

CPA TALK 17

Vidyadhar Mallik

*Former Minister, Federal Affairs and Local Development, and
Health and Population, Interim Election Government*

The peace process is still incomplete and work is on progress. There are splinter rebel groups, many with small arms and mild violent activities. There is significant delay in constitution implementation and challenges to creating a larger ownership, especially among Madheshi and Janjati groups. Socio-economic aspirations of common people are largely unfulfilled and frustrations are high. The fault-lines of conflict are still conspicuous and unaddressed. State restructuring is yet to happen and carries deeper division of opinions.

There are many achievements of Nepal's indigenous peace post CPA. Adoption of constitution by the elected constituent assembly and management of rebel arms and armies are some of them. Recently established TRC and the Commission for Disappeared people are also promising institutions to wrap-up the transition.

The Peace Secretariat was established to engage and facilitate political dialogue between various political parties, stakeholders and the Maoist rebels in 2005. It was largely successful in its mission by being an acceptable government institution for conducting all initial activities during early peace process, which included ceasefire and its monitoring, interim constitution drafting, drafting of CPA and bringing UNMIN to Nepal for monitoring the CPA and its implementation. The Secretariat was later converted into the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction to continue the same with added responsibilities for reconstruction of conflict affected public infrastructures and rehabilitation of Maoist combatants, IDPs and other conflict affected victims.

Nepal's political institutions and agencies have failed to fulfill Nepali people's aspirations and expectations. People see them wrangling over petty political interests and immediate power games. The promises of socio-economic transformation, land reforms, inclusive democracy and state restructuring all are elusive now. Transition management is lingering and state institutions or political parties have not demonstrated any fundamental behavioral change to embrace popular aspirations of the people's movement of 2006 and the spirit of the CPA.

The government and its various constituents need adequate mechanism, resources and high level political commitment to ensure proper implementation of the peace agreements.

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