

Concept Note

The Hindu Kush Himalaya Parliamentarians' Meet – Sustaining Nature Empowering People

Venue: The Soaltee, Kathmandu, Nepal

Date: 18-19 August 2025

Background

The Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) is a biologically diverse and culturally rich mountain region, stretching across eight countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan. It provides critical ecosystem services, including water, food, and energy, to around two billion people downstream. However, the region is increasingly facing severe impacts of climate change, disaster risks, biodiversity loss, and pollution alongside accelerated socio-economic shifts with serious implications to ecosystems, natural resources, livelihoods and human life.

Given the significant role of parliamentarians in policymaking, legislation, and shaping public opinion, parliamentarians from the HKH countries can be crucial in advancing the region's climate action and resilience agenda. Their influence extends from national laws to grassroots-level impact. However, they need access to essential knowledge and evidence to proactively advance gender equal and socially inclusive, pro-planet, pro-mountain, and pro-climate advocacy at national, regional and global forums. Despite sharing various environmental and socioeconomic challenges, the HKH parliamentarians lack a regional platform to discuss their shared challenges and opportunities and identify solutions to address them collectively.

The HKH Parliamentarians' Meet aims to provide an effective platform for members of the parliaments from the HKH countries to come together, access the latest knowledge and information about the HKH region's issues, challenges and opportunities, share experiences about best parliamentary practices, and discuss forward-looking policy actions.

This knowledge-sharing and learning event aims to:

Sensitise HKH parliamentarians to HKH's socio-economic and ecological significance and fragility - the urgency of addressing them, the commitments under UN Conventions, and the multilateral environmental agreements.

Enhance parliamentarians' understanding of the key trends and events related to climate change, biodiversity loss, and air pollution in the HKH region, as well as shared challenges, gaps, needs and opportunities, through sharing knowledge and fostering dialogue.

Familiarise parliamentarians with emerging climate, environmental and social challenges, and the differential impact it has on women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities and their associated regional and transboundary issues and livelihood.

Facilitate knowledge sharing by exchanging experiences, ideas, and best practices and co-identify ways and means to address common challenges through regional cooperation.

Organisers

The Agriculture, Cooperatives and Natural Resources Committee of the Federal Parliament of Nepal, in collaboration with the Government of Nepal and the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) will host this HKH Parliamentarians' Meet 2025.

Participants

The chairs, co-chairs and active members of the selected parliamentary committees from the HKH countries—*Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan*—will attend the Meet. Relevant experts from partner organisations, the Federal Parliament of Nepal, and government officials will also participate in the event.

Expected Outcomes

Engagement with parliamentarians from the HKH countries will and ensure the HKH parliamentarians are:

1. Equipped with knowledge and skills to advocate more effectively for mountain issues at national, regional, and international forums.
2. Empowered to support enabling policies, plans, and legislations to address climate and disaster, environment, and biodiversity priorities in their respective countries in alignment with regional and global agreements.
3. Explored the possibility of initiating a HKH parliamentarians' platform to facilitate discussions on shared challenges, exchange best practices, and collaborate on collective solutions.

Provisional Programme

Day I: 18th August 2025, Monday	
08.30 - 09.15	Registration and seating (<i>Megha Malhar Hall</i>)
09.30 - 10.40	Opening Session <i>Emcee by Shivani Chemjong</i>

	Programme commences with the national anthem of Nepal	
09.30 – 09.35	Welcome note	Hon. Kusum Devi Thapa <i>Chairperson, Agriculture, Cooperatives and Natural Resources Committee, Federal Parliament of Nepal</i>
09.35 – 09.40	Inaugural of the meet – watering the Peepal tree	Rt. Hon. Ramchandra Paudel <i>President of Nepal</i>
09.40 - 09.45	<p style="text-align: center;">Video presentation</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Hindu Kush Himalaya Parliamentarians’ Meet 2025: Sustaining nature, empowering people</p>	
09.45 - 09.50	Remarks	Pema Gyamtsho <i>Director General, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development</i>
09.50 – 10.15	Remarks by the Heads of the Delegations	Hon. Supradip Chakma <i>Adviser, Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs, Bangladesh</i> Hon Phuntsho Rapten <i>Member, Good Governance Committee and Public Accounts Committee, Bhutan</i> Dr. Thaung Naing Oo <i>Director General, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Myanmar</i> Hon. Munaza Hassan <i>Chairperson, Standing Committee on Climate Change, Pakistan</i>
10.15 – 10.20	Remarks	Hon. Ain Bahadur Shahi Thakuri <i>Minister, Ministry of Forests and Environment, Nepal</i>
10.20 - 10.25	Remarks	Hon. Arzu Rana Deuba <i>Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nepal</i>
10.25 - 10.30	Address by the Chief Guest	Rt. Hon. Ramchandra Poudel <i>President of Nepal</i>

10.30 - 11.10	Group photo followed by tea break	
10.30 - 11.10	Media briefing at Marva Hall	
11.10 – 13.10	Technical Session I: Tackling the climate crisis in the HKH – Opportunities for actions Moderator: Manjeet Dhakal , <i>Head of LDC Support team and Director, Climate Analytics South Asia</i> Chair: Hon. Gagan Kumar Thapa , <i>Member of Parliament, House of Representatives, Nepal</i>	
11.10 - 11.15	An introduction to the session	Manjeet Dhakal <i>Climate Analytics</i>
11.15 – 11.30	Scene Setting: The melting mountains: Climate change, disaster risks, and the future of HKH	Izabella Koziell <i>Deputy Director General, ICIMOD</i>
11.30 – 12.50	High-Level Panel Discussion Impacts of climate change, disaster risks, and the role of Parliamentarians	Panellists H.E. Debapriya Bhattacharya <i>Former Ambassador/ Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN in Geneva, Bangladesh</i> Hon. Tashi Tenzin <i>Chairperson, Environment and Climate Change Committee, Bhutan</i> Representative <i>China</i> Anil Kumar Gupta <i>Principal Investigator & Full Professor, Integrated Centre for Adaptation, DRR & Sustainability, India</i> Hon. Yangkila Sherpa <i>Member, Bagmati Province</i> Hon. Munaza Hassan <i>Chairperson, Standing Committee on Climate Change, Pakistan</i>
12.50 - 13.00	Q&A session	Hon. Gagan Kumar Thapa <i>Nepal</i>
13.00 - 13.10	Closing of the session	

13.10 – 14.10	Lunch Break	
14.10 - 16.10	Technical Session II: Nature and People - Harmonizing Biodiversity Conservation with Human Well-being in the Hindu Kush Himalaya Moderator: Sarala Khaling , <i>Head of Resilient Economies and Landscapes, ICIMOD</i> Chair: Hon. Jamyang Namgyal , <i>Member, Economic Affairs Committee, Bhutan</i>	
14.10 - 14.15	Introduction of the session	Sarala Khaling <i>ICIMOD</i>
14.15 – 14.30	Scene Setting: Biodiversity conservation in the Hindu Kush Himalaya from regional cooperation and political commitment perspectives	Ram Prasad Chaudhary <i>Professor Emeritus, Tribhuvan University, Nepal</i>
14.30 -15.50	High-Level Panel Discussion Parliamentarians' role in balancing biodiversity conservation and human well-being in the HKH region	Panellists Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury <i>Former Minister of Commerce and Member of Parliament, Bangladesh</i> Hon. Kelzang Lhundup <i>Chairperson Natural Resources and Environmental Committee, Bhutan</i> Thaung Naing Oo , <i>Director General, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Myanmar</i> Hon. Rupa B.K. <i>State Minister, Ministry of Forests and Environment, Nepal</i> Hon. Shiva Raj Adhikari <i>Vice-Chair, National Planning Commission, Nepal</i> Hon. Syed Masroor Ahsan , <i>Pakistan</i>
15.50 – 16.00	Q&A session	Hon. Jamyang Namgyal , <i>Bhutan</i>
16.00 – 16.10		
	Closing of the session	

18.30 onwards	Welcome Dinner hosted by the Chairperson of Agriculture, Cooperatives and Natural Resources Committee Venue: Manjari, The Soaltee, Kathmandu	
Day II: 19th August 2025		
09.00 - 09.10	Welcome to Day II	Lok Bahadur Poudel Chhetri <i>Joint-Secretary</i> <i>Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nepal</i>
09.10 - 11.10	Technical Session III: Actions for clean air Moderator: Bhusan Tuladhar , <i>Environment Expert, FHI 360</i> Chair: Hon. Supradip Chakma , <i>Adviser, Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts, Bangladesh</i>	
09.10 - 09.15	Opening of the session	Bhusan Tuladhar FHI 360
09.15 - 09.30	Scene setting: Air quality – Status, challenges and pathways for clean air in the HKH Region	Ashish Tiwari <i>Air Lead</i> <i>ICIMOD</i>
09.30 - 10.50	High-Level Panel Discussion Striving together for clean air and blue skies in the HKH region	Panellists Tasnim Jara Senior Joint Member Secretary, National Citizen Party, <i>Bangladesh</i> Hon. Sonam Tashi <i>Chairperson,</i> <i>The Public Accounts Committee,</i> <i>Bhutan</i> Hon. Madhav Sapkota <i>Member of Parliament, Nepal</i> Hon. Suriya Bibi <i>Deputy Speaker, Khyber</i> <i>Pakhtunkhwa Provincial</i> <i>Assembly, Pakistan</i>
10.50 - 11.00	Questions from the audience	Hon. Supradip Chakma, <i>Bangladesh</i>
11.00 - 11.10	Closing of the session	

11.10 – 11.30	Tea Break	
11.10 - 12.40	HKH Parliamentary Round Table: Setting the Future Paths	<p>Chair Hon. Bimala Ghimire <i>Vice-Chair, National Assembly of Nepal</i></p> <p>Moderator Durga Prasad Bhattarai <i>Former Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations</i></p> <p>Speakers Hon. Parliamentarians <i>From the HKH and other countries</i></p>
12.40 - 13.00	Open consultation session	
13.00 - 13.15	Closing Session Emcee by Shivani Chemjong	
13.00 – 13.05	Recap and conclusions	<p>Hon. Kusum Devi Thapa <i>Chairperson Agriculture, Cooperatives and Natural Resources Committee, Nepal</i></p>
13.05 - 13.10	Key takeaways	<p>Hon. Bir Bahadur Balayar <i>Member Agriculture, Cooperatives and Natural Resources Committee and Coordinator, Organising Committee, Nepal</i></p>
13.10 - 13.15	Vote of thanks	Representative , HKH Countries
13.15 - 13.20	Closing Remarks	<p>Rt. Hon. Devraj Ghimire <i>Speaker House of Representatives, Nepal</i></p>
13.15 - 14.15	Lunch	
	Post-event media briefing	