The SPCBN project provides support to the inclusive and participatory constitution-making process in Nepal.

**BACKGROUND**

The writing of a new constitution through the Constitution Assembly (CA) was the central pillar of the Comprehensive Peace Accord, which ended the decade-long conflict in 2006. Subsequent elections to the Constituent Assembly have produced a diverse and inclusive body. Accommodating diverse sets of aspirations requires knowledge and technical expertise. In this context, the project aims to bring international expertise to assist the CA secretariat and Assembly members assess and reach important decisions.

**Quick Facts**

- **Duration:** 2008 to 2015
- **Focus Area:** Constitution Making Process
- **Implementing Agency:** UNDP
- **Total Budget:** US $20.5 million
- **Source of Funding:** UNDP ($8.4m), DFID ($3.6m), Denmark ($3.3m), Norway ($2.5m), British Embassy ($1m), UNDP BCPR ($0.6m), Austria ($0.3m), Japan ($0.25m), Switzerland: ($0.5m)
Main Achievements so far...

- Provided support to setting up the Assembly's institutional infrastructure and enhanced the capacity of CA members, staffs, advisors and other key stakeholders.
- Set up the Centre for Constitutional Dialogue (2009-2011), which served as an open forum for deliberation on constitutional issues.
- Democratic Dialogues covered 240 constituencies and 1,576 VDCs and promoted informed debate on key constitutional issues through civil society groups.
- Facilitated dialogue between political leaders and CA members to help build consensus and clarify their positions on contentious issues.
- Coordinated donor support for constitution building to avoid duplication, identify gaps and maximize impact.
- Trained journalists and lawyers on constitutional issues through workshops and seminars.
- CA members and political leaders were sensitized on issues of women, Dalits, indigenous peoples, Madhesis and other excluded groups through a series of interactions, workshops and trainings.
- CA members from marginalized groups produced their minimum agendas and submitted the same to political parties and CA.
- Existing laws, party manifestos and CA committees' reports were reviewed from a Gender and Social Inclusion perspective and published.
- Brought forward the voices and concerns of the excluded groups to the CA through partnership with relevant civil society organizations.

Expected Project Results
(by the end of project cycle)

- Better informed political leaders, CA members and civil society members on key contentious constitutional issues and able to develop compromise options on the same.
- Better informed legal and media communities about constitutional issues.
- The general public engaged with and consulted in the constitution-making process.
- CA secretariat better equipped to deliver services more efficiently.

Where We Work

CA members at the first sitting of the 2nd CA on Jan 22, 2014.

Gender & Social Inclusion Interventions

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Political scientist Prof Krishna Khanal speaking at a programme on 'Local governments in Federalism' organised jointly by SPCBN and Decentralisation Support Society DESSO NEPAL.

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