

# Implementation Progress of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Nepal

Linking the 2030 Agenda with National Development Planning –  
Opportunities for Synergy and Collaborative Implementation and Localization



**Dr. Kiran Rupakhete**

**( acknowledgement of contribution of Ms. Prativa AC with thanks)**

**Joint Secretary**

**Government of Nepal, Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers**

**13 May 2025**



# Outline of Presentation



- 2030 Agenda & SDG Localization
- Nepal's approach of aligning the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with national development planning, localization and LDC graduation
- Nepal's Constitution, National plan and integration of the SDGs to the national framework
- Nepal's Progress on SDG Goals and Targets
- Investment Requirement for SDGs
- Sixteenth Plan – Vision, Goals and Transformative Sectors
- Opportunities for synergy and collaborative SDG Localization in Nepal
- Good Practices- Integration of SDG in Multi-Sector Nutrition Plan



# Let's Stay Positive

**"Choose to be optimistic,  
it feels better."**

**—Dalai Lama**

**Parade**



# 2030 Agenda & SDG Localization

- ✓ The **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**, adopted by all United Nations (UN) Member States in 2015, outlines a collective **vision for global peace and prosperity**, emphasizing the 17 SDGs as a universal call to action.
- ✓ The **SDGs encompass a holistic approach**, addressing poverty, health, education, inequality, economic growth, climate change, and environmental preservation.
- ✓ **Localization of the SDGs** - Process of **adapting, implementing, and monitoring the goals at the local levels to align them with the unique socio-economic and environmental contexts** of specific areas.
- ✓ The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development underscores the **crucial role of local, provincial and federal governments in the implementation** of the SDGs.



# Nepal's approach aligning the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with national development planning, localization and LDC graduation



- ✓ **Nepal is going to graduate from the least developed country group to a developing country by 2026** with milestone in the process of building a self-sufficient, independent, progressive and prosperous economy.
- ✓ **Nepal has been active in implementation of the SDGs 2030** - a common agenda for global development.
- ✓ **Policy and institutional arrangements have been made for the implementation of SDGs**, which are the main basis for embodying Nepal's long-term vision.



# Nepal's ownership and commitment to advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



- ✓ **Nepal has demonstrated a strong commitment to the SDGs** through a multitude of initiatives and actions –
  - Intensified political commitment, policy integration and coherence;
  - Establishment of institutional mechanisms, and participatory approach;
  - Localization of goals, and comprehensive capacity building programs;
  - Robust data collection, monitoring and evaluation, efforts to enhance accountability and transparency, and regular progress reviews.
- ✓ **Numerous aspects relevant to the SDGs are enshrined in the Constitution of Nepal** within its fundamental rights and directive principles of the state, **underscoring a commitment** to tackling social, economic, and environmental challenges while **fostering sustainable development**.





# Nepal's commitment on SDGs localization



- ✓ **Nepal has been at the forefront of localizing the SDGs within its national planning and budgeting processes.**
- ✓ Initiatives undertaken during the Fourteenth Plan (2016-19) and Fifteenth Plan (2019-24) reflect a concerted effort to align objectives, strategies, and programs with the SDGs.
- ✓ **The Sixteenth Plan (2024-29) also emphasizes on the acceleration of implementation of the SDGs to achieve the national development goals.**
- ✓ Sectoral strategies have been harmonized with SDG targets, similarly Medium Term Expenditure Frameworks (MTEFs) have been developed to synchronize periodic plans with annual budgets. **This process involves institutionalizing SDG implementation and enhancing capacity across all levels of government.**
- ✓ Provincial and local administrations have actively engaged in this endeavor, preparing SDG baseline reports and aligning their plans and budgets accordingly.



# Nepal's Constitution, National plan and integration of the SDGs to the national framework



- ✓ Nepal has been implementing the SDGs in accordance with the nation's economic, social, environmental context by making necessary legal and institutional arrangements.
- ✓ The Constitution of Nepal, promulgated around the time of the global adoption of the SDGs in September 2015, serves as the cornerstone of the nation's legal framework.
  - It ensures inclusive socio-political and economic development, safeguarding various fundamental rights such as equality, justice, property, religious freedom, education, and environmental protection.
  - **It emphasizes LNOB**, echoing the core principle of the SDGs.





# Nepal's Constitution, National plan and integration of the SDGs to the national framework – continued..



- ✓ **The Fourteenth Plan marked a significant step in integration/internalization of the SDGs into Nepal's national development agendas**, focusing on five key areas: infrastructure, social, economic, governance, and cross-cutting sectors.
- ✓ **Nepal's long-term vision and commitment to the SDGs have been evident in the Fifteenth Plan** -representing the initial phase of a comprehensive 25-year vision.
  - The overarching theme of the plan, "**Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali**," underscores the focus on building strong economic, social, and physical infrastructures to accelerate economic growth and promote prosperity and happiness among its citizens.
  - The **plan has been crucial in SDG achievement, aligning the country's development pathway with the LDC graduation and SDGs.**



# Nepal's Constitution, National plan and integration of the SDGs to the national framework – continued..



- ✓ **The Sixteenth plan have a pivotal role in accelerating implementation of SDG** for next five years, carries the commitment expressed in the 25-year vision and **intend to achieve Good Governance, Social Justice and Prosperity** - through addressing structural constraints, enhancing partnership and improving governance.
- **The plan focuses on thirteen thematic areas**, including macroeconomic reforms, enhancing production and productivity, productive employment, decent job and social protection, governance reform, climate change and green economy, irreversible **LDC graduation and accelerating SDG implementation.**
- The **plan aims to accelerate SDGs through their localization**, coordination and partnerships with stakeholders, and sustainable resource management.
- ✓ Various long term sectoral prospective plans reflect Nepal's dedication to realizing the SDGs and fostering sustainable development.



# Nepal's Constitution, National plan and integration of the SDGs to the national framework – continued..



- ✓ **Nepal is pioneer in integrating SDGs into the national public financing tools such as the Medium-Term Expenditure Frameworks (MTEFs) and the annual budget.**
  - To ensure the effective implementation of SDGs, Nepal assigns specific SDG codes to national development programs and budgets through the MTEF – thus facilitating better tracking and monitoring of progress.
- ✓ Efforts have also been made to establish SDG indicators at the provincial and local levels also.



# Nepal's efforts to accelerate the effective implementation of the SDGs



- ✓ The Government of Nepal (GoN) has undertaken specific and dedicated efforts to accelerate the effective implementation of the SDGs, including the development of the **SDGs Status and Roadmap (2016-2030)**.
- ✓ The roadmap incorporates baseline data from 2015 and sets milestones for 2019, 2022, 2025, and 2030.
- ✓ The GoN has developed **Revised Indicators for SDGs** in 2023.
- ✓ The GoN has developed a **National Framework for Leave No One Behind**, which will guide efforts to "reach the furthest behind" at the federal, provincial, and local levels in implementing the LNOB 2030 Agenda.
- ✓ The United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, 2023-2027 is under implementation.



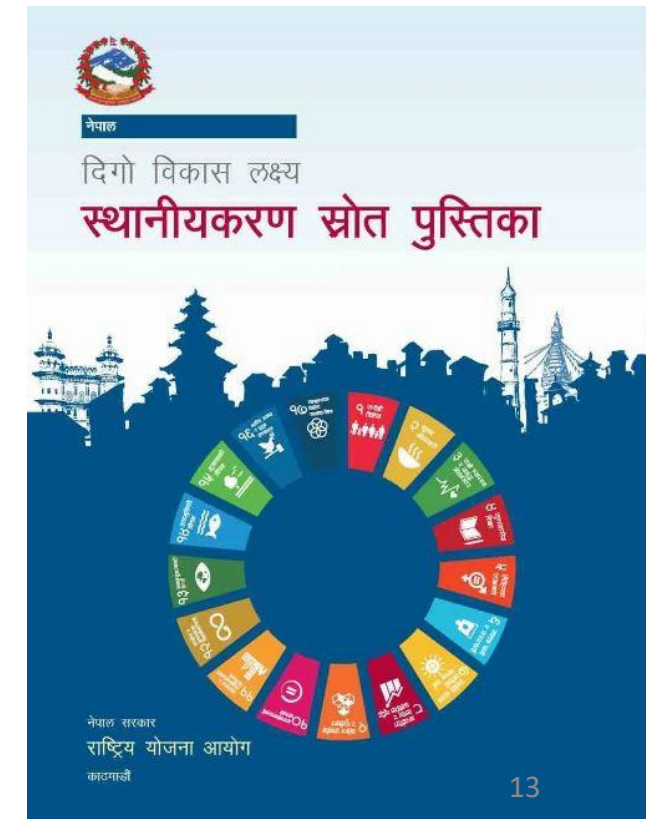
# Necessity and Rationale for SDG Localization



- ✓ “**Decentralization**” is among the **key features of Federalism**.

## Why SDG localization?

1. Handover of public service related responsibilities to the local levels
2. Decentralization of resources
3. Prioritization of SDGs as per the local context
4. Enhance quality and productivity of local expenditures
5. Promote public participation
6. **Ensure inclusiveness (Leave No One Behind)**
7. Coordination in plan across all levels of government
8. Minimize duplication in resource utilization





# Localization of the SDGs at the Provincial and Local Levels



- ✓ The National Planning Commission (NPC) collaborates with provincial and local governments to align SDG targets with local context.
- ✓ Nepal recognizes that **achieving the SDGs necessitates a multi-level governance approach**.
- ✓ Nepal transitioned into a federal democratic republic in 2015, restructuring the country into seven provinces and further into 753 local governments, each with its own democratically elected assemblies; **provinces and local governments take charge of a decentralized governance system**.
- ✓ Federal structure empower provinces and local governments to effectively address the needs and priorities of their respective communities, including the implementation of the SDGs.
- ✓ Recognizing the importance of decentralization and grassroots involvement, **GoN has prioritized the localization of the SDGs to ensure inclusive and sustainable development across the nation**.





# Localization of the SDGs at the Provincial and Local Levels – Continued...



- ✓ The **GoN has actively facilitated the localization of SDGs** within Nepal's provinces and local administrations - evidenced by **SDG Localization Resource Book**, **Local Level Plan Formulation Guideline** and the development of **Planning and Monitoring Guidelines tailored for provincial SDGs**.
- ✓ Numerous capacity-building events have been organized to enhance local stakeholders' understanding and capabilities in SDG implementation and localization.
  - **Outcomes of effort:** **Policy/Planning Commissions at the provincial level have integrated SDG implementation into their planning documents**, crafting responsive periodic plans and Medium-Term Expenditure Frameworks that align with SDG objectives.
  - **Example:** Periodic plans of **Bagmati and Gandaki Provinces** have explicitly recognized the importance of SDGs, incorporating dedicated sections to address them.
- ✓ Provincial and local governments have been actively engaged in integrating the SDGs into their development plans, policies, and strategies.



# Implications of SDGs Localization

- ✓ Provinces and local governments have undertaken various initiatives to integrate the SDGs into their planning, budgeting, and monitoring processes.
- ✓ Active engagement of the sub-national governments in localizing the SDGs has contributed in ensuring their effective implementation and alignment with local development priorities.
  1. Effective Public Service Delivery
  2. Decentralization of Resources and Revenue
  3. Prioritization Based on Local Circumstances
  4. Enhanced Quality and Productivity of Local Expenditure
  5. Promotion of People's Participation
  6. Certainty of Inclusion and Mainstreaming of Left-Behind Groups



# Nepal's Progress on SDG Goals and Targets



Sustainable Development Goals	2022 Progress towards targets (%)		Anticipated progress for 2030 (%)
	2022	2030	
1. No Poverty	78.1	54.1	78.6
2. Zero Hunger	68.3	44.9	71.5
3. Good Health and Well-being	48.7	41.5	56.8
4. Quality Education	66.1	43.9	71.1
5. Gender Equality	57.9	38.0	58.1
6. Clean Water and Sanitation	63.5	36.3	57.8
7. Affordable and Clean Energy	63.5	39.5	70.1
8. Decent Work and Economic Growth	31.5	19.7	34.7
9. Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure	41.0	30.4	42.0
10. Reduced Inequalities	72.5	44.8	72.3



# Nepal's Progress on SDG Goals and Targets – Continued...



Sustainable Development Goals	2022 Progress towards targets (%)		Anticipated progress for 2030 (%)
	2022	2030	
11. Sustainable Cities and Communities	97.2	76.1	89.0
12. Responsible Consumption and Production	38.6	29.5	43.1
13. Climate Action	55.3	43.4	53.9
15. Life on Land	69.3	59.9	67.5
16. Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions	57.4	35.8	55.1
17. Partnerships for the Goals	34.9	22.3	37.7
<b>Overall progress of SDGs</b>	<b>58.6</b>	<b>41.7</b>	<b>60.5</b>



# Investment Requirement for SDGs

## Overall Investment Requirement for SDGs (Rs billion)



SDGs/ Period	2023	2030	Total 2024-30	Annual Average (2024-30)	Share (%)
End Poverty	266.58	410.85	2414.94	344.99	11.4
Zero Hunger	92.48	190.41	1106.37	158.05	5.2
Health and Well-being	162.71	352.81	1849.97	264.28	8.7
Quality Education	230.11	364.45	2083.81	297.69	9.8
Gender Equality	3.68	8.29	42.46	6.07	0.2
Water and Sanitation	173.50	188.22	1271.91	181.70	6.0
Clean Energy	289.47	403.51	2514.19	359.17	11.9
Decent Work and Growth	86.29	92.93	604.09	86.30	2.9
Industry and Infrastructure	429.33	958.20	5094.44	727.78	24.1
Sustainable Cities and Communities	158.92	233.89	1560.43	222.92	7.4
Climate Action	25.53	30.23	205.67	29.38	1.0
Life on Land	34.12	65.96	354.27	50.61	1.7
Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	249.75	332.43	2062.18	294.60	9.7
<b>Total required Investment</b>	<b>2202.47</b>	<b>3632.04</b>	<b>21164.74</b>	<b>3023.53</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Of which: Province</b>	<b>24.899</b>	<b>42.67</b>	<b>264.84</b>	<b>33.11</b>	<b>1.3</b>
<b>Local</b>	<b>224.644</b>	<b>385.00</b>	<b>2389.45</b>	<b>298.68</b>	<b>11.3</b>



# Public, Private, Cooperatives/NGO and Household Sector Shares in Investment Requirement (%) for SDGs



SDGs areas / Investment	Public Sector	Private Sector	Cooperative, NGO Sector	Household Sector	Total
Poverty	83	10	3	4	100
Agriculture	56	30	7	7	100
Health	67	25	3	5	100
Education	65	25	3	7	100
Gender	79	10	10	1	100
Water and Sanitation	75	15	5	5	100
Energy	19	75	4	2	100
Decent Work and Growth	22	75	2	2	100
Industry, ICT, Infrastructure	48	45	4	3	100
Sustainable Cities	48	40	6	6	100
Climate Action	84	10	5	1	100
Life on Land	79	10	7	4	100
Peace, Justice, Institutions	84	10	5	1	100
<b>Share in SDGs Investment requirement</b>	<b>57.54</b>	<b>34.35</b>	<b>4.18</b>	<b>3.95</b>	<b>100</b>





# Share of the Federal, Provincial and Local Governments in Public Finance and Investment in SDGs (%)



Items	Federal	Provincial	Local	Total
SDGs investment	70.0	9.0	21.0	100
Own Source Revenue	76.3	6.8	16.9	100
Domestic Borrowing	70.0	9.0	21.0	100
ODA	87.1	3.6	9.3	100



# Long-term Vision and National Goals – at a glance



- ✓ **“Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali”** - A prosperous, independent and socialism-oriented economy with happy, healthy and educated citizens enjoying equality of opportunities, dignity and high standards of living.

## Long-term National Goals

Prosperity	Happiness
1. Accessible modern infrastructure and intense interconnectivity	1. Well-being and decent life
2. Development and full utilization of human capital potentials	2. Safe, civilized and just society
3. High and sustainable production and productivity	3. Healthy and balanced ecology
4. High and equitable national income	4. Good governance
	5. Comprehensive democracy
	6. National unity, security and dignity



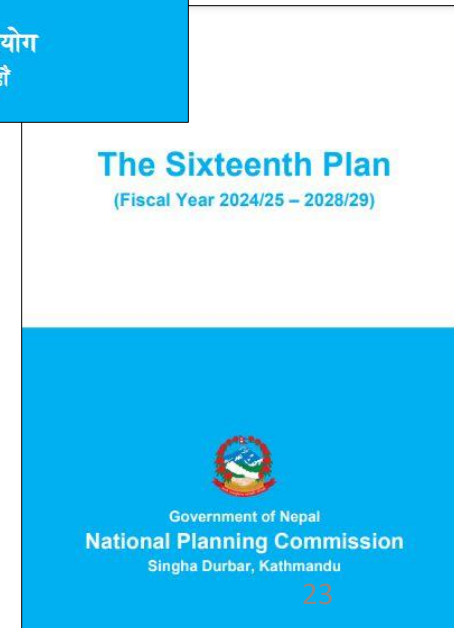
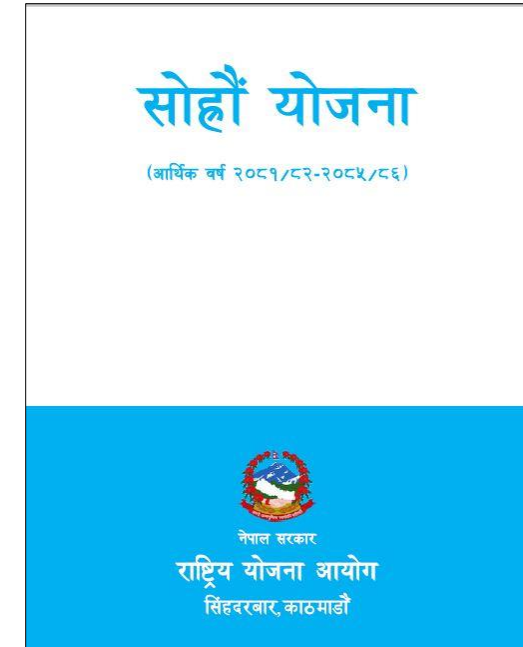
# Sixteenth Plan – Vision, Goals and Transformative Sectors



**Vision:** Good Governance, Social Justice and Prosperity

## Goals:

1. To promote good governance in political, administrative, judicial, private and non-governmental sectors;
2. To establish social justice in health, education, employment, settlement, security and public service delivery;
3. To achieve prosperity in human life and national economy.





# Sixteenth Plan – Major Areas of Structural Transformation



1. Strengthening macroeconomic fundamentals and attaining high economic growth.
2. Enhancing production, productivity and competitiveness.
3. Productive employment, decent jobs and sustainable social security.
4. Healthy, educated and skilled human capital formation.
5. Development of quality infrastructure and intensive connectivity.
6. Planned, sustainable and resilient urbanization and settlement.
7. Gender equality, social justice and inclusive society.
8. Consolidation of provincial and local economies and balanced development.
9. Reduction of poverty and inequality and building equitable society.
10. Effective financial management and strengthening capacity for capital expenditure.
11. Governance reforms and promotion of good governance.
12. Biological diversity, climate change and green economy.
- 13. Smooth graduation from Least Developed Country status and implementation of Sustainable Development Goals.**



# Opportunities for synergy and collaborative SDG Localization in Nepal



- ✓ **SDG localization is a transformative opportunity for Nepal** to empower local actors, deliver tailored and targeted development to local context and need.
- ✓ **SDG Localization in Nepal presents several strategic opportunities** that can **accelerate sustainable development, promote inclusion, and enhance governance**.
  1. Intergovernmental coordination, integrated planning & budgeting, and enhanced policy coherence
  2. Leveraging the Federal Structure – Empowered and strengthened Local Governments with participatory governance
  3. Multi-Stakeholder engagement and inclusive participation
  4. Tailored and targeted development as per local context
  5. Innovative financing mechanisms and mobilization of local resources
  6. Improved Data and Information Management Systems and Evidence-Based planning and decision making



# Good Practices- Integration of SDG in Multi-Sector Nutrition Plan (MSNP)

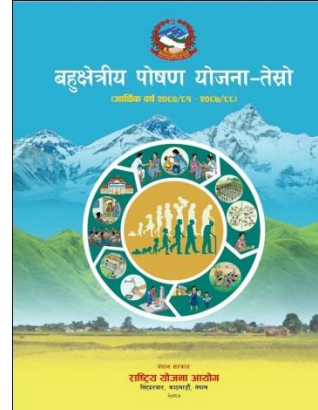


- ✓ Analyzing the need of adoption of multi-sectoral approach to address multifaceted issues of malnutrition, **the GoN developed and implemented the Multi-Sector Nutrition Plan (MSNP)** in 2013 under the leadership of the National Planning Commission (NPC) and in collaboration with various sectoral ministries.
- ✓ Following the successful implementation of MSNP-I (2013-2017) and MSNP-II (2018-2022) and notable progress in nutrition outcomes at national level, the **GoN developed MSNP-III (2023-2030) aligning with SDG and is under implementation.**
- ✓ MSNP aim to combat malnutrition in all its forms and are guided by the World Health Assembly 2025 and SDG 2030 targets, and the commitments made in the Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summit 2021 and UN Food Systems Summit 2021.
- ✓ **MSNP is set as a model of good practice in implementing the SDGs**, demonstrating how the coordinated, multi-sectoral efforts can lead to significant improvements in health and well-being of the public thus contributing on human capital.





# Good Practices- Integration of SDG in Multi-Sector Nutrition Plan (MSNP) – Continued...



- ✓ **Vision of MSNP-III:** End malnutrition and develop productive human capital for overall socio-economic development.
- ✓ **Goal of MSNP-III:** Improved nutrition status throughout the life cycle by ensuring universal access to quality nutrition services.
- ✓ **MSNP-III has made key departures/major shifts** i.e. ,1. adoption of System approach, 2. Targeted and tailored approach, 3. Social and Behavior Change, 4. Integrated and one-door approach, 5. Gender transformative approach, 6. Cross-linkages of the nutrition governance structure - **contributing to meet SDG 2030 nutrition targets, improve health outcomes, and enhance socio- economic development.**
- ✓ **MSNP directly triggers the SDGs – 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 12 and 17.**



## Challenges in the Implementation of SDGs

- Differences in understanding regarding SDGs across the sectors and across three tiers of government
- Financing Gap (Around 700 billion NRs. Per annum)
- Too many governments to be coordinated-Coordination Issue
- Robust Reporting Mechanism
- Compatibility of National Plan with Provincial and Local Plans
- Climate Issue
- “Social Issues” Are they adequately addressed?
- “Gendered Approach” in the Localisation and Implementation of SDGs.



# Planning With Prudence While Implementing SDGs





# Social Issues-Are they Adequately addressed?







# Innovation is a must While Planning for SDGs Implementation







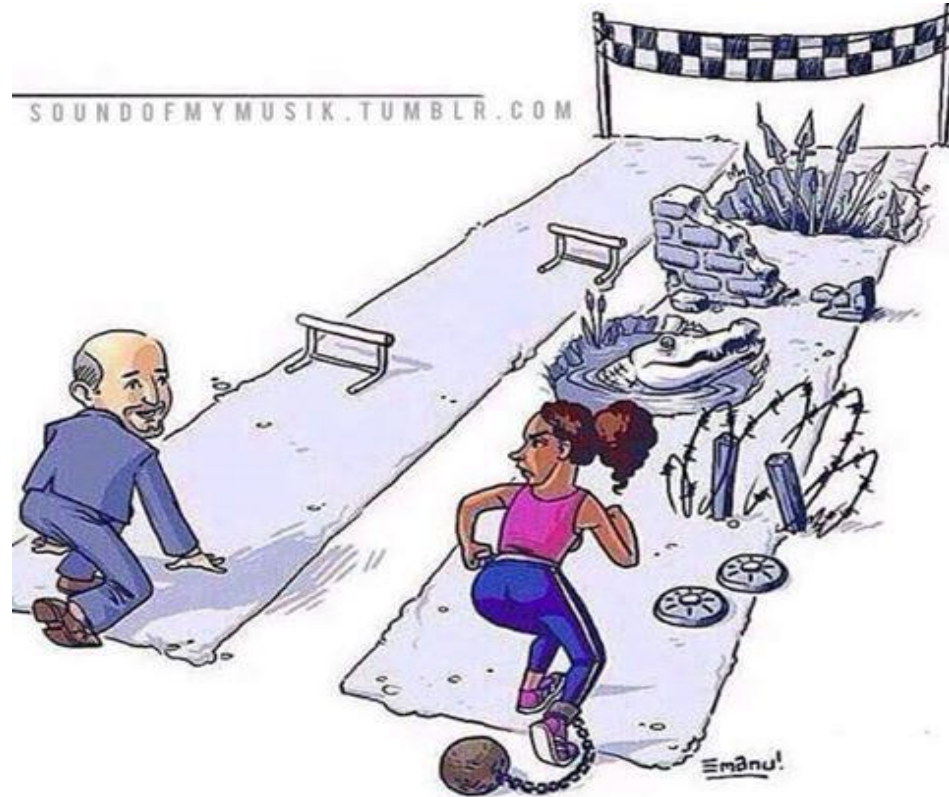
# Innovation is a must While Planning for SDGs Implementation





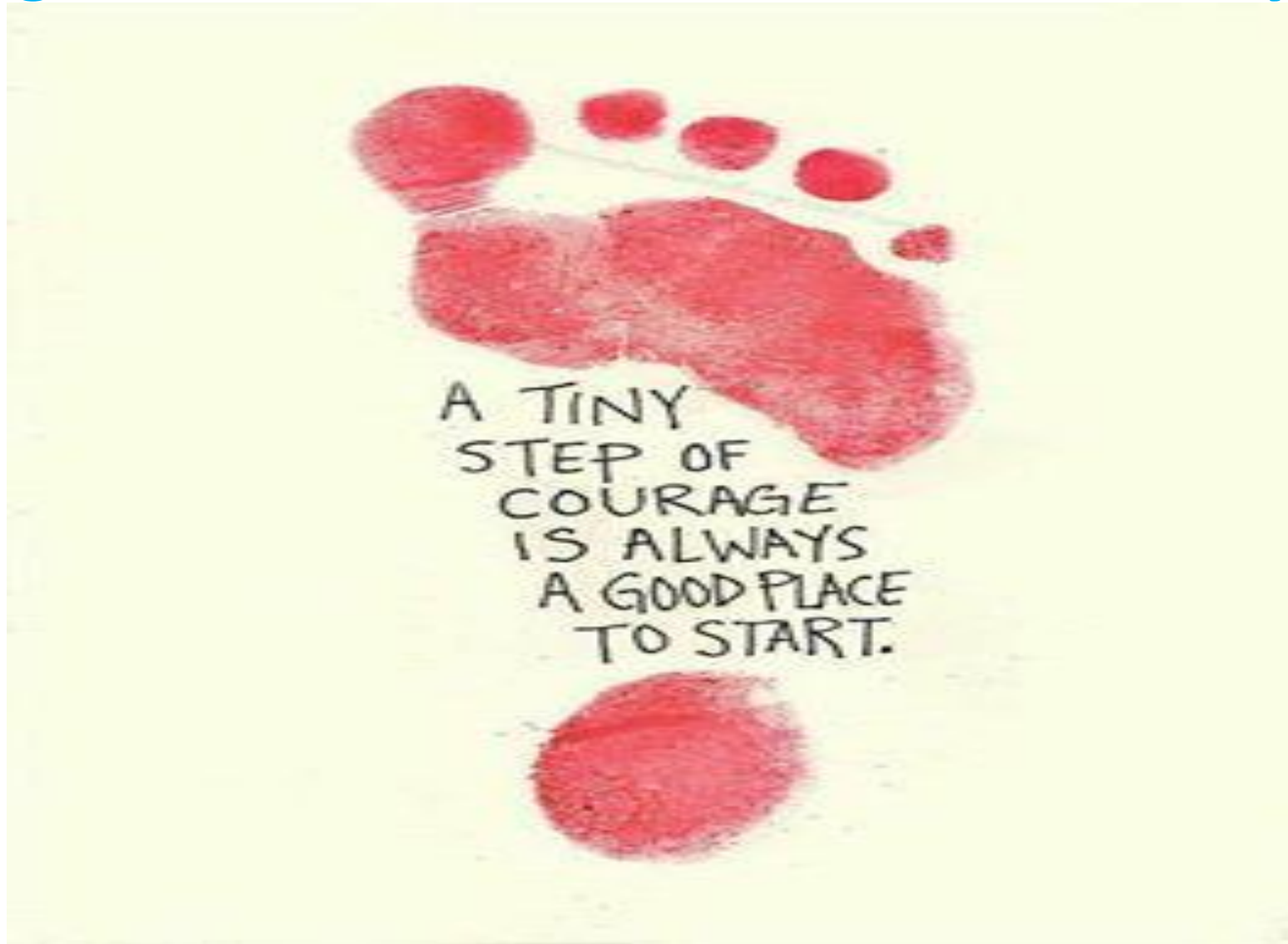


# Gendered Approach in SDGS Implementation-Is it Happening?





# Planning Demands Cumulative Efforts of Every Citizen





# Success of any Intervention Depends on United Efforts of All Concerned







# Major Documentation on SDGs in Nepal





**Thank You**