



संयुक्त राष्ट्र संघका लागि नेपालको स्थायी नियोग
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Press Release

Nepal assumed chairmanship of the Colombo Process (CP) – a regional consultative process on the management of overseas employment and contractual labour for countries of origin in Asia, on 29 March 2017 at a ceremony held during an ambassadorial level meeting of the CP Member countries based in Geneva. H.E. Ravinatha Aryasinha Ambassador/Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka in Geneva passed on the chairmanship to H.E. Deepak Dhital, Ambassador/Permanent Representative of Nepal at a Geneva-based Ambassadorial Level Meeting of the Colombo Process. The handover ceremony was held at the Headquarters of the International Organization on Migration (IOM) in Geneva. Present in the event were Ambassadors/Permanent Representatives from Colombo Process Member States, Director General of IOM Mr. William Lacy Swing and other staff members of IOM, representatives of all Permanent Missions of the CP Member States, and a representative of Swiss Agency for Development and Co-operation (SDC).

The Colombo Process is a Regional Consultative Process established in 2003. It brings together 12 Asian labour sending countries, which include Sri Lanka, India, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Pakistan, China, Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam, the Philippines, Cambodia and Nepal in a member state-driven, non-binding regional consultative process on migration to facilitate dialogue and co-operation on issues of common interests and concerns relating to labour mobility.

Under the chairmanship of Sri Lanka (2013 to 2017), the Colombo process operationalized five Thematic Working Areas Groups that include promoting skills qualifications and recognition, fostering ethical recruitment, promoting pre-departure orientation and empowerment, reducing the cost of remittance transfer and tracking labour market trends. The fifth ministerial consultation held in Colombo in August 2016, decided to include four new thematic areas, namely promoting migrant health, operationalizing the migrants related goals in the SDGs, promoting equality of women migrant workers and enhancing consular support for migrant workers.

A self-funding mechanism for regular organization of high level consultative meetings of the CP has come into operation since the beginning of this year. This forum has been receiving the support of the IOM and SDC.

Addressing the handover ceremony, H.E. Deepak Dhital, extended appreciation to Government of Sri Lanka for providing excellent leadership to the Colombo Process over the last three years. H.E. Dhital said that the Government of Nepal attaches utmost importance to fair, regular and managed migration in view of the critical role overseas employment and subsequent remittances plays in the socio-economic life of the nation. Dwelling on the progress and recent achievements of the CP, the ambassador emphasized on moving from conceptual framework to real action based on consensus of the Member States. He said that enhanced dialogues, cooperation and collaboration of the CP with countries of destination for migrant labour and other Regional Consultative Groups (RCP) would contribute to its success. He also expressed the need to fit the activities of the CP into the larger whole of international initiatives in the field of migration and its management, such as Global Fund for Migration and Development (GFMD), the relevant goals and targets of SDGs and the Global Compact on Migration preparatory process.

During the handover ceremony, Director General of IOM, Ambassador William Lacy Swing termed the CP as one of the most active among similar regional processes, and reiterated that IOM would continue its support to the Process. He congratulated Nepal on assuming chairmanship and assured of continued support and cooperation.

Ambassador Ravinatha Aryasinha addressed the meeting as the outgoing chair of the RCP, and provided a comprehensive report on the activities and achievements made by the CP under the leadership of Sri Lanka. He assured of full cooperation and collaboration to take the Process forward. Currently, Sri Lanka holds the chairmanship of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue, a consultative process of the labour destination countries mostly in the GCC countries.

Ambassadors and representatives of the Colombo Process Member States congratulated Nepal for taking the chairmanship of the Colombo process and reiterated their continued support to Nepal.

The handover ceremony was followed by a reception hosted by the Permanent Representative/Ambassador of Nepal.

**Permanent Mission of Nepal to the UN, other International Organizations and WTO
Geneva, Switzerland.**

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