

Kathmandu Declaration of Key Recommendations for Advancing the WASH Sector in Nepal

September 2023

Committing to, the principles of universal, equitable, inclusive, and sustainable access to safe Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) services for ALL in communities, institutions, and public places to meet the national targets for WASH which are in line with SDG goals and targets,

Declaring our unwavering dedication to significant contribution of WASH in promoting public health, environmental sustainability, and social development,

Adopting the value of coordination, collaboration, and uniting for widening the sector partnership to address the bottlenecks and enact transformative changes in the sector,

Agreeing upon the comprehensive framework of key recommendations and actionable points drawn from the Third Joint Sector Review Conclave conducted on 26 and 27 September 2023

We, the undersigned representatives and stakeholders have agreed to:

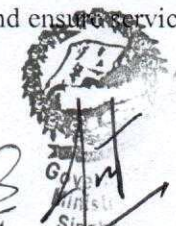
1. Update and operationalize the Sector Development Plan (SDP) aligning with the Constitution of Nepal, National WASH Policy 2023, and Water Supply and Sanitation Act 2022 and key recommendations of the third JSR 2023.
2. Catalyze Political Commitment and enhance Mutual Accountability Mechanisms among stakeholders to accelerate actions towards achieving universal, equitable, sustainable WASH services meeting SDG targets.
3. Realign institutional and governance set up for WASH system strengthening with appropriate intergovernmental coordination mechanism to backstop the service providers, including WUSCs, for improved service reliability and operational management efficiency.
4. Undertake actions for Mapping, Facilitating, Licensing, Regulating, and Standardizing Water and Sanitation Services across the sanitation value chain for both onsite and offsite sanitation services.
5. Operationalize institutions established for the regulation of WASH services as mandated in the Water Supply and Sanitation Act at all levels and build appropriate capacities of regulatory institutions.
6. Work towards achieving access to safely managed water supply services adopting a programmatic and system thinking approach ensuring people live in water and hygiene safe communities where no one is left behind.
7. Enhance capacity of local governments and other service providers in water quality monitoring and surveillance and ensure service compliance with national drinking water quality standard.



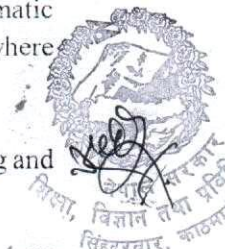
Binu Baj
Binu Baj
Joint Secretary



Tiresh Prasad Khatri
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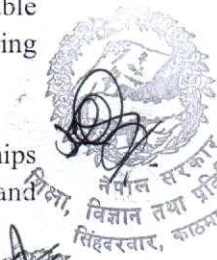
8. Adopt municipality wide inclusive sanitation approach for implementing a national sanitation and hygiene mission and accelerate actions to capture, transport, treat and safely dispose domestic wastewater; safely manage Faecal Sludge and Solid-waste considering circular economy principles to contribute to clean health of water bodies and the environment.
9. Prepare information briefs and strategic negotiators for education and advocacy in targeted intersectoral dialogues/coordination/collaboration for better sector positioning.
10. Establish systemic support services and a Federal-level setup to aid Provincial and Local governments in creating resilient assets, improving service delivery and enhancing regulation.
11. Prepare and Operationalize Capacity Development Master Plan of three tiers of the governments for universal, equitable, inclusive, and sustainable service delivery.
12. Establish the WASH Plan as the foundational framework for planning, programming, and executing all local-level WASH-related initiatives from three tiers of government.
13. Strengthen, Optimize and Scale-up N-WASH MIS; establish connections with other Sectoral MIS for informed actions.
14. Strengthen SEIS for efficient, collaborative, and inclusive WASH Sector Progress by operationalizing the business plan and establish linkage with academia and research institutions for R&D and learnings.
15. Leverage private sector expertise and investments and create an enabling environment for public private partnerships to enhance service delivery by creating opportunities for their meaningful engagement in sector advancement including use transformative technologies in infrastructure and services.
16. Prepare and Operationalize WASH Financial Strategy, clearly presenting a strong economic case to secure investments for achieving the SDG targets.
17. Develop Climate Resilient WASH service delivery frameworks, Climate Rationale for WASH, capacity building training module, technical guidelines and standards to support all three tiers of government and sector stakeholders aligning WASH investment with Green, Resilient and Inclusive Development (GRID) for inclusive, Climate and Disaster resilient WASH plans and programs.
18. Mainstream Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) in WASH sector to ensure equitable access, meaningful participation and empowered decision-making including for ensuring Occupational Health and Safety for frontline sanitation workers.
19. Improve inter sectoral collaboration among three tiers of government and strengthen partnerships with MUAN, NARMIN, FEDWASUN, Sanitation Advocacy Organizations/Associations and



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other CSOs for harmonization and informed advocacy through use of appropriate IEC materials and leveraging mass media.

20. Promote cross-sectoral/intersectoral collaboration and cooperation for implementation and delivery of WASH services both in communities and institutions (WinS, HCF, Public Places); implement programs for the protection of water sources, recharge of under-ground water, developing early warning systems on WASH sector and their watersheds through Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM).



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Joint Secretary



Binu Bajracharya Kunwar
Joint Secretary

