



Ministry of External Affairs

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Joint Press Statement on the Official Visit of Minister for Foreign and Home Affairs, Government of Nepal to India (January 14-16, 2014)

January 16, 2014

1. Hon. Mr. Madhav Prasad Ghimire, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Home Affairs of the Government of Nepal, paid an official visit to India on 14-16 January 2014 at the invitation of His Excellency Mr. Salman Khurshid, Minister of External Affairs of the Government of India.
2. During his visit, Hon. Mr. Ghimire paid a courtesy call on His Excellency Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India. He held meetings with India's External Affairs Minister, H. E. Mr. Salman Khurshid, and Home Minister, H. E. Mr. Sushilkumar Shinde. National Security Advisor, H. E. Mr. Shivshankar Menon, and Foreign Secretary, H. E. Smt. Sujatha Singh, also called on the Hon. Foreign Minister of Nepal.
3. During the call on the Hon. Prime Minister of India, the two sides exchanged views on a number of matters of common interest. The Prime Minister congratulated the Government and the people of Nepal on the successful conclusion of Constituent Assembly elections, and stated that India stands ready to cooperate with Nepal in any manner as desired by the Nepalese side. Hon. Mr. Ghimire conveyed cordial invitation from the Rt. Hon. Chairman of the Council of Ministers to H.E. the Prime Minister of India for an official visit to Nepal at an early date. H.E. the Prime Minister accepted the invitation with pleasure. Dates would be worked out through normal diplomatic channels
4. Hon. Mr. Ghimire and His Excellency Mr. Khurshid held a bilateral meeting at Hyderabad House in New Delhi on 15 January 2014. H.E. the Minister of External Affairs warmly welcomed the Hon. Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal and expressed that the visit would help further strengthen bilateral ties between the two countries. The meeting was held in an atmosphere of utmost cordiality and warmth. H.E. Mr. Khurshid hosted a luncheon in honour of Hon. Mr. Ghimire and his delegation.
5. The two Foreign Ministers reviewed the overall state of bilateral relations as well as mutual cooperation on multiple areas and expressed happiness on the excellent state of relations subsisting between the two countries. They agreed to give fresh impetus to mutual cooperation with a view to uplifting the living standard and promoting well-being of the peoples of both countries.
6. The two Foreign Ministers exchanged views on reactivating and revitalising all bilateral mechanisms, including the Joint Commission, between the two countries to explore and promote mutually beneficial cooperation on various areas. It was stressed that the meeting of the Joint Commission should take place at the earliest opportunity and on a regular basis thereafter. The two sides also underlined the need for effective and timely implementation of all agreements and understandings reached between the two sides on different areas of cooperation.

7. The Foreign Minister of Nepal Hon. Mr. Ghimire, recalling the official visit of His Excellency Mr. Salman Khurshid to Nepal on 9 July 2013, stated that the visit helped widen and strengthen mutual understanding and the areas of cooperation between the two countries. The two sides agreed that the frequent exchange of high level visits between the two close neighbours would help further cement bilateral ties.
8. Hon. Foreign Minister of Nepal gave a brief account of the latest political situation in Nepal following the successful elections to the Constituent Assembly in November last year and expressed gratitude to the Government of India for moral and material support extended to Nepal in this respect. He stated that the elections were held in a free, fair and credible manner with record turnout of voters. He further stated that, upon announcement of all elections results and completion of formalities, the first session of the Constituent Assembly has been summoned for 22 January 2014. H.E. the External Affairs Minister of India congratulated the Government and people of Nepal for having successfully completed the election process and expressed the hope that the newly elected Constituent Assembly would be able to deliver a constitution within the stipulated timeframe. He further stated that the promulgation of a constitution would bring lasting peace, stability and prosperity in Nepal, thereby fulfilling the long-cherished aspirations of the Nepalese people. He reiterated India's strong and continued support for a peaceful, stable and prosperous Nepal and expressed India's willingness to help Nepal realize these vital objectives.
9. The two Foreign Ministers stressed on the need for further enhancing bilateral trade and investment to promote mutually beneficial economic growth and sustainable development which are crucial for eradicating poverty, hunger and addressing overall backwardness. Both sides stressed the need for finding solutions to address Nepal's widening trade deficit with India and underscored the importance of Indian investment in productive sectors of the Nepalese economy including the hydropower sector. In this context, the two sides appreciated the understanding reached during the recent meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee (IGC) on Trade, Transit and Cooperation to Control Unauthorized Trade at the Commerce Secretary level held in Kathmandu on 21-22 December 2013.
10. Hon. Foreign Minister of Nepal extended an invitation to H.E. the External Affairs Minister to pay an official visit to Nepal at an early date. H.E. the Minister of External Affairs thanked for the invitation and accepted it with pleasure. Dates would be worked out through normal diplomatic channels.
11. Hon. Foreign Minister of Nepal, who is also the Home Minister, held a meeting with Home Minister of India, His Excellency Sushilkumar Shinde, and exchanged views on matters of mutual interests. During the meeting, the two sides exchanged views on enhancing cooperation between their security agencies to fight against trans-border crimes, drug trafficking, trafficking in human, and menace of terrorism. They also expressed their commitment to implementing the agreements and understanding reached during the meetings of the leaders of the two countries on various occasions.

New Delhi

January 16, 2014



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