabu Yadav, Senior Vice-President, Madhesi Youth Forum (MJF affiliated)	Member	M	33
13.	Krishna Singh, President, Terai Madhesh Youth Front (TMDP affiliated youth wing)	Member	M	32
14.	Madhav Dhungel, Secretary, All Nepal National Free Students Union (UML affiliated student wing)	Member	M	31

15.	Sachendra Yadav, Vice-President, Terai Madhesh Students Front (TMDP student wing)	Member	M	29
16.	Ananda Tripathi, Central Member, Nepal Students Union (Nepali Congress affiliated students wing)	Member	M	33
17.	Kamal Shahi, Central Member, All Nepal National Independent Students Union, Maoist student wing	Member	M	30
18.	Mr. Lok Raj Awasthi, Treasurer, Association of Youth Organizations Nepal (AYON), Kathmandu	Member	M	28
19.	Mr. Rajan Kumar Ban, President, Solukhumbu Youth Association, Solukhumbu	Member	M	28
20.	Mr. Bishnu Gaire, Central Member, Career Gropu Nepal, Kaski	Member	M	27
21.	Bhim Nepali, Member Secretary, Samata Mulak Samaj Bikash Kendra, Bajura	Member	M	30
22.	Shiva Raj Phago, Central Member, Economic Development Society, Biratnagar	Member	M	32
23.	Rudra Subedi, Coordinator, District Youth Network, Banke	Member	M	33
24.	Ram Kishore Yadav, President, Janajyoti Youth Club, Siraha	Member	M	33
25.	Sanjeev Kumar Yadav, Coordinator Dhanusa District Youth Network	Member	M	28
26.	Dilip Agrawal, Managing Director, World Link Communication Pvt. Ltd., Kathmandu	Member	M	35
27.	Kokila KC, News Correspondent, The Himalayan Times National English Daily, Kathmandu	Member	F	30

## News Covered in THE HIMALAYAN TIMES DAILY

"Constituent Assembly members and political leaders today pledged the youths to get their issues incorporated in the new constitution. Speaking at an introductory meeting of National Youth Coordination Committee for Constitution Building (NYCC) with several stakeholders, senior Maoist leader Barsa Man Pun 'Ananta' said, "We are on the way to write a new constitution after rooting out old traditional feudalistic social, political and economic systems. Therefore, role of youths is important to build a new Nepal."

The programme was organised by Association of Political Science Students (APSS). Pun said, "We are committed to include one third of youths in all sectors so as to build a New Nepal with new energy." "The new constitution should ensure the fundamental rights of all Nepali regardless of their caste, ethnicity, race and gender," he said. "NYCC would play a key role to get their issues incorporated in the new constitution and implementation thereafter." Senior Nepali Congress leader Prakash Saran Mahat said the new constitution should guarantee rights of people belonging to all communities. "Once the rights of youths are ensured through the constitution, it would be easy for them to help build a new Nepal," he added.

Former CPN-UML general secretary **Madhav Kumar Nepal** said the youths were the assets of the country, and they should be involved in all sectors to build a society based on justice and equality.

President of Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry Kush Kumar Joshi underscored the need to introduce a policy to mobilise and use the energy of youths in nation building and to ease the problem of unemployment.

Highlighting the objectives of NYCC, Rajendra Prasai, president of APSS, said NYCC would help the CA and constitution makers incorporate the problems and issues related to youths in the constitution for the sake of country's development." - **Published in The Himalayan Times English Daily on Oct. 3, 2008.**