



विश्व सामाजिक मञ्च २०२४, नेपाल
World Social Forum 2024, Nepal
WSF2024Nepal

Another world is possible

World Social Forum 2024 Nepal

WSF2024Nepal 15-19 February 2024

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World Social Forum 2024 (WSF2024Nepal)

We, the people of the planet are now facing an unprecedented environmental crisis supplemented with rising inequality, food insecurities, majoritarian violence, persistent threats of the pandemic, and escalating conflicts between major powers. In fact, humanity is on the brink of a multi-faceted crisis leading to the destruction of its own chances of survival. Given the threat is real and urgent now the imagination of the new world order that rests upon sustainability, dignity, co-existence, equality and equity must be actuated. With the pledge of 'Another world is possible' the World Social Forum (WSF) emerges as a beacon of hope, more essential than ever before.

Given the adversities, we still believe that the change for the just world is possible. The World Social Forum (WSF) will discuss the means of changes in Kathmandu Nepal in February 2024. We invite all people around the globe to take part in the Forum. You can join us either through in-person or online medium. Your participation will certainly enhance the discourses that will result in a more equal, equitable and sustainable society. Join us in Kathmandu, Nepal, for the World Social Forum, and let's work to achieve it. Another world is indeed possible.

Two decades ago, the world witnessed massive mobilizations against the destructive impacts of neo-liberal globalization, leading to a vital conversation about alternatives to this prevailing development model. The first WSF, held in Porto Alegre, Brazil in 2001, served as a space for diverse social movements, community campaigns, trade unions, youth organizations, academia, and others to congregate and collaborate.

Today, our world has transformed significantly, as globalization, formerly championed by the West, gives way to trade conflicts and military confrontations. The skyrocketing cost of living has made life increasingly challenging for many, while a privileged few continue to amass their wealth at the expense of others, capitalizing on global health and financial crises. Corporate power, short-term state interests and right-wing majoritarian forces are employing all means possible to undermine democratic participation and the well-being of our societies and the globe at large. We are severally facing the challenges of Environmental Degradation and Climate Change which is impacting food system crisis.

Nevertheless, amidst these crises, a spirit of resistance persists and an unwavering pursuit of solutions. Resistance movements aiming to create a better way of life, rooted in justice and equity, are ongoing worldwide. The WSF has become a crucial platform to nurture such resistance and constructive ideas. It stands as an open space, facilitating the exchange of thoughts and experiences, enabling self-organized assemblies to strategize and make impactful decisions.

The WSF is a space and process where to develop the collective power of people's movements and civil society organizations across the globe, uniting against neo-liberalism, climate injustice, patriarchy, casteism, racism, queerphobia, xenophobia and war.

Together, thinking that another world is possible and necessary, they fight through a mesh of alliances for justice, peace, equity, and the protection of nature and our planet.

Nepal, a country in South Asia, is hosting WSF2024 in the city of Kathmandu. The political system of Nepal follows a federal parliamentary republic model. With a rich tapestry of cultural, religious, linguistic, and ethnic diversity, Nepal proudly stands as a democratic nation with a constitutional commitment to socialism. The constitution of Nepal has guaranteed

democratic spaces and human rights achieved through the existence of a strong people's movement in Nepal.

The WSF's charter of principles governs this process. Its facilitating bodies are the International Council (IC), Regional Forums such as the Asia Pacific Social Forum-Facilitation Committee (APSF-FC), and the Nepal Organizing Committee (NOC) focusing on WSF2024. After APSF events in 2022 and a meeting in Nepal in early 2023, the International Council decided to hold the 16th assembly of the WSF in the city of Kathmandu, Nepal on February 15th-19th, 2024 with various associated events such as an Intercontinental Youth Forum (to be held on 17th February) and Parliamentary Forum among others.

Structure of WSF2024 Organising Process

Linking to the world scale WSF and APSF regional processes respectively facilitated by the International Council and the Asia Pacific Social Forum - Facilitation Committee, Nepal General Council, Nepal Organising Committee, and Sub-Committees have been formed. There are various Sub-Committees clustered under i. Resource and Mobilization, ii. Program, Logistic and Liaison, iii. Research, Documentation and Communication iv. Volunteer Culture, Health and Safety working under the NOC for the preparatory activities.

Proposed Themes and Programs Detail

Proposed Themes:

Selecting indicatively some of the following umbrella themes is proposed when registering self-organized activities and assemblies in the WSF2024. The practical use of this indication is simply that a bottom-up program of activities and assemblies can be sorted by theme for easier consultation, while the topic and title of the activity are autonomously defined as per the interest of the various co-organizing entities assuming it.

1. Economic Inequality and Economic Justice
2. Labour, Migration, Forced Labour and Trafficking
3. Caste, Discrimination based on Work and Descent (DWD), Race, Ethnicity, Indigenous people, Untouchability, Xenophobia, and all forms of Discrimination
4. Gender, Sexuality and Identities, and Gender-based violence
5. Land, Agriculture, Agro-ecology, Food Sovereignty, Energy and Natural Resources
6. Peace, Conflict, War, Occupations, Displacements, and Security
7. Education, Art and Culture
8. Communication, Social Networks and Media (Digital Equality)
9. Democracy, Human Rights, Authoritarianism, Law and Justice
10. Health, Social Protection and Equity
11. Climate Justice, Ecology, Just Transitions, Habitat, and Sustainable Development

12. Women, Children, Youth, Adolescents, Aging people and Persons with Disabilities Social Movements, Civic Space and the Future of the World Social Forum
 13. Social Movements, Civic Space and the Future of the World Social Forum
- Themes are presented here : <https://wsf2024nepal.org/theme>

Movements and organisations registered in WSF2024 website are invited to join the thematic spaces (through this link <https://wsf2024nepal.org/register>) and contribute to preparing the thematic panels of the morning.

These contacts in various thematic spaces are an occasion to cooperate with other organizations and prepare some self organized decision-making assemblies in the afternoons in parallel with other self organized activities (refer to the program schedule below).

Proposed Programs:

The WSF will take place from the 15th to the 19th of February 2024, in Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal. The opening ceremony of WSF2024 Nepal will take place on the 15th of February in Khula Manch, Kathmandu. The Thematic panels and all the other self-organized activities will be held on 16th-18th February 2024. An Intercontinental Youth Forum will be organized on 17th February 2024 in Kathmandu. The days will start with several thematic panels followed by self-organised activities/sessions/assemblies (approx. 300 activities/sessions each day are expected) and end with informal meetings in open spaces and cultural programs. There will be around 900-1000 self-organised activities and assemblies throughout the WSF2024 event. While Bhrikutimandap will be the main venue of the assemblies, every shift, at least 100 activities/ sessions will be held in multiple locations which are close to the main venue and within walking distance in collaboration with academic institutions namely; Ratna Rajya Campus, Nepal Law Campus, Balmiki Campus, Vishwo Bhasha Campus, Shankerdev Campus. Padma Kanya Campus and Padmodaya High School.

Program Schedule of WSF2024

15th Feb. 2024

Opening of WSF2024

11:00-12:30: Solidarity March

13:30-16:00: Opening ceremony; panel of international speakers

16:00-18:00: Cultural Program

16th -18th Feb. 2024

Thematic panels/activities

9:00-11:00: 4-5 thematic panels per day (*1)

11:30-13:00: Parallel Sessions/Activities (Self-organised)(*2)

13:00-14:00: Lunch

14:00-15:30: Parallel Sessions/Activities/ (Self-organised)(*2)

16:00-17:30: Parallel Sessions/Activities/ (Self-organised)(*2)

16:30 Onwards: Public Cultural Performances

Forums and Assemblies (Self-organised) (*3)

16th-18th Feb 11.30 onwards (single session or two or three sessions combined -various size rooms)

19th Feb. 2024

Final Day in Bhrikutimandap Venue

09:30-13:30: Square of statements- booths/tables are provided in big halls, for participants to make contact there with movements and organizations sharing statements outcoming from the panels, activities and assemblies in the previous three days. Simultaneously Cafes and Chautaris are set up outside in the open for informal meetings in relation with those statements and contacts (or not).

13:30- 14:30: Lunch

14:30-16:30: at the same venue: Closing Ceremony (*4) and Cultural Program

WSF2024 Associated Events

9:00-17:00: 14 th Feb. 2024 Parliamentary Forum

9:00-17:00: 17 th Feb. 2024 Intercontinental Youth Forum

Others to come.

Notes

- (*1) The thematic spaces from where to prepare thematic panels are accessible through <https://wsf2024nepal.org/register>,
- (*2) Accessing bigger spaces like halls will be with criteria of having a certain number of co-organizers of the considered activity/assembly
- (*3) Spaces are available for forums and assemblies on 16th -18th February 2024 from 11:30 onwards. Possibility to register in a coordinated way several activities in successive sessions, so as to have the same physical space for the duration of those sessions e.g. for an assembly
- (*4) No speakers at the closing

Register now for early mutual visibility in WSF2024.

WSF2024 Nepal Organizing committee invites you to:

- 1) register your organization as a participant at <https://www.wsf2024nepal.org/register>. It will be made visible on <https://wsf2024nepal.org/organization-registered-in-wsf>
- 2) contribute with the 25 USD 3300 NPR participation fee, which helps us sustain the organizing effort (mandatory for the organizations).
- 3) Announce an activity through your "dashboard" (select activity menu on the left and create button on the right, describe and submit). It will be made publicly visible at: <https://wsf2024nepal.org/activities> .
- 4) Individual online and in person and organization Participants can express, as of now, their interest in the activities proposed (button “participate” on each activity proposed). This is fostering early intercommunications for a better preparation of WSF2024.

APSF Thematic Spaces towards WSF2024

Thematic Panels <https://www.asiasocialforum.net/>

Asia Pacific social forum process thematic spaces are aligned with WSF2024 umbrella themes. NOC invites you to come in some of those thematic spaces through the join APSF form <https://www.asiasocialforum.net/join>. Once included in a space, you can share invitations to participate in, or to codesign activities to hundreds of organizations, react to invitations from other participants, and also contribute with some of them to preparing the thematic Panel.

Join World Social Forum Process <https://join.wsforum.net/organizations>

This website provides mutual visibility on participation in WSF since 2021 (over 2000 organizations and 1200 activities). You can Consult this experience (see purple “WSF process” menu). Create an account and make visible your organizations and your “activities” or “initiatives announced in the months before the WSF2024 event” <https://join.wsforum.net/wsf-activities> Indications at <https://www.asiasocialforum.net/using-wsfplatforms>

Facilitation Process

The respective sub-committees under the NOC are all set to facilitate the participation by the domestic and International organisations, participants and delegates in the WSF process right from the stage of registration to the time of the event and beyond.

Logistics

International Travel

The majority of international delegates and participants can enter Nepal by air. The main entry point is the Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA) in Kathmandu, which serves as the major gateway to Nepal. Kathmandu is well-connected to major Asian hubs through 27 international airlines, including two Nepali carriers. Therefore, travelling to and from these countries is easily accessible. Moreover, traveling by ground entering from the Indian border to Nepal is also accessible.

<https://www.wsf2024nepal.org/individual/about-us/99>

Visa Requirement

The Government of Nepal has made obtaining visas easier for international visitors. Most of our distinguished participants can obtain visas on arrival at the Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu, or from any other entry points around the country except some particular nationals. However, for a few countries, citizens need a prior visa to enter Nepal. See the link below for detailed information. <https://www.immigration.gov.np/page/visa-on-arrival>

Accommodation

In Kathmandu, there are more than three hundred hotels, resorts and guest houses associated with the Hotel Association Nepal (HAN). <https://www.hotelassociation.org.np/>

The Nepal Organising Committee (NOC) and over a hundred organisations and networks in Nepal will cordially welcome the distinguished participants and delegates representing various forms of people's movements from all over the world to come and participate in the Forum. Registration will open soon, but you can visit our website for information. You may contact us with your queries.

Let us come together to build another world !

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