

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

**24 June 2013**

**Present**

**Chair:** Shoko Noda, Country Director, UNDP  
**Sr. Beneficiaries:** Sharmila Karki, President, NGO Federation  
Dr. Bharat Gautam, Joint Secretary, CA/LP,  
**Project Manager:** Rohan Edrisinha, SPCBN/UNDP  
**Project Assurance:** Kalpana Sarkar, Programme Analyst, Governance Unit, UNDP

**Others Present:** Asbjorn Loevbraek, Counsellor, Embassy of Norway  
Charlotte Duncan, Team leader, Governance DFID  
Martin Stuerzinger, Sr. Advisor for Peace Building, Embassy of Switzerland  
Nicole Toepperwien, Embassy of Switzerland  
Prof. Krishna Khanal, Senior National Advisor, SPCBN/UNDP  
Yam Nath Sharma, Senior Programme Specialist, UNDP  
Bandana Risal, Senior Programme Specialist, UNDP  
Raj Bahadur Shrestha, Deputy National Project Manager, SPCBN/UNDP

**Agenda**

1. Constitution building update
2. Progress update (Jan to June, 2013)
3. Programme of work (July to December, 2013)
4. Future of the project
5. Asset management
6. AOB

**Discussion**

Ms. Shoko Noda welcomed the board members asked them for their continued cooperation and support as she assumed the responsibility of chairing the project board. She then requested Prof. Krishna Khanal to present an update on the political context and its impact on the constitution building process.

Prof Khanal stated that there was a good chance that the elections for a new Constituent Assembly would indeed take place on 19 November 2013. This would then facilitate a resumption of the constitution making process. A discussion on possible scenarios both before and after the election followed. Ms. Duncan and Mr. Lovebraek raised questions about how the election campaign would affect the work and activities of the project. It was agreed that the project needed to be flexible as the campaign could also create opportunities for an informed debate on constitutional issues but that more desk work might have to be focused on if it was desirable to curtail the civic education programmes in the field.

Mr. Edrisinha then made two presentations. The first was a report on the activities of the project from January to June 2013. The second highlighted the work plan that the project would focus on from July to December 2013 that took into consideration the possible impact of the election campaign.

Mr. Loevbraek stated that while the risk log had been further improved and updated as requested by the board, he thought that the counter measure/mitigation strategies section could be made more specific by incorporating some of the measures highlighted in the presentation on the programme of work.

Ms. Karki urged the project to do whatever it could to ensure that there was a wide participation of all political parties and groups in the forthcoming elections.

Mr. Edrisinha also briefed the board on the current budget status stating that the funding gap for the remaining period of 2013 was USD 342,341. In response to a query from Ms. Duncan, he said that the project would need this sum of funding to carry out its programme for the rest of the year whether or not the elections are held. It was decided to review the budgetary status in greater detail at the September meeting of the board. Ms Duncan also requested information from the other donor partners who were members of the board as to their funding commitments in order to help DFID decide on its response.

Ms. Noda raised the agenda of project continuation beyond 2013, and reminded the board members that this issue has implications for issues such as the rent of the Sanepa office, staff contracts and the retention of core members of staff. Mr. Edrisinha stated that the project had managed up to then by reassigning staff when staff members left in order to avoid new recruitment but that this was becoming difficult as some core members of staff were leaving. He cited the example of a senior interpreter whom he relied on, ending his contractual term at the end of June. The board agreed that if essential staff positions fall vacant then the project should fill such vacancies.


Regarding the future of the project, Ms. Duncan and Mr. Loevbraek proposed that there should be a project review and the development of scenario-plans. They suggested that this will assist the board in taking a decision about the future of the project beyond 2013. It was agreed that the TOR for the review would be shared electronically so that work could commence as early as possible. It was agreed that the next board meeting should be held in the first half of September.

Dr Gautam thanked the SPCBN project for its distinctive contribution to the CA Secretariat. He said that once a new CA is elected, the Secretariat expects continued support of the SPCBN for its work until the adoption of a new constitution.

Finally, Ms. Noda thanked the board members and adjourned the meeting.

## Decisions

1. The project board approved the six month progress report
2. The project board approved the forward looking plan: revised annual work plan, third quarter plan and six months action plan.
3. The project board approved the assets for auction and handing over IT assets to CA/LP secretariat.
4. The project will commission a review of the project to be completed as soon as possible this year.
5. The project will present scenario plans for 2014 at the next PEB meeting in the first half of September.



Shoko Noda

Country Director, UNDP

Date: 29 July 2013