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World Social Forum 2024, Nepal
WSF2024Nepal

Rising Tides of Change: Sailing Towards Equality



World Social Forum 2024 Nepal Report



About World Social Forum (WSF)

The WSF is a space and process designed to cultivate the collective power of people's movements and civil society organizations across the globe. It unites efforts against neoliberalism, climate injustice, patriarchy, casteism, racism, queerphobia, xenophobia, and wars. Guided by the belief that another world is both possible and necessary, the WSF advances its mission through a united front striving for justice, peace, equity, and the protection of nature and our planet.

Two decades ago, the world witnessed massive mobilisations against the destructive impacts of neo-liberal globalisation, leading to a vital conversation about alternatives to this prevailing development model. The first WSF was held in Porto Alegre in Brazil in 2001 and served as a space for diverse social movements, community campaigns, trade unions, youth organisations, academia, and others to congregate and collaborate.

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South Asia Alliance for Poverty Eradication (SAAPE)

P.O. Box: 8130, 288 Gairidhara Marg, Gairidhara

Kathmandu, Nepal, Phone: +977-1-4004976, 4004985

Website: wsf2024nepal.org; www.saape.org; Email: saape.network@gmail.com

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Acknowledgments

The successful organisation of the World Social Forum (WSF) 2024 in Nepal was made possible through the collective efforts of numerous individuals, organisations, and institutions. We extend our deepest gratitude to all those who contributed to this historic event, which served as a platform for critical discussions on neoliberalism, global inequalities, and the search for alternative models of development.

WSF 2024 brought together social movements, activists, academics, and civil society organisations from across continents, enriching the dialogue with their experiences in resisting neoliberal policies and advocating for social justice. We sincerely appreciate the unwavering support and guidance of the International Council Members and the Asia Pacific Social Forum, whose strategic inputs were instrumental in shaping the forum.

The Nepal Organising Committee and its sub-committees played a crucial role in ensuring the smooth execution of the event. Their dedication and meticulous planning facilitated an inclusive and participatory space, fostering meaningful discussions and collaborations. We also acknowledge the solidarity and contributions of all participating organisations and individuals, whose engagement strengthened the forum's impact.

A special mention goes to the media personnel, who amplified the voices of the marginalised and expanded the reach of WSF 2024 to a global audience. We also extend our sincere appreciation to the op-ed writers and contributors, whose thought-provoking articles and analyses helped to deepen discussions and bring critical issues to the forefront. We would like to thank the copy editors of the WSF final report for their meticulous work in ensuring clarity and accuracy in documenting this significant event. Our gratitude extends to the national and international speakers, guests, and participants for their insightful contributions and commitment to transformative change.

We deeply appreciate the tireless efforts of the World Social Forum Secretariat and the South Asia Alliance for Poverty Eradication (SAAPE). Their organisational expertise, logistical coordination, and commitment to social movements were indispensable in ensuring the success of this event.

We wish to recognise the generous support of Tribhuvan University and its affiliated institutions—Nepal Law Campus, Ratna Rajya Campus, and Balmiki Campus—for hosting key sessions and discussions. Their collaboration strengthened the academic dimension of the forum.

We acknowledge the Government of Nepal, the District Administration Office of Kathmandu, and the municipal authorities of Kathmandu and Lalitpur for their facilitation and support in ensuring a secure and well-coordinated event. The contributions of the security forces and relevant government agencies were valuable in managing logistical challenges.

A special recognition goes to Mr Pushpa Lal Shrestha of Budhanilkantha Municipality, whose generosity in providing free drinking water to thousands of participants for five days exemplifies the spirit of solidarity that WSF embodies.

We express our sincere appreciation to the NGO Federation of Nepal, which provided essential resources such as office space, meeting halls, and logistical support for nearly a year during the preparatory phase. Similarly, we are grateful to the National Federation of the Disabled-Nepal (NFD-N) for offering office space at Bhrikuti Mandap, the main venue of WSF 2024, ensuring accessibility and inclusion for all participants.

Lastly, we acknowledge the exceptional contributions of volunteers, staff members, and committee members, whose professionalism and dedication were crucial to the seamless execution of the forum. Their hard work, coordination, and unwavering commitment made WSF 2024 a landmark event in the global struggle for justice, equality, and an alternative world.

We also extend our gratitude to all individuals and organisations who supported WSF 2024 in various capacities. Their solidarity and belief in the vision of the World Social Forum continue to inspire and strengthen collective resistance against systemic injustices.

If we have inadvertently overlooked anyone in our acknowledgements, we sincerely apologise and assure you that your contributions are deeply valued and appreciated.

Netra Timsina,
Convenor, WSF 2024

Executive Summary

At the face of unprecedented global challenges encompassing environmental crises, inequality, food insecurity, and geopolitical tensions, the imperative for a new world order founded on principles of sustainability, dignity, co-existence, equality, and equity is urgent. The World Social Forum (WSF) emerged as a beacon of hope, inviting global participation to address these issues. This report provides the political and economic context in which the WSF 2024 Nepal was held and details the events and outcomes of the Forum.

The inaugural WSF in Porto Alegre, Brazil, in 2001 provided a platform for diverse social movements, fostering dialogue and collaboration among various social movements, trade unions, youth organisations, and academia. Over the years, the WSF evolved into a vital space for envisioning alternatives to prevailing development models and facilitating advocacy for systemic change. WSF consists of widespread mobilisations against the adverse impacts of neoliberal globalisation. Neoliberal globalisation is defined as an economic ideology propagated by institutions such as the World Bank and multinational corporations. It has resulted in profound challenges in the form of social inequality, poverty, and hunger. It is a system that is antithetical to the concept of universal human rights. This economic framework prioritised market deregulation and privatisation at the expense of equitable development and social welfare. Consequently, corruption has thrived, and vulnerable communities suffered from the illicit extraction of resources and continued oppression. Environmental degradation is rampant, driven by profit-driven policies that prioritise short-term gains over long-term sustainability.

Furthermore, neoliberal policies have facilitated a rise in illicit financial activities, undermining national economies and empowering criminal networks and organised crime syndicates. The ramifications of neoliberal policies have been stark, exacerbating existing disparities and marginalising billions of people across the planet. Meanwhile, a privileged minority has amassed significant wealth and influence, perpetuated systemic injustices, and disregarded the rights of both people and the planet.

Today, the world is grappling with the erosion of democratic norms, escalating inequality, and environmental degradation. Globalisation, once lauded as a vehicle for progress, had given way to trade conflicts and militarisation. The unchecked power of corporations, coupled with the rise of right-wing ideologies, have posed a significant threat to democratic participation and societal well-being.

Against this backdrop, the WSF 2024 held from 15 to 19 February 2024, in Kathmandu, Nepal offered a platform for collective action and solidarity. The WSF 2024 featured thematic panels, self-organised activities, and assemblies aimed at fostering dialogue and strategising change. The Intercontinental Youth Forum on 17 February underscored the importance of intergenerational collaboration in shaping a just and equitable world.

The World Social Forum 2024 had 1359 organisations, and 422 activities registered for the event. Each day of the program featured over 140 activities spanning thirteen overarching themes that addressed critical global issues. The program's aftermath saw the publication of statements that further delved into the complexities and nuances of these thematic areas.

The decision to hold the event in Nepal reflected the country's growing prominence as a hub for global dialogue and activism.

WSF 2024 represented a pivotal moment for global solidarity and collective action. Participants convened in Kathmandu had an opportunity to confront pressing challenges, to forge alliances, and to articulate a vision for a more equitable and sustainable world. The WSF motto asserts, "Another world is possible," and it was incumbent upon participants to seize the moment and work towards realising this shared vision of a fairer and just world. Moving forward, the future of the WSF remains promising as it continues to serve as a vital platform for global dialogue, activism, and advocacy.

Introduction

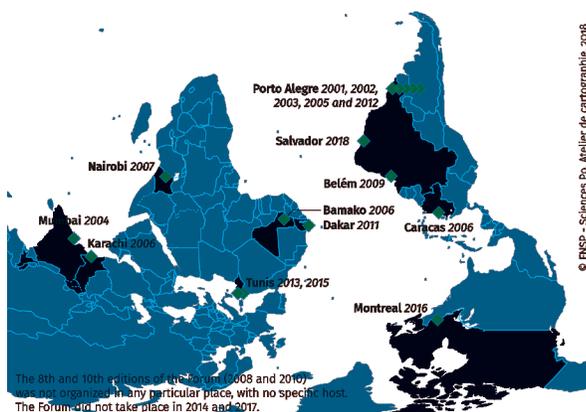
The perceived failure of the Keynesian economic model consequently galvanised liberal economic ideology and policy framework that emphasised deregulation, liberalisation, free markets, trade and investment, reductions in government spending, welfare programs, and privatisation. The liberal policy, which is popularly called neoliberalism, was built on classic nineteenth-century liberal ideals of individual rights, civil liberties, and private property. It was systematically integrated into the global economy, and despite its origin as a safeguard for people's rights, it provided freedom for capital and not for the people. Free capital and free market concentrated wealth in the hands of fewer and fewer, resulting in income inequality, exploitation of resources, environmental degradation, and a weakened social safety net. Neoliberalism became a tool for rich nations and corporations to dictate economic policies to the developing world. Developing countries sacrificed their national sovereignty for stability and it resulted in a dramatic increase in inequality between the rich and the poor.

Neoliberal economic policies are akin to, but distinct from globalisation. Neoliberalism emphasises free markets, advocates the reduction of government intervention in the economy, and encourages globalisation. Globalisation on the other hand emphasises interconnectedness and fosters interdependence. Hence in the year 2001, community organisers, trade unionists, young people, academics, and others began to meet in Porto Alegre, Brazil, to rethink and recreate globalisation so that it would benefit the people and not the capital. From these humble beginnings, the World Social Forum (WSF) emerged as a resistance to the corporate-led neoliberal globalisation.

The WSF has its roots in earlier organising efforts that emerged from the Global South such as the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The WSF's origins trace back to the protests organised by civil society to shut down the World Economic Forum in January 2000 in Davos, which were led by the mantra of 'anti-Davos at Davos' with the objective of 'sink[ing] Davos'. The protest inevitably led to the germination of a counter meeting driven by three main points: (a) the meeting should be held in the global south; (b) it should be called the World Social Forum; and (c) it should maintain the symbolism of meeting at the same time as Davos. Subsequently, the first meeting of the WSF was held in Porto Alegre, Brazil, in January 2001 as an alternative to the World Economic Forum held annually in Davos, Switzerland. The first WSF was convened at the height of the anti-globalisation mobilisations in 2001 to gather groups and movements of insurgent civil society from around the world. Slowly, this alternative annual gathering grew into the world's largest meeting of civil society. While the World Economic Forum remained a closed event that only drew 2,000 people, the WSF grew rapidly with 50,000 gathering in 2002; 100,000 meeting in 2003; 120,000 attendees in 2004, and 170,000 in 2005. The participation of people and countries in the WSF has seen a continuous and steady increase since then.

WSF rejects economic policies and growth through privatising social services, opposing militarism and imperialism, and providing an 'open space' to activists for reflective thinking, democratic debate of ideas, formulation of proposals, free exchange of experiences, forming networks and alliances, exchanging ideas, sharing experiences, and formulating effective actions. The WSF's movements act to explicitly oppose neoliberal global capitalism and address issues of global social justice and environmental sustainability. It is an organisation governed by a charter of principles and two leadership bodies: An International Council (IC) and a Local Organising Committee (LOC).

World Social Forum (2001-2018)



Year	Country/City	Attendance
2001 January 25-30	Porto Alegre, Brazil	15000
2002 January 25-30	Porto Alegre, Brazil	50000
2003 January 22-28	Porto Alegre, Brazil	100000
2004 January 16-21	Mumbai, India	120000
2005 January 26-31	Porto Alegre Brazil	170000
2006 January 24-29	Caracas, Venezuela	50000
2006 January 19-23	Bamako, Mali	15000
2006 March 24-29	Karachi, Pakistan	40000
2007 January 20-25	Nairobi, Kenya	50000
2009 January 27- February 1	Belém, Brazil	120000
2010 January 25-29/February	Porto Alegre, Brazil (January 25-29/ 3 events); Pelotas Brazil (February)	
2011 February 6-11	Dakar, Senegal	60000
2012 January 24-30	Porto Alegre, Brazil	
2013 March 26-30	Tunis, Tunisia	
2015 March 23-28	Tunis, Tunisia	
2016 August 9-17	Montreal, Canada	
2018 March 13-17	Salvador, Brazil	
2021 January 23-31	Held Virtually	78000 Participants; 144 Forums; 1371 Organisation
2022 May 1-6	Mexico City, Mexico Hybrid (In- person and virtual) (Attendance: 500 organisations)	Hybrid (In-person and virtual) (500 organisations; 2080 participants and 31,230 online visitors)
2024 15 February-19	Kathmandu, Nepal	Hybrid (In-person and virtual) (1359 organisations; 422 activities, 50000 participants)

A Call for the World Social Forum 2024 Nepal

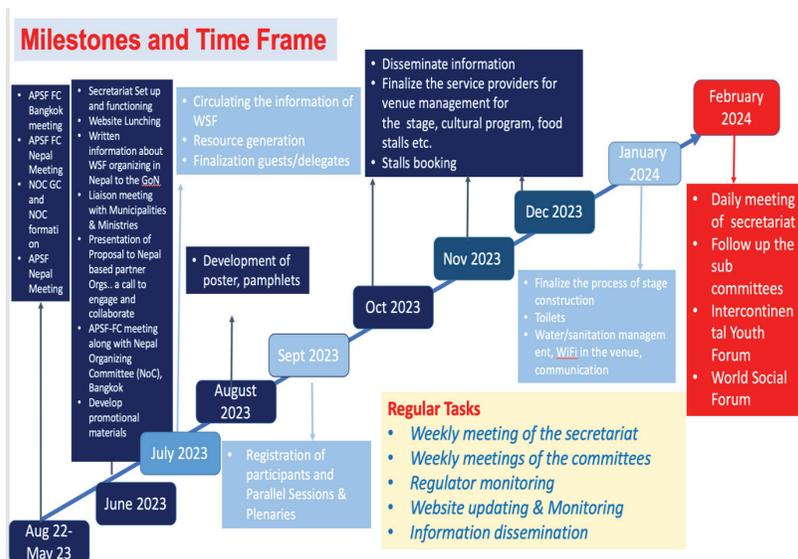
The world is moving towards a challenging period as political, economic, and environmental crises continue unabated. The forces of globalism, mass capitalism, and neoliberalism have created a system of dire and rising inequality. Amid climate change, global food insecurity, majoritarian violence, COVID-19, and geopolitical upheaval, most of humanity is mired in suffering. In this precarious landscape the World Social Forum stands against the dominant entities who govern the globe without regard for the impoverished and the downtrodden. Another World is Possible.

World Social Forum develops the collective power of people's movements and civil society organisations across the globe, uniting against neoliberalism, climate injustice, patriarchy, casteism, racism, queerphobia, xenophobia, and wars.

The WSF stands for non-discrimination, anti-racism, and the need for peaceful coexistence and respect for all to achieve an equitable and just global society. The WSF holds assemblies where many themes can be discussed, including but not limited to - economic inequality and economic justice, climate justice, all forms of discrimination, food sovereignty, energy and natural resources, war, freedom of the press, the future of the WSF, etc.

Nepal geared up to host the 16th edition of the WSF in February 2024 amidst a time of global upheaval. Nepal has witnessed several collective actions over the past two decades by different social groups and the social movements here have risen as significant forces in Nepali socio-political landscape. These movements have challenged the prevalent feudal and patrimonial political power structure in Nepal. However, the historical patterns of structural inequality have left some groups far more vulnerable than others. The future of democracy in Nepal depends on addressing the issues of justice and accountability.

The organisers of the World Social Forum 2024 in Nepal extended invitations to individuals from all countries to represent their organisations in Kathmandu. The events from 15-19 February 2024 allowed participants to gain new perspectives from participants from all over the world. Large swathes of the world population continue to suffer despite the so-called growth and the giant leaps in technology and communication in the 21st century, and we struggle to fight against the injustices created by neoliberalism and corporate globalism as we strive for change.



Formation of Committees and Working Groups

Nepal General Council (NGC)

Nepali Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) formed a Nepal General Council (NGC) for WSF 2024 on April 9th, 2023, and approved a broader guideline for the NGC's role. The NGC developed the overall structure and guidelines for the WSF 2024 Nepal. It formulated the criteria to be a member of the NGC, approved the Terms of Reference (ToR) and developed the operational guidelines for the NGC, Nepal Organising Committee (NOC), and sub-committees.

Nepal Organising Committee (NOC)

The NGC formed the Nepal Organising Committee (NOC) on April 9, 2023, and the members consisted of the representatives of CSO networks, federations, rights movement networks, farmers' organisations, trade unions, youth organisations, and women's rights movements, who have interests in the WSF and the organisational capacity to contribute voluntarily.

Sub-committees

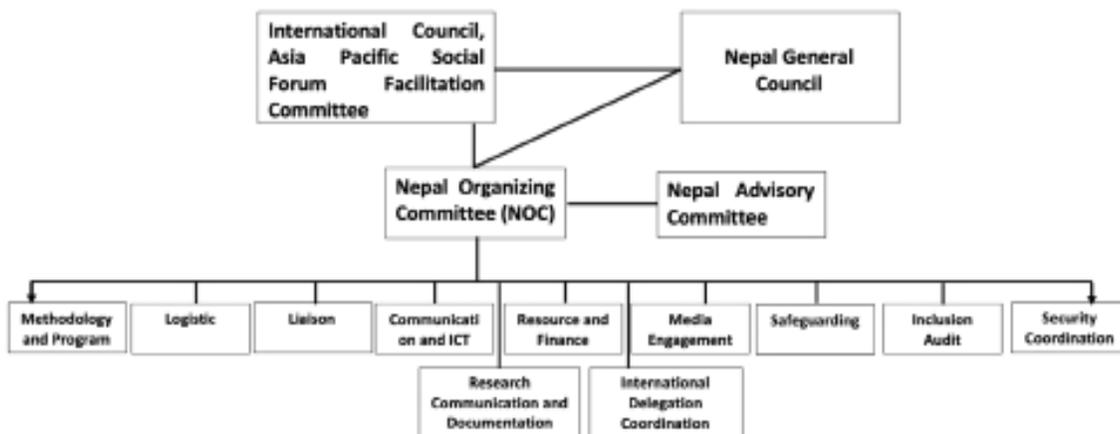
On 21st April 2023, NGC and NOC approved following sub-committees for WSF 2024 Nepal:

1. Methodology and Program Sub-Committee
2. Logistic Sub-Committee
3. Liaison Sub-Committee
4. Communication and ICT Sub-Committee
5. Resource and Finance Sub-Committee
6. Media Engagement Sub-Committee
7. Research Communication and Documentation Sub-Committee
8. Safeguarding Sub-Committee
9. Inclusion Audit Sub-Committee
10. International Delegation Coordination Sub-Committee
11. Security Coordination Sub-Committee



Nepal Organising Committees & Sub-Committees

The Organizational Structure of the WSF 2024 Nepal Committees is as follows:



Role of the International Council (IC)

The role of the International Council (IC) is threefold. First, the Council makes the final decision about where each World Social Forum (WSF) takes place. Secondly, the IC makes sure that the process of the WSF is kept alive every year, for example via archival data and documentation. Lastly, the most significant role of the IC is to act as guardians of the WSF process. This means that the Council ensures that proper procedures are respected by local organisation committees, such as maintaining the values of the Charter, and guaranteeing that the Forum stays an open and inclusive space. Decisions are made through consensus during IC meetings: everyone must agree, or there must be no strong opposition by any member.

Volunteer Mobilisation and Acknowledgements

Organising a large-scale event like the World Social Forum 2024 in Nepal required a diverse range of tasks and having a dedicated team of volunteers was crucial. Volunteers played pivotal roles in various aspects of the event, ensuring its smooth operation and success. Volunteers served as the welcoming face of WSF 2024.



World Social Forum 2024 in Nepal

Following the cessation of the decade-long Maoist insurgency in November 2006, Nepal underwent a political transformation, transitioning towards a dynamic democratic process characterised by secularism and republicanism. The evolution culminated in the promulgation of a new constitution on 20 September 2015, the constitution delineated Nepal as a multi-ethnic, multi-lingual, and multicultural nation and enshrined fundamental rights such as freedom of expression, assembly, political freedom, and movement.

Nepal also experienced a series of collective actions by various social groups over the past two decades, leading to social movements that challenged existing power structures. Despite strides toward equality, historical patterns of structural inequality persisted, leaving certain groups disproportionately vulnerable. The prevalence of impunity further entrenched this inequality, perpetuating the marginalisation of specific voices and communities. Consequently, addressing issues of justice and accountability became imperative for the consolidation of democracy in Nepal.

The decision to organise the World Social Forum in Nepal aimed to shed light on fundamental democratic issues, including social and economic inequality, linguistic and cultural rights, secularism, and caste- and ethnicity-based discrimination. Nepali civil society organisations, activists, and individuals convened to discuss topics ranging from democracy and civic space to climate change, disaster risk reduction, and inclusion.

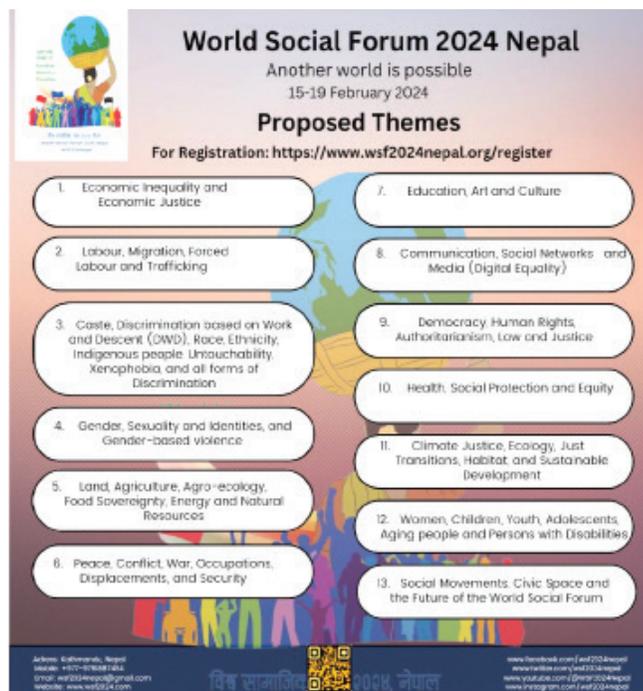
Hosting the World Social Forum offered Nepal an opportunity to display its progress and potential on the global stage.

Thematic Areas

In the heart of the Himalayas the World Social Forum 2024 convened to address pressing global issues and foster a spirit of inclusivity and collaboration. The following are a list and descriptions of the themes of WSF.

- i) **Economic Justice and Inequality:** At the forefront of discussions was the urgent need to challenge an economic system that perpetuates extreme inequality, leaving billions marginalised and vulnerable. WSF 2024 advocated for an economy designed to prioritise human well-being over profit, fostering fairer societies and equitable distribution of resources.
- ii) **Labour, Migration, and Human Trafficking:** Recognising the interconnectedness of migration and trafficking, WSF 2024 highlighted the plight of migrant workers who face exploitation and abuse. The forum emphasised the importance of protecting the rights of migrant workers and promoting inclusive policies that benefit both sending and receiving countries.

- iii) **Combatting Discrimination and Promoting Diversity:** WSF 2024 underscored the ongoing struggles against all forms of discrimination. Participants reaffirmed their commitment to building a world where every individual is valued and respected for their unique identity.
- iv) **Gender Equality and LGBTQ+ Rights:** The forum recognised the need to dismantle oppressive structures that perpetuate discrimination and violence against women, gender non-conforming individuals, and LGBTQ+ communities.
- v) **Land Rights, Environmental Sustainability, and Climate Justice:** WSF 2024 addressed the issues of land dispossession, environmental degradation, and climate change. Participants advocated for sustainable development practices that prioritise people and the planet, ensuring the preservation of livelihoods and ecosystems for future generations.
- vi) **Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution:** WSF 2024 emphasised the importance of promoting peace, justice, and security. The forum condemned all forms of violence and called for international solidarity in resolving conflicts.
- vii) **Education, Culture, and Digital Equity:** WSF 2024 celebrated the transformative power of education, art, and culture in shaping societies and empowering individuals. Participants highlighted the importance of equitable access to information and digital technologies, ensuring that all voices are heard and represented in the digital age.
- viii) **Democracy, Human Rights, and Social Protection:** WSF 2024 reaffirmed the principles of democracy, human rights, and social protection as fundamental pillars of a just society. Participants called for accountable governance, transparency, and inclusive policies that prioritise the needs of the most vulnerable.
- ix) **Communication, Digital Social Networks and Media (Digital Equity):** This WSF2024 umbrella theme welcomed activities and initiatives of action by those movements and organisations struggling technically, socially, and politically for: free access to emancipatory information; the development of knowledge and software as commons; democratic debate spaces; media regulation; communication rights; and a democratic Internet.
- x) **Health Equity and Sustainable Development:** In the wake of global health crises and growing economic disparities, WSF 2024 advocated for universal access to healthcare, social protection, and sustainable development.



- xi) **Climate Justice and Sustainable Development:** WSF 2024 recognised the urgent need to address the climate crisis and promote sustainable development practices that prioritise environmental stewardship and social equity. Participants called for bold and transformative action to mitigate climate change and build resilient communities.
- xii) **Inclusion of Marginalised Groups:** WSF 2024 provided a platform for marginalised groups, to voice their concerns and advocate for their rights. The forum highlighted the importance of inclusive policies and participatory decision-making processes that empower all members of society.
- xiii) **Empowering Social Movements:** As a gathering of diverse social movements and civil society organisations, WSF 2024 reaffirmed its commitment to collective action and solidarity. Participants engaged in dialogue, debate, and strategising to advance shared goals of social justice, human rights, and sustainable development.



WSF 2024 Theme

Some other major events at WSF2024 were:

1. Asia Dalit Rights Forum
2. Assembly on Universal Social Protection
3. Battling Inequality in Tea and Garment Value Chains: Advancing Beyond Minimum Wage to Living Wage
4. Broadening Metrics: The Non-Economic Losses of Climate Change in the Least Development Countries
5. Build Back Better: Myth vs Reality
6. Building the World Social Forum on Transformative Economies in Colombia 2024
7. Care for Earth, Our Common Home
8. Climate and Water Justice Through Feminist Angle
9. Climate Justice, Rivers, and Society
10. Climate Justice, Rivers, and Society
11. Crisis in Agriculture and Way Forward: Peasant's Assembly on Food Sovereignty, Agrarian Reform and Peasants' Rights
12. Decolonisation of Aid is Urgent for Equality and Economic Justice
13. Democratic Confederalism-Construction and Resistance in Kurdistan!
14. Ecumenism and Inclusiveness: Building a Harmonious Community
15. Engendering Political Leadership and Women's Representation
16. Future of Social Forum and Radical Democracy
17. Global Assembly on Child Rights, Just World for Children
18. Global Assembly on Climate Change Actions & Disaster Risk Reduction
19. Global Assembly on Economic Inequality and Justice
20. Global Climate Justice Assembly: Mountains in Peril Together for People and Planet
21. Global Conference on the Future of Socialism
22. Global Dignity Forum
23. Global Feminist Forum 2024

24. Global Talk on Hunger / Right to Food and Food Sovereignty
25. IMF/World Bank 80 Years It's Enough: The Case of Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Kenya, Ukraine, Argentina
26. Intercontinental Youth Forum
27. Journalist Forum/Media Conclave
28. Labour Forum
29. Land, Livelihood, and Housing Forum
30. Let's Create Our Own Community Money
31. New International Debt Crisis
32. Palestinian Social Forum
33. Panel Discussion on Navigating Feminist Struggles and Aspirations in Asia
34. People-led Development: Perspective and Practices
35. People's Economic Forum
36. Privatisation/Commercialisation in/of Education or Decolonizing Education Financing
37. Rojava Revolution: An Alternative World is Being Built in NE Syria
38. Sanctity of Democratic Space for Viable Democracy
39. Social Protection / Migrant Workers & Decent Work / Condition of Workers and Labour Rights in South Asia, Including Migrant Workers
40. Tax the Rich
41. Thematic Panel on Climate Justice, Ecology, Just Transitions, Habitat, and Sustainable Development
42. Thematic Panel on Land, Agriculture, Food Sovereignty, Agroecology Energy and Natural Resources
43. Thematic Session in WSF 2024: Education, Culture & Arts as Essential Variables for Emancipation
44. Thematic Session on Peace, Conflict, War, Occupations, Displacement, and Security
45. Thematic Session WSF 2024: Social Movements, Civic Space and Future of World Social Forum
46. Thematic Session: Communication, Digital Social Networks, Media, Digital Equity
47. Towards a Declaration of the Rights of Communities Discrimination on Work and Decent (CDWD) Including the Dalits
48. Welcome to the Global Placemaking Movement
49. World Assembly on Democracy and Civic Space
50. World Assembly on Solidarity Economy and Social Entrepreneurship
51. World Dignity Forum "Exterminating of Discriminatory Casteism for the Global Human Dignity"
52. World Human Rights Defenders Assembly
53. World Migration Forum

Most of the WSF 2024 was in-person, but there were five hybrid (both in-person and online) panels.

WSF 2024 Nepal App

For the first time in WSF history, a WSF app was developed to facilitate scheduling and planning for participants during the event. The app allowed participants to save events as favourites and create a cohesive schedule. The app ensured the privacy concerns of its users and the sign-in was option. The participants could access maps and directions to the events, and profiles of the key speakers within the app.

Hybridisation of Events and Translation

2024 iteration of the World Social Forum provided a hybrid format for certain events through Zoom to promote affordability of the event. This allowed key panellists to attend events remotely. The use of Zoom also allowed for seamless live translations, improving accessibility of the Forum overall.

Social Media Live Streaming

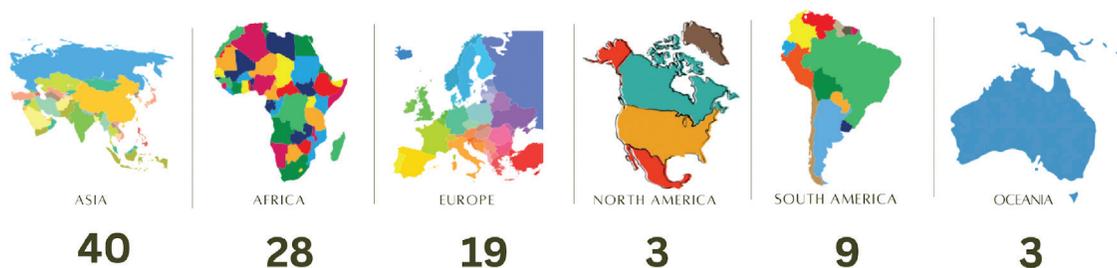
Key events of the World Social Forum 2024 were streamed live on social media. The YouTube channel @WSFFSM live-streamed certain events and panels, whose videos are still available on the channel. This method of presentation allows events and discussions to be documented for the future.

Participant Demographics and Representation

The World Social Forum 2024 Nepal witnessed a total attendance exceeding 50,000 individuals representing 102 countries.

Embracing the ethos of inclusivity, the forum welcomed individuals spanning a wide spectrum of ages, ranging from children to senior citizens. This intergenerational participation brought fresh perspectives and youthful energy and honoured the wisdom and experience of older generations. Moreover, the gender diversity among attendees was notable, with representation from individuals identifying across the gender and sexuality spectrum.

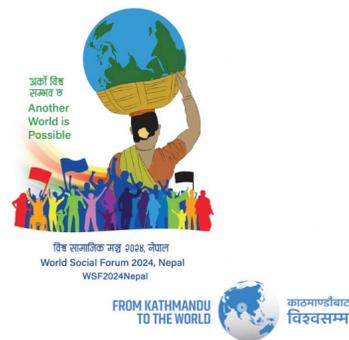
CONTINENT-WISE REGISTRATION



WSF 2024 Nepal Events

1359 organisations and 422 activities were registered for the World Social Forum 2024.

A day before the commencement of the WSF 2024, on February 14, 2024, a press conference was held to drive up interest and participation. Media outreach included a general message from the UN Secretary-General covered by domestic and international media outlets. The World Social Forum 2024 commenced on 15 February with a solidarity march and an opening ceremony. 16 February-18 saw a multitude of assemblies, forums, discussions, sessions, and public cultural performances. Finally, the last day of the World Social Forum 2024, February 19th, consisted of the Square of Statements and the closing ceremony. The event saw participating organisations create declarations and plans for the future.



Solidarity March and Opening Ceremony

(15 February 2024)

On 15 February 2024, in the streets of Kathmandu, a call for solidarity echoed through the capital city as the World Social Forum 2024 commenced its proceedings with its Solidarity March. It was a cornerstone event of the World Social Forum 2024 Nepal and garnered substantial international participation, with 35,000 attendees hailing from 102 countries in the march. This diverse representation underscored the global significance of the forum and the shared commitment to effecting positive change on a global scale. The march took participants from Bhrikuti Mandap to key landmarks across the city including Bhadrakali, New Road Gate, and Ratna Park. Notably, the cultural activities segment included special performances by the cultural groups of indigenous people for alternative art expressions.





As the march went through the streets of Kathmandu, their unified voices reverberated with calls for justice, equality, and solidarity. Please click the following link for the WSF 2024 Nepal

Solidarity March Map



Venues for World Social Forum 2024

- i) Bhrikuti Mandap Exhibition Center
- ii) Rashtriya Sabhagriha
- iii) Nepal Tourism Board
- iv) Nepal Academy
- v) Ratna Rajya Campus
- vi) Nepal Law Campus
- vii) Balmiki Campus



The main venue of the World Social Forum was the Bhrikuti Mandap Exhibition Center, with a capacity of 50,000 people. Its stage was used for the opening and closing ceremonies, as well as the cultural performances. Along the internal perimeter of Bhrikuti Mandap, stalls for food, products, and information were installed. Around the venue, large tents named after Nepal's mountains were setup to host panels and events while on the perimeter of the stage food and product stalls were established. Other venues listed are all within walking distance of Bhrikuti Mandap.

Opening Program

Deliberations from the Speakers -

The event scheduled for the afternoon of 15 February 2024, consisted of a series of activities aimed at fostering dialogue, awareness, and cultural exchange within the framework of social justice and human rights advocacy. Dr. Renu Adhikari set the stage with a moderated session, providing the necessary context for the ensuing discussions and performances.

Following the moderation, Mr. Laxman Basnet, the chair of the opening program of the WSF 2024, and currently a member of the South Asian Regional Trade Union Council (SARTUC), shared insights drawn from his extensive 33-year tenure as a trade union activist. He provided an overview of the arduous journey towards implementing social protection measures for workers in Nepal.

Dr. Netra Prasad Timsina, the WSF2024 convener, delivered a welcome speech, emphasising the significance of collective action and collaboration in addressing global challenges. A poignant moment of reflection ensued, honouring the sacrifices of martyrs worldwide.

The program then transitioned into presentations and performances, beginning with a peacock dance by Udiram Khadga. This was followed by cultural songs and dances celebrating the vibrancy and diversity of art from Nepal.

Tala Nasir, a seasoned Palestinian Human Rights Lawyer and Advocate, stood as a staunch advocate for the rights of prisoners and marginalised individuals. Through her work with Adameer for Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association, Nasir navigates challenging legal landscapes to ensure that the voices of the oppressed are heard and their rights protected.

Nasima Akhtar, a Disability Rights Activist from Bangladesh, champions the rights of individuals with disabilities, focusing on the intersectional nature of discrimination faced by women and men within the Persons with Disabilities (PWD) community. Akhtar's advocacy work strives to dismantle barriers to inclusion and promote equal opportunities for all.

For the opening statement, Dr. Thomas Wallgren, a Finnish philosopher, politician, and an activist for ecological justice and democracy expressed hope for the future and celebrated the people's courage in continuing to advocate for just causes. He stated that "in the face of immense challenges, we must cling to hope - for hope

is the sustaining force behind our struggles for ecological justice, democracy, and human rights. Our dignity and courage can never be taken from us, serving as wellsprings of strength even in the darkest times. We are fortified by our loved ones whose love, joy, and bravery refill our reserves of courage. Our roots extend as deep as the oceans, drawing nourishment from humanity's ancient yearning for freedom and harmony with nature. Yet our aspirations soar higher than the mightiest peaks. We dare to dream boldly of a truly sustainable future, real democracy for the people, and a world free from oppression and exploitation. Grounded by resilient roots and propelled by transcendent visions, our noble cause has indomitable force. For we fight for something greater than ourselves - the dignity of all people and the sanctity of our earthly home. With cherished hopes and loves anchoring us, our wellspring will never run dry."

Ashok Bharti's dedication to Dalit rights advocacy in India signified a profound commitment to addressing entrenched caste-based discrimination and social inequalities.

Prof. Wen Tiejun, an Advocate for Rural Reconstruction in China, offered insights from extensive research and fieldwork. His contributions shed light on the complexities of rural development and the imperative of sustainable, community-driven initiatives to alleviate poverty and foster resilience.

Prof. Jomo Kwame Sundaram is a leading economist and expert on the political economy of development specialising in economic justice advocacy. Sundaram provided an overview of the structural barriers that perpetuate poverty and inequality, advocating for systemic reforms to promote equitable development.

Walden Belo, a Filipino academic and contributor to human rights advocacy and academic scholarship emphasised the interconnectedness of struggles for justice across borders. Belo's insights into resistance movements and authoritarian challenges offered valuable perspectives on navigating contemporary global challenges.

Burry Tunkara Gambie's advocacy for the feminist cause, farmers' rights, and the rights of domestic workers in West Africa reflects a commitment to amplifying the voices of marginalised communities. Her efforts to advance land rights, water access, and agroecology underscore the intersectionality of social justice issues and the imperative of collective action.

Dr. Aleida Guevara, a prominent figure in Cuba's socialist movement and activist for healthcare, political advocacy, and humanitarian efforts, spoke on the importance of a comprehensive approach to social justice. Her commitment champions human rights, particularly in healthcare and exemplifies the transformative potential of grassroots activism. Dr. Aleida Guevara's speech outlined the importance of unity among oppressed peoples against imperialism, the manipulation of information, and the perpetuation of armed conflicts. Dr. Guevara emphasised the plight of the Palestinian people under Israeli occupation, highlighting the disproportionate violence against civilians and called for international solidarity through boycotts and aid efforts. Drawing parallels to Cuba's resilience against the economic blockade, she spoke on the need for collective action to challenge imperialist powers and uphold human dignity.

Medha Patkar's longstanding dedication to environmental conservation, indigenous rights, and social justice initiatives in India reflects a steadfast commitment to empowering marginalised communities. She is an Indian social activist known chiefly for her work with people displaced by the Narmada Valley Development Project (NVDP), a large-scale plan to dam the Narmada River and its tributaries in the Indian states of Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, and Maharashtra. Patkar is a founder of multiple social movements, and her leadership has inspired collective action and systemic change.

The program hosted a wheelchair dance by Sarita Thulung and Sanu Kanchhi Tamang, with the resilience and creativity of PWDs, followed by a song by Jeevan Sharma with the message of solidarity and hope.

Mr. Laxman Basnet led closing remarks and reflected on the day's discussions and performances, emphasising the importance of collective action in advancing social justice agendas.

United Nations Secretary-General's Message for the World Social Forum 2024

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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MESSAGE FOR THE WORLD SOCIAL FORUM

Kathmandu, 15 February 2024

I am pleased to send my warm greetings to all gathered in Kathmandu for the 2024 World Social Forum.

Thank you for coming together in the spirit of solidarity and cooperation. The World Social Forum represents an important space to lift up voices, focus on the most vulnerable, restore hope and find innovative solutions for people and planet.

Uniting for the common good is critical as conflicts rage and geopolitical divisions grow. We need global solidarity to rescue the Sustainable Development Goals – and reform an outdated, dysfunctional and unfair global financial system.

We must also rally together to address the climate crisis. As I witnessed during my recent visit in Nepal, countries on the frontline of climate change require far greater support. My Climate Solidarity Pact urges big emitters to make extra efforts to cut emissions and wealthier countries to support emerging economies to do so.

Finally, we must unite within communities – with a renewed social contract, based on trust, justice and inclusion, and anchored in human rights. Women, youth, and marginalized people must have a seat at the decision-making table.

A world of peace, dignity and sustainability is not only possible, it is necessary. Let us build it together.

Intercontinental Youth Forum (IYF)



The Intercontinental Youth Forum (IYF) took place on the 17 February 2024 at the World Social Forum venue in Bhrikuti Mandap, Kathmandu. Young participants from across the globe attended the event. The IYF started with an opening ceremony from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM at Rastriya Sabhagriha, Kathmandu, in the presence of national and international delegates and speakers.

During the inaugural session, national and international youth leaders delivered speeches and highlighted the significance of youth engagement in bringing about positive transformations in their lives and the world at large. Following the opening session, thematic discussions on ten key topics. Each issue was presented and analysed by experts, followed by robust interactions among the participants. The presentations and discussions were recorded and shared through various media channels.

Parallel Discussions in IYF

1. Around the periphery of Bhrikuti Mandap, 10 parallel sessions were held in IYF. Education Beyond Privatisation
2. Mind Matters: Youth Well-Being Today
3. Climate Justice: Paradigm Shift for World Development
4. Land, Food Sovereignty and Housing Rights
5. Peace, Disarmament and Denuclearisation
6. Feminism, Intersectionality and Youth
7. Youth in Digital Era: Digital Rights, Activism and Security
8. Youth in Global Governance for Humanity and Planet
9. Youth Assembly against Inequality and Discrimination
10. Foreign Labour Migration: Choice or Duty?

"Another world is possible"

Intercontinental Youth Forum 2024

Inauguration Ceremony

17th February 2024, 9:00 AM- 11:00 AM
City Hall, Bhrikuti Mandap

Speakers

Amalsh Behar, India Keynote Speaker	Carolyne Kitone Fiji	Satyendra Kr. Saha India	Alma Agueb - Portier France	Farah Abdulrahman South Africa	Amari Mouca Mammoud Odeh Palestine	Wanda Yamila Colombia Colombia	Phoenix Kennedy USA	Naendra Khatiwada Nepal	Sabrina B.K. Nepal
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Coordinated by
YOUTH ADVOCACY NEPAL
युवा एडवोकेसी नेपाल
Register Now!
<https://www.wsf2024nepal.org/youth-forum>

Organized by
actionaid, FAN, etc.

A 'Youth Camp' ran alongside the World Social Forum on 18 February 2024 (Evening session). At the camp, young participants, and youth organisations from all over the world engaged in interactive workshops addressing youth-related concerns. There were artistic presentations, cultural displays, documentary screenings, boating, networking, and campfires. Besides arranging the venue, space, and logistics for the WSF 2024 the Youth Camp organising team, participants, and organisations led the implementation of the activities.

Thematic Activities (16-18 February 2024)

Guided by a thematic framework encompassing pressing global concerns, the World Social Forum 2024 Nepal explored themes spanning economic inequality, human rights, environmental sustainability, and beyond. These themes served as focal points for discussions, workshops, and activities. The thematic agenda of the forum encompassed a range of interconnected topics shedding light on different facets of the global struggle for justice and equity. From economic justice and labour rights to gender equality and environmental sustainability, the forum sought to address the root causes of inequality and injustice while envisioning alternative futures grounded in solidarity and collective action.

Over the course of three days, from 16-18 February, participants engaged in activities, workshops, and discussions, organised around the following thematic pillars:

1. Economic Inequality and Economic Justice
2. Labour, Migration, Modern Slavery, and Trafficking
3. Caste, Discrimination Based on Work and Descent (DWD), Race, Ethnicity, Untouchability, Indigenous People, Xenophobia, and all forms of Discrimination
4. Gender, Sexuality, and Identities and Gender-Based Violence
5. Land, Agriculture, Food Sovereignty, Agroecology, Energy and Natural Resources
6. Peace, Conflict, War, Occupations, Displacements, and Security
7. Education, Art, and Culture
8. Communication, Digital Social Networks, and Media (Digital Equity)
9. Democracy, Human Rights, Authoritarianism, Law, and Justice
10. Health, Social Protection, and Equity
11. Climate Justice, Ecology, Just Transitions, Habitat, and Sustainable Development
12. Women, Children, Youth, Adolescents, Aging people, and Persons with Disabilities
13. Social Movements, Civic Space and Future of World Social Forum

Each theme served as a lens through which participants examined the challenges facing our world today and envisioned pathways towards equitable, sustainable, and inclusive future. Through dialogue, collaboration, and collective action, the World Social Forum 2024 Nepal sought to harness the collective power of diverse voices and movements to effect positive change on both local and global scales. Below are the highlights of theme-wise activities for February 16, 17, and 18.

Economic Inequality and Economic Justice: 69 activities



16 February: 20 activities

Topics: abusive microcredit, civic engagement for women's economic rights, alternative development perspectives from indigenous communities, global debt, tax policies, corporate accountability, green economy, progressive taxation.

17 February: 21 activities

Topics: climate action, transformative economies, decolonisation of aid, impacts of capitalism and authoritarianism, rights of future generations, role of informal economies in challenging capitalist structures.

18 February: 28 activities

Topics: digitalisation of social security, women's leadership in humanitarian response, solidarity economy in social entrepreneurship, wealth taxation, land rights, responsible business practices

THEMATIC ASSEMBLY ON ECONOMIC INEQUALITY & JUSTICE

Logos: FIGHT INEQUALITY, ACTIONAID, ASIACENTRE, ISAAPFI, LDC Watch, Oxfam, OXFAM

DR. ARJUN KARKI
Global Coordinator
LDC Watch

NJOKI NJEHU
Pan-African Coordinator
Fight Inequality

AMITABH BEHAR
Executive Director
Oxfam International

FARAH ABDURAHMAN
Youth Activist
Africa

MODERATED BY JENNY RICKS, GLOBAL COORDINATOR, FIGHT INEQUALITY ALLIANCE

16TH FEB 2024

9.00 AM TO 13.00 PM (NEPAL TIME)

DHAULAGIRI (BHRIKUTI MANDAP)

SCAN QR CODE TO REGISTER

Labour, Migration, Modern Slavery, and Trafficking: 40 activities

16 February: 8 activities

Topics: reintegration of trafficking survivors, platform economy, voices of workers in the entertainment and hospitality sectors.

17 February: 20 activities

Topics: combatting inequality in agricultural and garment value chains, informal labour, migrant rights.

18 February: 12 activities

Topics: climate-induced migration, child labour, political economy of human trafficking, safe migration.

WHERE DO YOU STAND WITH WOMEN MIGRANT WORKERS?

Logos: needs, BNSK, AMKAS NEPAL, OUR JOURNEY, BNSK

MIGRANTS RIGHTS: FORMAL AND INFORMAL SECTOR

People Courage International's study estimates 300 million internal migrant workers in Asia, facing socio-economic distress and vulnerability. Legal recognition for internal migrant workers is lacking in South Asian countries which magnifies the vulnerability these workers are faced with. These internal migrants are forced to get into multitude of formal and informal sector without any worker protection or social security to support them. The lack of social security and worker protection for them emphasizes the need for regional focus to reduce vulnerability.

RATNA RAJAYA CAMPUS, BLOCK-8, GROUND FLOOR, ROOM -31

17TH FEBRUARY 2024 11:30AM TO 01:00PM

BNSK, NEEDS, NMES and SUS are organizing a workshop to provide a regional perspective of the situation of internal migrants in their work areas, and give ways forward and provide strategic development.

#WSF2024 RESPECT #WSF2024 RECOGNISE #WSF2024 REMMUNERATE #WSF2024 RESPECT

Land, Agriculture, Food Sovereignty, Agroecology, Energy and Natural Resources: 57 activities

16 February: 19 activities

Topics: agroecology, community-led housing, global assembly on community forest, transformative potential of agroecology in addressing climate crisis, food sovereignty for peace and justice, community-led initiatives in preserving natural resources.

17 February: 18 activities

Topics: crisis in agriculture, food justice, regional aspects of climate justice, agrarian reform, resistance against free trade agreements, role of small farmers in sustainable agriculture.

18 February: 20 activities

Topics: right to food guidelines, feminist approaches to food systems, land rights for women, ecologically sustainable agricultural practices, empowerment of marginalised communities in land governance, reclaiming indigenous land rights for economic empowerment and climate justice.

Recognizing Community Seed Banks for Food Security, Seed Sovereignty and Farmers' Rights, and Enhancing Smallholder's Resilience

Nepal Law Campus, Pradarshani Marga, Kathmandu

17 February 2024 (14:00-15:30) Nepal Time

Organizers

- LI-BIRD (Sangeeta Lalitpur, Email: info@libird.org)
- CSB Association of Nepal (Kawasoiti 14, Aayushi, Naxalparasi, Email: info_csbnepal@gmail.com)

Scan for more information

Goal the good in Another World is Possible

The weather and 2024 show World Social Forum 2024, Nepal WSF2024Nepal

Peace, Conflict, War, Occupations, Displacements, and Security: 53 activities

16 February: 18 activities



Topics: common security alternatives to war, Palestinian struggle, grassroots movements for peace in North Africa, role of media in conflicts, values-based peace building, intersections of peace, food sovereignty, and climate justice.

17 February: 18 activities

Topics: peace and the environment, grassroots solidarity with Palestine, democratic confederalism in Kurdistan, drafting constitutions for interim governments, non-violent approaches to conflict resolution.

18 February: 17 activities

Topics: declarations for peace, feminist visions for peace, translating solidarity into action for Palestine, grassroots solidarity movements, empowerment of marginalised voices in conflict resolution, inclusive approaches to peacebuilding.

WORLD SOCIAL FORUM
KATHMANDU, NEPAL

PEACE, CONFLICT, WAR, OCCUPATIONS, DISPLACEMENT, AND SECURITY

16th FEB '24 (FRIDAY)

VENUE: BHRIKUTI MANDAP, LHOTSE, WSF VENUE, EXHIBITION ROAD, KATHMANDU

TIME: 9 AM TO 11 AM

www.aepf.info

SPEAKERS

- WALDEN BELLO (Focus on the Global South Philippines)
- PROF. DR. YUDARAJ KHANCIKOLA (Kathmandu School of Law Former Attorney General of Nepal)
- JULIET WEIRE (Women's International Peace Center, Uganda)
- WISAM AHMAD (Al-Haq Palestine)

Moderators & Summing up: Farooq Tariq (AEPF) & Francis Daehoon Lee (South Korea)

INTERVENTIONS

Francis Daehoon Lee (Northeast Asia/Taiwan Strait), Necibe Qeredaxi (Jineoloji Academy, Belgium and Kurdistan), Elena (Burma), Naji Moulay Lahsen (CIDH Africa)

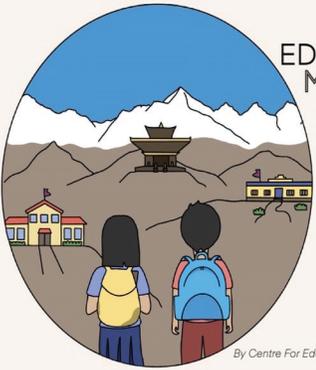
CO-ORGANIZERS: ASIA EUROPE PEOPLE'S FORUM, GLOBAL PEACE FOUNDATION (INENL), SOUTH ASIA ASSOCIATION FOR POVERTY ELIMINATION (INFPAL), INTERNATIONAL PEACE BUREAU FOCUS ON THE GLOBAL SOUTH, WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL PEACE CENTER (UGANDAL), PEACE MOND (SOUTH KOREA), CENTRE FOR PEACE AND SECULAR STUDIES (KURDISTAN), AL-HAQ (PALESTINE), TANGKAS HUMAN RIGHTS LEAGUE (INDONESIA), TRANS NATIONAL INSTITUTE (THE NETHERLANDS), STOP THE WAR COALITION (PHILIPPINES), INITIATIVES FOR INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE (PHILIPPINES), INEQUITY ACADEMY (BELGIUM), WISYANA WOMEN AWARENESS SOCIETY (INDONESIA), ASIAN CULTURAL FORUM ON DEVELOPMENT (THAILAND), CIDH (AFRICA), CENTRE FOR PEACEBUILDING ORGANIZATIONS (AFRICA), ODISHA PEACEBUILDERS' FORUM (INDIA)

From Gandhi to Buddha : a Discussion on Nonviolence

Supporters: NEPAL, LAND FOR PEACE, Habitat for Humanity, care

CSIC

Education, Art, and Culture: 25 activities



**EDUCATION DIVIDE :
Mobile Workshop**

VISITS :
- 2 SCHOOLS
- 1 HISTORICAL PLACE

INCLUDED :
- TRANSPORTATION
- LUNCH

By Centre For Educational Policies and Practices (CEPP)

ANOTHER WORLD IS POSSIBLE

WORLD SOCIAL FORUM 2024- NEPAL

Dialogue On Right to Education and Climate Justice

Venue: Ratna Rajyalaxmi Campus-block Floor1-room-13
Date: 2024-Feb-18
Time 15:45PM - 17:15 PM Nepali Time

ORGANIZER

COLLABORATION

कंसोर्टियम-नेपाल Consortium Nepal

सोशल प्रोटेक्शन सेटिङ नेटवर्क Social Protection Civil Society Network

16 February: 9 activities

Topics: role of education in liberation movements, commodification of education, strengthening student movements, reclaiming public education as a human right, Ecoversities Alliance's alternative approach to learning.

17 February: 12 activities

Topics: educational transformation in agriculture, reducing learning gaps, right to education as a fundamental human right, trans-disciplinary dialogues on ecological and humanistic transitions, role of education, culture, and arts in emancipation.

18 February: 4 activities

Topics: right to education, education divides, education for children living in poverty, inclusive and equitable educational opportunities.

Communication, Digital Social Networks, and Media (Digital Equity): 9 activities

16 February: 1 activity

Topics: intersection of communication, digital social networks, media, and digital equity, challenges, and solutions in the digital space.

17 February: 3 activities

Topics: community radio, role of youth in digital rights and activism, global crisis facing world media, future of media, influence of digital technologies on social movements.

#KeptReal

Panel Discussion on Fake News and Misinformation

To Participate
Write to arnika@socialmediamatters.in



18 February: 5 activities

Topics: professional transformations in Senegal's digital space, importance of digital equity in shaping the future of communication and media.

FORUM SOCIAL MONDIAL NEPAL 2024

تأثير خطاب الكراهية في الفضاء الرقمي: التحديات والحلول

L'impact du discours de haine dans l'espace numérique : Défis et Solutions

Organizers: IDIOT!, FOMEJE, Morocco Citizens' Initiatives Association "Bawsala"

HATE U

Kathmandou, Nepal, 16 February 2024 11:30 AM - 13:00 PM (Nepali Time)

Democracy, Human Rights, Authoritarianism, Law, and Justice: 54 activities

February: The Palestinian struggle as a microcosm of global injustice.

16 February: 19 activities

Topics: Civil liberties, democratic confederalism, role of media in conflict situations, the convivial manifesto, indigenous spiritualities, rights of marginalised communities, civil society activism, regional aspects of climate justice, impact of authoritarianism on democracy

17 February: 18 activities

Topics: Grassroots movements, human rights defenders, initiatives for disability-inclusive development, advancing democracy, justice, and human rights worldwide.

18 February: 17 activities

Topics: Grassroots movements, human rights defenders, initiatives for disability-inclusive development, advancing democracy, justice, and human rights worldwide

World Social Forum 2024
Global Indigenous Peoples Forum
Advancing the Implementation of CEDAW
General Recommendation No. 39 on the Rights of Indigenous Women and Girls
Workshop
16 Feb. 2024 Time: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Venue: Hotel Hardik, Bishnuvar, KTM

VORC-Nepal
A Panel discussion on:
Localizing Social Justice - A Movement for Civic Engagement in Democracy
Explore and promote the concept of localizing social justice as a pivotal movement for fostering civic engagement in democracy.
Speakers: Sushila Karki, Anjali Bhardwaj, Jaya Luitel, Dr. Sushil Koirala
Moderator: Keshab Prasad Sapkota
Venue: NEPAL LAW CAMPUS - 5/DOOR - C/Floor - Room No.104
Date: 17th February 2024
Time: 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM Nepal Time
9841486110

World Social Forum, Kathmandu Nepal
Discussion Panel
16th Feb. 2024
11:30am to 12:30pm
Venue: Ratna Rajya Campus, Block-8, Floor-Ground, Room No. 3
Speakers
Pakistan: Deep Sarda, Peace activist and Director Institute for Peace and research studies
Nepal: Nusrata Sharma, Coordinator mass communication, Nepal national commission for UNESCO
Sri Lanka: Nalini Rathnayake, Women's Human Rights Defender and member NAPF
India: Anvish Kumar, Wiada Na Yoda Abhiyan
Bangladesh: Zakir Hossain, Nazimul Kabir (Citizen's Initiative), PCCI India
Moderator: Lara Jassal, PCCI India
Chairperson: Kavita Srivastava, PCCI, India
Civil Liberties in South Asia
Contact person - Kavita Srivastava
Contact WhatsApp and phone: +91 93224 23642
Contact Email: kshikha@gmail.com

Health, Social Protection, and Equity: 70 activities

16 February: 28 activities

Topics: universal social protection, maternity protection for agricultural workers, impact of privatisation on public services, mental health, substance abuse, prisoner's health, intersectionality of health issues with social justice, disability-inclusive development, digitalisation of social security, critique of neoliberalism in governance, emotional well-being in activism (Emotion check-in game).

17 February: 29 activities

Topics: universal social protection, maternity protection for agricultural workers, impact of privatisation

HomeNet SOUTH ASIA
with its affiliates
UNSEEN AND UNHEARD:
The Challenges and Victories of Home-Based Workers in South Asia.
HomeNet and its affiliates from South Asia will be participating at the World Social Forum on **February 17, 2024**.
TIME: 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
VENUE: Mardi Himal Tent
Bhrikuti Mandap, Exhibition Road, Kathmandu
अर्को विश्व सम्भव छ
Another World is Possible
विश्व सामाजिक मञ्च २०२४, नेपाल
World Social Forum 2024, Nepal
WSF2024Nepal

on public services, mental health, substance abuse, prisoner's health, intersectionality of health issues with social justice, disability-inclusive development, digitalisation of social security, critique of neoliberalism in governance.

18 February: 13 activities

Topics: universal social protection, maternity protection for agricultural workers, impact of privatisation on public services, mental health, substance abuse, prisoner's health, intersectionality of health issues with social justice, disability-inclusive development, digitalisation of social security, critique of neoliberalism in governance.

Climate Justice, Ecology, Just Transitions, Habitat, and Sustainable Development: 93 activities

16 February: 29 activities

Topics: Agroecology as a solution to the climate crisis, community-led housing, climate justice movements worldwide, thematic panels on climate justice, just transitions, sustainable development pathways, empowering marginalised voices in forest management, building power against false climate change solutions.

17 February: 27 activities

Topics: Ecological justice, indigenous rights, global climate investment, assemblies on climate justice actions, disaster risk reduction, gender and climate justice, intersectionality of environmental and social justice movements.

18 February: 37 activities

Topics: Disparities arising from climate change impacts, climate-resilient farming practices, climate-induced migration, modern slavery issues, critiques of neoliberalism in governance, just transitions in the fossil fuel phase-out, role of women's leadership in climate action.

World Social Forum 2024 Kathmandu, Nepal
Climate Change, Migration and Modern Slavery
 Uncovering New Evidence for Policy-making
 18 February 2024 | 11:30AM - 13:00 PM Nepali Time
 Venue: Ratna Rajya Campus, Block-B, Floor-Ground, Room No- 2
 Organized by: Ovbashi Karmi Unnayan Program OKUP

WORLD SOCIAL FORUM 2024- NEPAL
Dialogue On Right to Education and Climate Justice
 Venue: Ratna Rajyalaxmi Campus-Block Floor 1-room-13
 Date: 2024 Feb 18
 Time: 15:45PM - 17:15 PM Nepali Time
 ORGANIZER: [Logos]
 COLLABORATION: [Logos]

Women, Children, Youth, Adolescents, Aging people, and Persons with Disabilities: 41 activities

WORLD SOCIAL FORUM
Psychosocial Issues Of Survivors
 Nepal Law Campus, Block B, Floor-1, Room No.A103
 18th February 2024 2:30 PM To 3:32 PM
 For participation & more information: [QR Code]
 Speakers: Komal Pandey, Parbati Ghatani, Hira Dahal, Shilpa Tirwaa
 Moderator: Hira Dahal
 Chairperson: Shilpa Tirwaa
 Organizer: CHHORI, Lalitpur metropolitan city-4, Bagdol

WORLD SOCIAL FORUM
Feminisms, Women's Movements and Diversity towards the construction of other possible worlds.
 February 18, 2024, Kathmandu - 18:00 hrs (GMT 5:45)
 Venue: NEPAL TOURISM BOARD / BHRIKUTI BMANAP
 Speakers: Ada Domo (Italia), Ann Wrie (EEUU), Amanda Anderson (Brasil), Cheima el Hajjam (Tunee), Dalila Calisto (Brasil), Lena Meari (Palestina), Lolita Chavez (Guatemala), Maria Marroquin (Guatemala), Renu Adhikari (Nepal), Tabitha Mulyamitti (Uganda), Rita Freire (Brasil), Rosy Zuñiga (Mexico), Synthia Claudia Kozul (Argentina)

16 February: 14 activities

Topics: dignified menstruation, mental health of children and adolescents, situation of refugee women and girls, voices of marginalised women and girls, youth-led initiatives for climate justice.

17 February: 11 activities

Topics: mainstreaming persons with disabilities in civic engagement, overcoming barriers to access to justice for women and girl children, safer internet practices for children in the digital age, discrimination against Dalit children, intergenerational issues of the LGBTQI+ community.

18 February: 16 activities

Topics: child participation, disability-inclusive social development, prevention of sexual harassment in universities, feminism, women's empowerment, dismantling children's forced marriage and union.

Social Movements, Civic Space and Future of World Social Forum: 63 activities

16 February: 15 activities

Topics: transformative feminist politics, harnessing social movements for landscape restoration, role of citizens in social movements, Global Feminist Forum's opening assembly, Rising Freedom Festival, world assembly on democracy and civic space.

17 February: 25 activities

Topics: challenges facing civil society organisations, rise of authoritarianism, youth engagement in ecological restoration, future of the WSF, alliance building, role of social movements in global governance.

18 February: 23 activities

Topics: testimonials from social movements worldwide, future of socialism, strategic dialogues to upgrade the WSF, right to protest, rural reconstruction movements, revitalisation of civic spaces.

Closing Ceremony (19 February 2024)

On February 19th, 2024, Ms. Tikaswari Rai, a WSF 2024 Nepal Secretariat member, on the behalf of Nepal Organising Committee, delivered the closing remarks for the World Social Forum 2024. The day featured various cultural programs, adding vibrancy to the atmosphere. The closing remarks highlighted the number of organisations and their square of statements. The WSF2024 "Map" of the Square of Statements, was scheduled from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm.

Dr. Netra Timsina, a convener of the World Social Forum 2024 in Nepal, extended gratitude in a thank-you note, acknowledging the collective efforts that made the forum a success. The convergence of diverse voices, ideas, and initiatives underscored the spirit of collaboration and solidarity that characterised the WSF2024, offering hope for continued dialogue and action toward a more just and equitable world.



Right to Protest

Speakers



Muhammad Salameh
(Palestine Network for Nongovernmental Organization, Palestine)



Usha Tikkehu
(Photojournalist/Social Activist, Nepal)



Harsh Mander
(Social Activist, Kanwar-e-Mohabbat, India)

Moderator:

Bansri Pandey
(Theatre activist, Shilpee Theatre)



Date: 18 February 2024, Sunday
Time: 11:30 to 13:00
Venue: Bhrikubmandoo, Open Space

WhatsApp: +977 9815500372
Email: brihatcivilsociety@gmail.com



Click here for statement



Perspectives and Key Quotes



Antonio Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General

“Thank you for coming together in the spirit of solidarity and cooperation. Uniting for the common good is critical as conflicts rage and geopolitical divisions grow. We need global solidarity to rescue the Sustainable Development Goals and reform an outdated, dysfunctional, and unfair global financial system,”

“Women, youth, and marginalised people must have a seat at the decision-making table. A world of peace, dignity, and sustainability is not only possible, but also necessary. Let us build it together.”



Tala Nasir, Human Rights Lawyer

“It is not possible to talk about human rights in the world without addressing the situation of human rights in Palestine.”

“We are going through a very critical time regarding the Palestinian cause, as all the crimes committed by the Israeli occupation over the past 75 years have now culminated in the Gaza strip.”



Prof. Wen Tiejun, Global University of Sustainability

“We must change the development methods and the development programs.”

“We will reduce the gap between the rural and the urban”



Prof. Thomas Wallgren, Activist and Philosopher

“We have our dignity and our courage. We have our loved ones. We have their courage and their joy of life, which fills us with hope.”

“The roots of our struggles are as deep as the ocean, and our dreams reach higher than the Himalayas.”



Dr. Walden Belo, Academic and Human Rights Advocate

“Davos is the forum of the one percent that exploits us. The WSF is the forum of the rest of the world.”

“We have the global rise of fascism, fascism which wants to put one group of people under the domination of another group of people,”



Burry Tunkara Gambie, Activist

“First and foremost, it is essential to recognise the fundamental rights of farmers to own and control the land they cultivate.”

“There’s no doubt that agriculture forms the greatest part of the economy of Africa and of the world at large... small-scale farmers lack formal land rights, making them vulnerable to land-grabbing, displacement, and exploitation.”



Dr. Aleida Guevara, Activist

“In today’s world, where armed conflicts are the order of the day when mass genocide is carried out with total impunity, we need to stand together for the people who need it the most... the Palestinian people.”



Netra Timsina, NOC

“There is still a vibrant voice alive and speaking out against what is happening: genocide, war, climate catastrophe, populism, inequality.”



Dr. Renu Adhikari Rajbhandari, Chairperson of Women’s Rehabilitation Centre (WOREC) Nepal

[Translated] “The principal issues of the World Women’s Forum are peace, democracy, and equality. The question arises – how is another world possible? Another world is possible if the divide that exists now is bridged.”



Nasima Akhtar, Disability Rights Activist

“Women with disabilities face double discrimination—both as women and as persons with disabilities. Despite existing laws, implementation remains limited. To create real change, we must organise, raise awareness, and ensure accessibility and employment opportunities.”



Ashok Bharti, Dalit Rights Advocate

"Democracy is the hope of the world. To achieve peace, justice, and dignity, we must unite against caste, race, and religious inequality. Let us celebrate democracy and reject autocracy."



Prof. Jomo Sundaram, Economist

"For over a century and a half, imperialism and capitalism have shaped global power. But resisting feudalism hasn't always led to real progress. Today, both capitalism and feudalism are in crisis. Imperialism may seem weaker, but its military power remains strong, causing suffering in places like Gaza and Ukraine under neoliberal and feudal influence."



Laxman Basnet, General Secretary of South Asian Regional Trade Union Council (SARTUC)

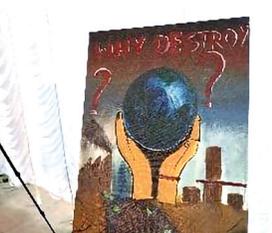
"We stand together against injustice, not with violence but with unity. Globalisation has taken our resources and our youth, leaving behind only debt and struggle. Technology benefits the few while many lose jobs. Is this the world we want? No. We must fight for a just and equitable future—for hope, not hardship."



Medha Patkar, Social Activist

"The scale of inequality is only growing larger, and it is time for the people of the world to mobilise and fight for change as we are the only ones who can facilitate this change in our world and in our lives."

Alternative Art Space Gallery



World Social Forum Media Gallery



Observations and Reflections

Several key lessons were learned throughout the World Social Forum (WSF) 2024, offering valuable insights for future iterations of the event. One notable area for improvement was the need for inclusiveness in event planning and execution. Despite efforts to promote diversity and representation, there were instances where marginalised voices were not adequately incorporated into discussions and decision-making processes. Moving forward, organisers could implement proactive measures to ensure greater inclusion of underrepresented groups to foster more equitable and comprehensive dialogue. Additionally, the WSF 2024 highlighted the importance of collaboration and interaction among participating organisations and people's movements. While the forum served as a platform for diverse groups to converge and exchange ideas, there were missed opportunities for deeper collaboration and collective action. Strengthening networks and facilitating structured mechanisms for collaboration can amplify the impact of social movements and initiatives, promoting greater solidarity and effectiveness in addressing shared challenges.

Furthermore, the WSF 2024 emphasised the significance of accessibility and user-friendliness in event coordination and communication. Some participants encountered difficulties navigating event venues, accessing relevant information, or engaging in sessions due to logistical challenges or technological barriers. Enhancing accessibility features, providing clear communication channels, and leveraging user-friendly technology tools can enhance the overall participant experience and ensure that all attendees can fully engage with the forum's proceedings.

Lastly, continuous reflection and adaptation in response to evolving needs and dynamics should be at the forefront of an event like WSF. As a dynamic and evolving platform, the WSF must remain responsive to emerging issues, changing contexts, and feedback from participants and stakeholders. Incorporating mechanisms for ongoing evaluation, feedback collection, and iterative improvement can enable the WSF to evolve.

In conclusion, the WSF 2024 offered valuable lessons on the importance of inclusivity, collaboration, accessibility, and adaptability in shaping the future trajectory of the forum.

Future Directions and Sustainability

Looking ahead to the future of the Forum based on the discussions and insights gathered during WSF 2024, several key recommendations emerge. First, there is a clear call for enhanced technological integration to streamline event coordination and communication. Developing a comprehensive mobile application that can provide real-time updates, interactive features, and user-friendly interfaces, facilitating seamless navigation and engagement for participants will define its success and accessibility. Moreover, efforts to ensure inclusive participation and representation are paramount. Prioritising diverse representation from marginalised communities, including women, youth, persons with disabilities, and indigenous peoples through targeted outreach and inclusive decision-making processes is crucial.

Furthermore, fostering stronger collaborative networks among participating organisations and civil society actors is essential. This can be achieved through robust mechanisms for knowledge-sharing, resource mobilisation, and collective action to address global challenges such as climate change and inequality. Implementing sustainable event management practices, such as reducing environmental impact and promoting eco-friendly alternatives, is also imperative. Embracing sustainability principles in venue selection, transportation options, and resource utilisation aligns the WSF with broader sustainability goals.

Additionally, investing in capacity-building initiatives and empowerment programs for grassroots activists and young change makers is key. Providing training, mentorship, and resources can enhance their advocacy skills and leadership potential, enabling them to drive positive social change within their communities. Continuous evaluation and adaptation are crucial for the WSF's evolution. Establishing mechanisms for ongoing feedback collection allows for the assessment of impact, relevance, and effectiveness, informing strategic decision-making and driving continuous innovation.

Finally, ensuring long-term financial sustainability is essential. Developing diversified funding strategies and revenue streams, including innovative financing mechanisms and strategic partnerships, can mitigate reliance on external donors and sponsors.

Echoes of the Event

Ian Vidal (ATTAC France, France) - Very happy to be here in Nepal, the people are welcoming. The WSF 2024 is a first step towards reviving the WSF's legacy. After COVID-19 we had difficulties, and it was not possible to have the forum in its full capacity for some years. Now this forum in Nepal is the right step for the WSF to grow and highlight the struggles of people from Asia and the world.

Patricia Pol (ATTAC France, France) - For me, the 2024 edition has been a great success, and we hope to continue such successes in future editions.

Carminda Mac Lorin (Katalizo, Canada) - The main takeaway for me is the strength of social movements in the region. I have had the opportunity to meet so many people from Nepal, from Asia, and what I can see is that the women are strong, young people are strong, and they are taking their places in the global movements. It is very inspiring and when I go back to Quebec, I will remember their bravery and the strength meeting people here has given me.

Cheima Ben Hmida (ATTAC France, Tunisia) - There is a backlash against democracy in my country, there is huge repression with many political prisoners, and journalists and activists are being jailed for their opinions. I want to ask my countrymen in Tunisia to stand together with these prisoners, with people fighting for their rights, and for freedom of speech. I also want them to be aware of the plight of migrants in Tunisia, and to fight the discrimination against black people in Tunisia.

Sandeep Chachra (Action Aid India, India) - For me, this is the revitalisation of the world's social processes. It is a very powerful feeling to be here among thousands of people in the solidarity march, holding hands and walking together in the hope of a better world. I take great inspiration from the diversity around me, and from the various groups from Nepal and worldwide who are present here.

Nalini (Sri Lankan Activist) - WSF 2024 gave me great spirit, hope, and energy. To see how movements from around the world are connected and united in their fight against injustices and discrimination is thoroughly encouraging and inspiring.

Eelam Tamils (Solidarity Centre, India) - We have come here to represent Sri Lankan Tamils and stand in solidarity with the Palestinians. The WSF is an important platform to share our demands and experiences with the world and I am very happy to be here at the WSF 2024 in Nepal. Furthermore, we have shared our statement to the Square of Statements, and this means our work will be preserved in the annals of the WSF.

Mahendra Yadav (Indian Activist) - The WSF is an invaluable opportunity for ground-level movements to exchange ideas and knowledge. Being here in Nepal has been a wonderful experience as we meet activists with similar interests from all over the world.

Faribel Fernandez (PUSAT Komang, Malaysia) - I was surprised by the number of NGOs in Nepal, as Malaysia's population is bigger, but we have fewer organisations there. I hope we can work together for human rights and dignity; I look forward to more cooperation in the region between bodies from different countries, we must support each other and work together for a better world.

Mustafa Talpur (Oxfam in Asia, Pakistan) - I am very pleased with the arrangements here in Nepal, and it is good to see the active participation of civil society. This WSF has restored and revitalised the spirit of the WSF, giving us new hope and a way forward. We will all work together to continue the WSF legacy in the future.

Yousef Habash (Palestinian Social Forum, Palestine) - We appreciate the solidarity we have received here from Nepali and International organisations, the solidarity for Palestine, and the struggle of the Palestinian people. We will carry this solidarity to Palestine and to all the people worldwide who believe in human rights, in resistance to injustices, and take this message from Nepal to the world.

Gershom Kaboso (Zambia Social Forum, Zambia) - What I liked here is the mass mobilisation of people from all over the world, and the diversity of participants. I have been to many WSFs, and this edition has the largest number of participants, especially in terms of women and youth organisations. Nepal has been an ideal host and has a conducive environment for civil society mobilisation and activities. I will take this feeling of solidarity and hope back to my home nation, and work towards a better world and similar successes at the coming WSFs.

Boonthaan Verawongse (Campaign Committee for Human Rights, Thailand) - I have been impressed by the arrangements by the Nepal Organising Committee, as I have been going to WSFs since 2002 I know the challenges and obstacles of hosting a WSF and the Nepali organisers have done a stellar job. I am glad to see that we have thematic spaces and activities for such a wide range of topics, from global issues to regional problems. Now we have a responsibility to continue this work in the spirit of the WSF, with better cooperation and information we must fight discrimination and unjust practices with the motto of the WSF "Another World is Possible."

Way Forward: Nepal to Benin

As the World Social Forum in Kathmandu transitions to the next gathering in Benin, it is imperative to craft a comprehensive strategy for moving forward. This involves building upon the momentum generated at the forum and fostering deeper integration between the World Social Forum (WSF), the United Nations (UN), and other international agencies. By strengthening collaboration and dialogue between these agencies, we can harness collective expertise, resources, and networks to address global challenges and to advance shared goals.

Firstly, integrating the WSF with the UN and other agencies entails engaging with the UN and other agencies and bodies to amplify the voices of grassroots movements and civil society organisations represented at the WSF 2024 Nepal. This can involve facilitating participation in relevant UN processes, conferences, and forums, as well as exploring opportunities for joint initiatives and campaigns. By bridging the gap between the World Social Forum and the UN, we can ensure that the perspectives and priorities of marginalised communities are elevated on the global stage.

Secondly, scaling up the outcomes of the WSF with the support of these agencies and specialised bodies is essential for maximising impact. This involves identifying synergies between the outcomes of the World Social Forum and existing UN frameworks, agendas, and initiatives, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Paris Agreement, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Mobilising support from UN agencies, member states, and other stakeholders to implement and mainstream the recommendations and best practices emerging from the WSF is crucial for driving systemic change at national, regional, and global levels.

Acknowledging the contributions of various UN agencies, including UNESCO, UNICEF, UNDP, and WHO, among others, is essential for fostering inclusive collaboration. Each of these agencies brings unique expertise and mandates to the table, which can enrich the dialogue and inform collaborative efforts. By recognising and involving these agencies in the ongoing dialogue and collaboration, we can harness their diverse perspectives and resources to address complex challenges more effectively.

Additionally, launching a UN system campaign in solidarity with the WSF's principles, alongside national government support, can further amplify our collective impact. This campaign could involve high-level events, policy dialogues, and advocacy efforts aimed at raising awareness, mobilising support, and galvanising action. By rallying support from the UN system and national governments, we can demonstrate a united front in advancing the goals of social justice, environmental sustainability, and equitable development.

In conclusion, by integrating the WSF with the UN, scaling up its outcomes with the support of UN agencies, acknowledging their contributions, and launching collaborative campaigns with national governments, we can pave the way for a more inclusive, just, and sustainable future. As we journey from Kathmandu to Benin, let us seize this opportunity to amplify our collective voices and actions for positive change on a global scale.

World Social Forum 2024 Secretariat Members and Volunteers

Sanjay Hamal, Ph.D.

Tikaswari Rai

Sunraker Gyatso Karki

Rajesh Thapa

Bhawana Khanal

Devi Prasad Pyakurel

Sujan Karki

Manisha Singh

Rabin Karki

Rashmi Kashyap

Volunteers

Kira Cuerrier

Alex Hurtubise

Daphnée Leroux-Maurais

For more photos, please go here:



