

Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction

Press release

22 April 2015

NPTF Board Approves NRs.2.4 billion for Peace Building

The 17th Board meeting of the Nepal Peace Trust Fund (NPTF) has approved a strategy implying support for about NRs.2.4 billion (US\$2.4 million) for peace-building projects over the next two years.

This is the result of a decision of the NPTF Board on Wednesday where the members approved the new NPTF Strategy, the Joint Financing Arrangement (JFA) and the Peace Fund (Operation) Regulations (PFOR).

The NPTF Board has representatives of the Government of Nepal, major political parties and the Chair of the Donor group supporting the fund.

Dr. Ram Sharan Mahat, Minister of Finance, Narahari Acharya, Minister of Peace and Reconstruction, Rensje Teerink, Ambassador of the EU to Nepal, Beth Dunford, Mission Director of USAID, and senior GoN officials were present at Wednesday's meeting.

Board members representing political parties Devi Prasad Gyawali, Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist Leninist) and Sunil Ranjan Singh, from the Madhesi Janadhikar Forum Loktantrik also attended the meeting.

“Even though we have made major achievements in terms of managing combatants and elections, we still have some unfinished work that needs attention,” said Narahari Acharya, minister, MoPR.

“The Fund will address the remaining concerns including those of conflict affected people and the political processes now underway,” he added.

The JFA and PFoR are legal instruments that will guide the use of the joint funds, while the strategy will provide the programmatic guidelines.

The NPTF Strategy 2014-2017 outlines the mandate and also provides a timeline for phasing out and closure.

Addressing the meeting, Finance Minister Dr. Mahat expressed his desire to see the peace projects completed on time or earlier as that would suggest end of the political transition.

“Where there has been misuse of project funds, we need to investigate it thoroughly and ensure the completion of ongoing projects as soon as possible,” he added.

According to the strategy, NPTF funds will be used for activities grouped in four clusters that include support to conflict-affected people (CAPs), transitional justice and reconciliation, access to security, and local peace initiatives, constitutional consultations and elections.

“The strategy provides a holistic, programmatic approach to funding of projects and activities,” said Mukunda Prasad Paudyal, Director NPTF.

“We will not support one-off activities but projects that can collectively contribute towards larger impact in any one of the focus areas,” he added.

The EU Ambassador expressed happiness to see NPTF progressing well in its efforts to pave way for durable peace and appreciated the commitment of GoN and the political parties to conclude the peace process.

She added that the EU and other donors were keen to see significant progress in writing a new constitution that reflects the people’s aspirations, and hopefully local elections are held soon. She also stressed the importance of bringing victims’ views into the peace process.

The Board also approved two program documents – NPTF programs to support Conflict Affected People (CAP), May 2015 to June 2017, and another one to support elements of the political dimensions of the peace process, May 2015 to June 2017.

It also approved a MoPR project on “Provision of Psychosocial Counseling and Support Services to Conflict Affected Persons in Nepal”.

Future projects under the approved programs will include psychosocial support, support to Conflict affected women (especially SGBV) and children, community mediation, and constitutional consultations.

Earlier, Khum Raj Punjali, Secretary, MoPR had welcomed the participants to the meeting. He said there still were some unfinished tasks related to the peace process that needed to be completed and this was reason for preparing a new strategy and implementation plan.

Nabaraj Bhandari, secretary (revenue), MoF, also attended the meeting.

The meeting was chaired by Narahari Acharya, Minister, MoPR.