ABOUT NEPAL DIALOGUES INITIATIVE (NDI)

The Nepal Dialogue Initiatives (NDI) is a collective effort by dialogue practitioners dedicated to promoting a culture of dialogue in Nepal—especially in light of the country's growing recognition of diversity and the need for deliberate approaches to address potential conflicts that may arise from these differences. NDI serves as an open and inclusive forum, uniting organizations and individuals engaged in dialogue practice to collectively harness the power of dialogue through the mutual exchange of knowledge, skills, and resources in the fields of dialogue and peacebuilding.

NDI was formally inaugurated in 2021, although civil society organizations and a few international partners had been collaborating for several years prior. Building on earlier efforts to converge and institutionalize dialogue practices in Nepal, NDI has since focused on strengthening both knowledge-based and human resources through regular workshops, trainings, and conferences on dialogue and peacebuilding. The Nepal Dialogue Summit serves as NDI's flagship event, reflecting its commitment to deepening the role of dialogue in Nepal's peace and governance landscape.

NEPAL DIALOGUES SUMMIT 2025





BACKGROUND



In the case of Nepal, the country's transformation into a federal, secular republic has amplified the importance of effective dialogue mechanisms to address the challenges posed by its rich social, cultural, and political diversity. Dialogue facilitates the free flow of ideas among diverse stakeholders and helps identify context-specific solutions to disputes. Rooted in Nepal's long-standing cultural traditions, dialogue has historically played a vital role in resolving conflicts fairly and inclusively.

The strength of dialogue lies in its capacity to incorporate a wide range of perspectives and generate practical, solution-oriented insights. Through contextual, participatory discussions, it enables people from diverse biological, social, economic, and political backgrounds to engage meaningfully and coexist within a shared national framework.

In the context of contemporary peacebuilding, **dialogue** is widely recognized as a peaceful and constructive approach that fosters **mutual understanding** through the discussion of shared needs, interests, and perspectives. Its fundamental goal is to bring stakeholders together in a positive, reflective environment to better comprehend each other's viewpoints, emotions, and modes of expression—ultimately paving the way for meaningful and lasting change.

Although dialogue has been practiced for thousands of years, its relevance today is increasingly acknowledged as a **core component of peacebuilding**. The **United Nations**, a global leader in peace efforts, reinforced this in its General Assembly Resolutions **A/RES/53/243 A and B**, adopted on **September 13, 1999**. These resolutions emphasize that peace is not merely the absence of conflict, but a **positive, dynamic, and participatory process** that requires dialogue and the resolution of disputes through mutual understanding and cooperation. The UN further demonstrated its commitment to this principle by declaring **2001 as the United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations**, with unanimous support from member states.

In line with these global efforts, the UN also designated May 21 as the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development. This annual observance celebrates cultural diversity and underscores the crucial role of intercultural dialogue in promoting peace, understanding, and sustainable development across the globe.

Dialogue, therefore, is not simply a reactive mechanism to crisis but a proactive tool for **conflict prevention**. It provides a common platform for individuals and communities with differing cultural and ideological perspectives to build shared visions for the present and future. This makes dialogue indispensable in navigating complex, pluralistic societies.

First Nepal Dialogue Summit 2022



The **Nepal Dialogue Initiatives (NDI)** successfully organized the second edition of the **Nepal Dialogue Summit** on **November 20–21, 2023**, coinciding with the anniversary week of the signing of the **Comprehensive Peace Accord** in Nepal. The keynote address was delivered by **Professor Miriam Coronel-Ferrer**, a renowned peace negotiator from the Philippines and recipient of the **2023 Ramon Magsaysay Award** for her outstanding contributions to dialogue and peacebuilding.

The primary objective of the summit was to broaden the scope of dialogue by fostering collaboration between governmental and non-governmental stakeholders, and to explore practical ways of integrating dialogue into their respective fields of work. A key focus of the 2023 summit was to engage government actors and collaboratively develop strategies to embed dialogue into the state's peace and governance frameworks.

This impactful gathering was made possible through the joint efforts of **NDI**, **UNESCO**, and **35 partner organizations**, bringing together a diverse range of committed social actors united in the shared mission of promoting peacebuilding and inclusion in Nepal.

The Nepal Dialogue Initiatives (NDI) hosted the first Nepal Dialogue Summit on December 19–20, 2022, in Kathmandu, with the aim of bringing together local, national, and international peacebuilders in a shared space for mutual learning and inspiration. Themed "Grassroots to Global (G2G)," the 2022 Summit highlighted the vital connections between grassroots peacebuilding efforts in Nepal and broader national and international initiatives.

The event was graced by **Ms. Ouided Bouchamaoui**, recipient of the 2015 Nobel Peace Prize, who shared profound insights on the role of civil society in creating dialogic spaces, especially during times of national division and crisis.

The summit also served to deepen participants' understanding of the application of dialogue both vertically—across local, regional, and national levels—and horizontally—across various social, political, and cultural issues.

The summit was made possible through the collaborative efforts of 13 civil society organizations, forming the organizing team of the Nepal Dialogue Summit.



Second Nepal Dialogue Summit 2023

Building on the legacy of previous summits, the Nepal Dialogue Initiatives (NDI) organized the Third Nepal Dialogue Summit on November 20–21, 2024, commemorating the anniversary of Nepal's Comprehensive Peace Accord (CPA). The summit focused on expanding the integration of dialogue practices across multiple sectors—government, civil society, and the private sector. It also promoted a deeper understanding and application of intercultural dialogue, with particular emphasis on enhancing peace and social cohesion in Nepal.

Another key objective was to strengthen networks among dialogue practitioners and peacebuilders across the country. This significant event was the outcome of sustained, collaborative efforts by NDI in partnership with 35 civil society organizations.

The summit served as a vital platform to reaffirm collective commitment to peacebuilding and to foster greater collaboration among diverse stakeholders. Over 75 participants, representing both governmental and non-governmental institutions, attended the two-day event.



Third Nepal Dialogue Summit 2024 Fourth Nepal Dialogue Summit 2025 NEPAL
DIALOGUES
SUMMIT
2025

Nepal Dialogue Initiatives (NDI) remains committed to advancing the dialogue movement in Nepal. While the Nepal Dialogue Summit is a flagship event of NDI, our work extends beyond the summit. We are actively engaged in developing a dialogue training curriculum, conducting training-of-trainers (ToT) programs, and contributing to the establishment of a School of Dialogues in Nepal.

Looking ahead, we are planning to host a grand **Nepal Dialogue Summit 2025** on **November 20-21**, a date of historical significance. It marks the anniversary of the **Comprehensive Peace Accord** signed in 2006 between the Government of Nepal and the Maoist party—an agreement that transformed a decade-long armed conflict into a path of peaceful negotiation through dialogue.

In 2025, Nov 20-21 we are celebrating 24th year of signing of comprehensive peace accord and organizing grand event of Nepal Dialogues Summit 2025.

WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR



For this purpose, we are looking for support from Multilateral Organizations, Bilateral Donors, Foundations and Philanthropic Organizations, Corporate Sponsorships, Industry Associations, Participant and Delegate Fees, and In-Kind Contributions and Volunteerism. If you are one of them, and believe in Dialogue for sustaining peacebuilding and community development, reach out to us through: asianacdemy11@gmail.com | Sharad Neupane | 9851157884