

National Summit on Drinking Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
August 6–7, 2012
Kathmandu Declaration 2012

We, drinking water and sanitation users' committees, Federation of Drinking Water and Sanitation Users' Committees, stakeholder agencies of the Government of Nepal (GoN), and national and international development partner organizations, taking a collective vow to meet the National Target for Drinking Water and Sanitation 2017, promulgate the Kathmandu Declaration at the National Summit on Drinking Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (August 6–7, 2012) and pledge to implement it.

1. Participatory Policy Formulation, Review, Revision and Implementation

- Take initiative for establishing drinking water, sanitation and hygiene as a fundamental right in Nepal's new constitution.
- Take initiative for formulating and implementing a Master Plan on Drinking Water to ensure the national goal of Drinking Water and Sanitation for All by 2017.
- Disseminate the existing policies, acts, rules, laws and guidelines in time and implement them.
- Guarantee fundamental right of the people to drinking water and sanitation by protecting and utilizing all sources and springs of drinking water as national property, as mentioned in the law.
- Ensure participation of the drinking water and sanitation users' associations and the Federation in the [formulation of] integrated development plans that are to be formulated at various levels (village/municipality/district/centre)
- Make the prevalent registration and renewal processes of sources and associations easily accessible and simple.
- Ensure meaningful and equitable participation of drinking water and sanitation users' associations and the Federation in the current as well as to be formulated policies, acts, rules, laws and guidelines in the drinking water and sanitation sector.
- Improve coordination and partnership with the GoN agencies, including education and health, for effective implementation of drinking water, sanitation and hygiene.
- Make provision for felicitation, reward and prize based on performance evaluation by bringing about uniformity in the monitoring and evaluation process in the drinking water and sanitation sector.

2. Institutional Development and Strengthening of Drinking Water and Sanitation Users' Associations and Federation

- Increase registration and legitimacy of users' associations.
- Underscore internal and external capacity enhancement of associations.
- Prepare and periodically update profiles of local service providing agencies and the Federation.
- Improve coordination and partnership among service providing associations, local agencies, governmental agencies, private organizations and national and international development partners.

3. Operation, service expansion and upgrading of plan through users' associations and network

- Give priority to service extension in the communities and regions yet unreached by service, deprived and backward communities and regions.
- Make available clean and safe drinking water in accordance with the National Drinking Water Quality Standards 2006 by periodically updating the 2010 data on functionality, provided by the National Management Information System, with priority to general repair work, and enhancing the functionality.
- Increase project/scheme functionality by playing a mediatory role in registration and disputes concerning drinking water sources and associations.
- Develop and adopt joint, community and participatory monitoring systems.
- Protect, promote and develop drinking water sources, springs and watershed areas by mitigating the impact of climate change through recharge and other processes.
- Set up a rehabilitation fund referred to in the National Policy and stringently implement it in order to carry out rehabilitation and rebuilding of the ongoing projects in time.

4. Promotion of social campaign on sanitation and hygiene

- Ensure mandatory participation of drinking water and sanitation users' associations and the Federation in the institutional framework (V-WASH-CC, M-WASH-CC, D-WASH-CC, R-WASH-CC, N-WASH-CC) referred to in the Master Plan on Sanitation.
- Underline achievement of the results laid down in the Master Plan on Sanitation and Operational Guideline by enhancing meaningful participation of drinking water and sanitation users' associations and Federation.
- Declare the service area, including school and community organizations, of ongoing drinking water and sanitation schemes/projects as Open Defecation Area as a mandatory requirement.
- Develop cleanliness habits and behaviours by conducting total sanitation-oriented programmes after the declaration of Open Defecation Area.

5. Ensuring of gender, inclusive and equitable participation and resources

- Promote good governance, transparency and accountability to the extent possible through social audit and evaluation.
- Introduce equitable budget disbursement and management for enhancing access in yet unreached communities and regions.
- Maximally utilize the allocated budget by optimally increasing the current investments so that national targets are met.

6. Documentation of important accomplishments

- Document, exchange and disseminate success and failure stories.
- Set up and smoothly run resource centres for sharing good experiences, lessons learnt and practices.

Agencies and institutions pledging commitment



NPC
MoUD
MoFALD
DWSS
DOLIDAR



NEPAL



Date: 7 August 2012