

Nepal Vision 2040: National Planning and Development

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Promulgation of 2015 Constitution and subsequent federalization of the nation has necessitated thorough discussion on restructuring of the administrative and governance structures including the National Planning Commission (NPC) to fit into the new governance and administrative configurations in Nepal. In relation to the restructuring of NPC, while some policy experts argue restructuring it by limiting its roles just to policy advising/facilitator and relying national planning and development on local and provincial entities, this author argues restructuring of NPC for further strengthening its roles as an apex institution for policy advising and developing national plans encompassing regional and sectoral development within federalized governance in order to realize accelerated economic growth and expedited socio-economic transformation of Nepal. Fundamental philosophy behind restructuring of the NPC presented here include sustainable conservation, utilization, and development of Asta-Ja, meaning eight of the Nepali letter “Ja” [Jal (water), Jamin (land), Jungle (forest), Jadibuti (medicinal and aromatic plants), Janashakti (manpower), Janawar, (animals), Jarajuri (crop plants), and Jalabayu (climate)] for accelerated economic growth and socio-economic transformation of the nation. In addition, “Nepal Vision 2040” i.e. envisioning Nepal at the par of a developed nation by 2040, which identifies nine developmental themes, serve as additional bases for restructuring NPC. The nine developmental themes identified in “Nepal Vision 2040” include: 1) food self-sufficiency, 2) reliance on renewable resource energy, 3) thirty million tourists annually; 4) export of organic foods, medicinal and aromatic plants, and other products; 5) corruption control, 6) infrastructural development, 7) community resiliency, 8) social services; and 9) Asta-Ja resource conservation, utilization and development. To carry out its planning and development and policy advising, the new NPC is suggested to have Asta-Ja Assembly of Experts and Policy Makers and form six units: Project Analysis and Development; Implementation, Monitoring & Evaluation; Policy Research and Advisory, Capacity-building; Data Analysis and Synthesis; and Planning and Development. The local and the provincial governments would very likely establish their own planning cells. The new NPC would coordinate closely with the line agencies as well as the provincial and local governments for the development of integrated national plans and their successful implementations.

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