

**Support to Participatory Constitution Building in Nepal**  
**Project Executive Board Meeting**

**21 May, 2014**

**Present:**

**Chair:**

Shoko Noda, Country Director

**Beneficiaries:**

Manohar Prasad Bhattarai, Secretary General, Constituent

Assembly Secretariat;

Sharmila Karki, President, NGO Federation

**Project Manager:**

Roхан Edrisinha, International Project Manager, SPCBN

**Project Assurance:**

Kalpana Sarkar, Program Analyst, Governance Unit, UNDP

**Others Present:**

Asbjorn Lovbraek, Coordinator, Embassy of Norway

Tania Hortler, Embassy of Switzerland

Bishnu Adhikari DFID

Peter Allen, Embassy of the U.K.

Jan Moller Hansen, Embassy of Denmark

Yann Nath Sharma, UNDP

Budhi Karki, SPCBN/UNDP

Raj Bahadur Shrestha, SPCBN/UNDP

**Agenda:**

1. Approval of last PEB minutes
2. Update on constitution making process
3. Progress update of the project (Jan to May, 2014)
4. 2014 Work plan and budget of the project
5. Tentative work plan and budget 2015
6. Result and Resource Framework (RRF) update
7. Next PEB meeting
8. AOB

**Discussions:**

Ms. Noda welcomed the board members and other participants to the meeting. The minutes of the previous PEB meeting were approved. She then invited Mr. Bhattarai to provide an update on the constitution making process

Mr. Bhattarai presented in brief the progress the Constituent Assembly has made so far and highlighted some challenges including the logistic and human resources shortage the secretariat faced, the lack of experience and capacity among new MPs, and the difficulties in reaching consensus on disputed issues due to the CA's large size.. Mr. Bhattarai said that CA chair and CA secretariat has made it clear that constitution making was the priority of the CA/LP and that he was confident that a new constitution would be adopted in 2015. Mr. Bhattarai requested the board members to continue support to the CA secretariat to facilitate this objective.

Mr. Edrisinha presented the progress report from January to May and a proposed programme of work for June- Dec 2014. He said the focus of the project during this period was to capitalizing on the sense of urgency to complete the constitution making process, to try reaching out to top political leaders, to continue civic education on key constitutional issues, and specifically to engage with lawyers and journalists. He said that SPCCBN would also work with influential CA members to facilitate the development of compromise options and would review and critique draft proposals whenever they were produced. He cited the challenges faced by the project to implement the work plan during the first five months of the year due to the slow start by the CA and the uncertainties with respect to funding. He also presented a tentative work plan and budget for the first half of 2015.

Mr. Lovbraek suggested that the project seek to make its programme for the remainder of the year realistic and its achievements more concrete. Mr. Hansen while expressing general satisfaction with the work of the project, suggested that the project explore creative ways to maximize the chances of making difference. Mr. Adhikari said that working with the National Dalit Commission was a good initiative. He said that inclusion was an important issue. He stressed the importance of flexibility so that the project could respond to changing circumstances and needs. Ms. Karki stressed the importance of the inclusion issue and encouraged the project to continue to focus on this issue as much as possible. She also added that although it was important to try to engage the top leaders, she questioned its utility and reminded members of the importance of engaging with civil society. Mr. Allen stated that it was important to reach out to the top leaders as the work of the key CA committees progressed. Meetings.

Ms. Noda proposed the extension of the project until the end of June 2015. She said that the work plan and budget were tentative and could be changed if the situation demanded it. Mr. Lovbraek said that the Norwegian Embassy could not commit any further support at that moment. He further stated that after closing the old agreement with the project it might be possible for new funding to be available. Ms. Hörler said that Swiss support for the project had already been agreed in principle and that it was likely that support of about 500,000 Swiss francs (equivalent to USD 555,500) would be available. Mr. Hansen said that the Danish Embassy was in position to contribute a sum of around US\$ 500,000. Ms. Noda thanked the members for their pledges of support.

The board approved in principle the revision of the project Result and Resource Framework that had not been updated for several years due to the uncertainty with respect to the future of the project.

At the conclusion of the meeting Ms Noda expressed her and the board's appreciation to Mr. Lovebraek who was attending his last project board meeting.

**Summary of the decisions:**

The minutes of the 6th PEB meeting were approved.

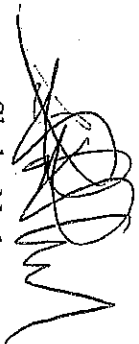
The project's annual work plan for 2014 was approved.

The project to prioritize its activities for 2014 in the case of a funding gap.

The project to be extended until June 2015 and the tentative work plan and budget for Jan-June 2015 approved.

The meeting approved the proposed revised version of Result and Resource Framework.

The next meeting to be held in September 2014.



Shoko Noda

Chair

Project Executive Board