

CPA TALK 7

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Nepal has achieved significant results after the completion of the first decade of its peace process. The management of former combatants and arms, two free and fair elections to the Constituent Assembly, the promulgation of a new Constitution, initiation of transitional justice processes and support to conflict affected people are some of the key achievements of the country.

However, much more needs to be done, especially in the aftermath of the devastating earthquakes of April and May 2015. Effective implementation of the new Constitution and ensuring its inclusiveness, fostering its acceptability, strengthening legitimate and accountable local governance, rebuilding infrastructures and livelihood for victims of the conflict and earthquake affected people, revitalizing economic growth and fighting impunity and corruption are some of the key tasks that need to be accomplished.

EU has remained a trusted partner in Nepal's path to peace and prosperity as it has shown the commitment in funding the Nepal Peace Trust Fund since 2012 and through its intended closure in July 2017. EU has been supporting the government and the civil society organizations in their efforts to build a stronger basis for sustainable peace that includes mitigating the root causes of conflict.

The major challenges encountered during Nepal's peace process were: high expectations for social and political change raised during the conflict and accumulated frustration within the general public due to the sense of marginalization and deprivation from socio-economic opportunities; and delays in the transitional justice processes causing conflict victims to feel betrayed.

Nepal's peace process is unique in the sense that it has been led, negotiated and managed by the government and national bodies. Nepal also was uniquely successful in integrating arms and combatants and promulgating a constitution in such a short time. Maoists resorted to peace talks after having assessed the internal and external circumstances and concluded that they could not overthrow the regime.

Despite the shortcomings identified in TRC and CIEDP, operating procedures have started to deal with the complaints related to conflict era human rights violations. The emphasis should be on the victims' concerns, reconciliation, truth-seeking/establishing accountability, reparations, prosecutions and institutional reforms in line with international best practice.

Nepal's Peace Agreement may inspire many other countries and conflicting parties to seek domestic solutions to domestic problems. However, to what extent Nepal's peace process can pave the way in ending other conflicts depends on the scenarios in these given countries.

[For further information regarding the book, contact Nepal Transition to Peace Institute \(NTTP-I\) or send an email to contact @nttpinstitute.org.np.](#)