



निर्वाचन आयोग, नेपाल
ELECTION COMMISSION, NEPAL

Strategic Plan of the Election Commission of Nepal



Election Commission
Kantipath, Kathmandu
Nepal
March, 2009

Foreword

Elections are at the heart of democracy. Only a free, fair and credible electoral system and associated processes can contribute to the meaningful institutionalization of democracy and gain popular trust. Elections also embody the protection of universal rights and values; the Election Commission must be prepared, when required, to hold elections that adhere to universal democratic norms. Hence, it is essential to increase the management capacity and skills of the Election Commission to make election management more competent and effective. Considering these needs, the Commission has prepared and released its five-year strategic plan. The Commission believes that its successful implementation will lead to the necessary reforms in the electoral system of Nepal

The strategic plan is drawn on experience, recommendations from national (district to center) and international stakeholders, and reports from election observation groups. I express my gratitude to all the stakeholders for their invaluable contribution for the plan.

Formulating a strategic plan alone is not enough; its implementation is more challenging and demanding. Thus, the Election Commission requires, and hereby requests, the support and cooperation from all sectors for the successful implementation of this strategic plan.

I sincerely appreciate the persistent hard work of our election officials who helped prepare the strategic plan. I would also like to extend my special thanks to Usha Nepal, Neel Kantha Uprety, Dolakh Bahadur Gurung and Dr. Ayodhi Prasad Yadav as well as the members of the strategic plan formulation committee and all the staff of the Commission for their indispensable role in designing the strategic plan.

February 2009

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Chief Election Commissioner

Table of Contents

Contents

1. Introduction	1
2. Vision	1
3. Mission.....	1
4. Guiding Principles	1
5. Goals.....	2
6. Targets	2
7. Strategic Issues and Challenges:.....	5
8. Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats Analysis (SWOT Analysis).....	6
9. Role of the Stakeholders	9
10. Implementation of Strategic Plan	12
Annex (Relating to Chapter 9).....	13

1. Introduction

An electoral system has a significant role in good governance as it offers an opportunity to the people to elect their representatives for running the government. The Constitution mandates the Election Commission to conduct free and fair elections in a free and fearless atmosphere. Accordingly, the Election Commission has conducted activities, at different levels, pertaining to the elections. Irrespective of these levels, every election activity is sensitive, and requires coordination, participation, and support from all concerned stakeholders. The initiatives by stakeholders, their support and coordination make possible the effective management of elections. Thus, the Election Commission formulated this Strategic Plan. The Commission will implement the plan in collaboration with all stakeholders looking for the efficient allocation and mobilization of available resources and their effective use.

With a view of making this Strategic Plan more participatory, pragmatic and objective, the Commission held a series of consultations with various stakeholders, at national and district level, including governmental and non-governmental election related bodies, political parties, civil society organizations and international community representatives. The Strategic Plan is based on the findings of these consultations and from observation and other election related reports. We believe that this Strategic Plan will allow the formulation of a project document endorsed by all stakeholders and supported by an effective mobilization of available resources. It is expected that the implementation of this Strategic Plan will contribute to managing elections in a free, fair and fearless atmosphere, and in full respect of and adherence to democratic principles.

2. Vision

Establish the Election Commission as an independent, impartial, and capable institution to hold credible elections.

3. Mission

Conduct free and fair elections in an innovative, cost effective and professionally competent way as mandated by the Constitution.

4. Guiding Principles

This strategy is based on the following principles:

4.1 *Participatory Approach*

Stakeholders will have specific responsibilities in designing electoral legislation, policies and electoral procedures; they will be responsible and accountable for their work. The stakeholders' participation will be based on the principle of inclusion. Accordingly, women, indigenous groups, groups from backward areas, *Dalits* and *Madheshi* communities and other groups and communities as defined in the Interim Constitution will have their participation.

4.2 *Impartiality*

The Election Commission is an independent constitutional body. Since the Election Commission has the responsibility of conducting free and fair elections, the Commission will carry out its activities without biases.

4.3 *Accountability and Responsibility:*

The Commission and its staff will discharge their duties in a responsible and accountable manner.

4.4 *Service Orientation:*

The Election Commission and its offices will provide prompt and easily accessible quality services. For such services, the Commission's management will be reformed and the staff's capacity will be developed.

4.5 Professional Integrity:

For successful functioning and establishing credibility, the Election Commission will maintain its professional competence by ensuring development of skilled, efficient, confident, motivated, and professionally committed human resources.

4.6 Transparency:

The electoral process will be completely transparent throughout within the limitations set by law.

4.7 Credibility:

The Election Commission will work according to prevailing norms, values and electoral principles. The Election Commission, through its dedicated and professional work, will gain recognition from the Nepali people and the international community as an institution of trust.

4.8 Pro-activeness and Innovation:

The Commission will emphasize a pro-active and innovative posture when providing effective services and during its own institutional development.

4.9 Independence:

Activities will be carried out independently without any influence or interference, within the limitations set by law.

5. Goals

In order to achieve its long-term vision, the Commission has set out the following goals:

5.1 Create a free, fair and fearless election atmosphere through timely reforms of the electoral system and electoral processes

5.2 Ensure accuracy in the electoral rolls and in the identification of the voters

5.3 Increase voters' awareness

5.4 Reform the overall election management system for more efficiency and competence

5.5 Develop human resources targeting a more competent and efficient election staff

5.6 Use modern technology for election information management system (EIMS)

5.7 Develop infrastructure of the Election Commission and polling stations

5.8 Increase cooperation with stakeholders to make election management comprehensive and participatory

5.9 Emphasize on research and development for improving the electoral system and the election process

5.10 Develop effective monitoring and evaluation mechanisms

6. Targets

The following targets were set for the period 2009-2013 for achieving the above mentioned goals:

6.1 Reforms of the electoral system and election process

6.1.1 Contribute to the Constitution-making process by providing recommendations based on national and international elections experiences.

- 6.1.2 Reform the electoral legal framework and organizational structure by 2011 to allow the Commission to hold free and fair elections.
- 6.1.3 Formulate a consolidated legal framework incorporating basic electoral norms and standards.
- 6.1.4 Delimit the maximum distance between a voter and a polling station to five kilometers by 2011.
- 6.1.5 Limit the processing time for voting (vote cycle) to three minutes (time taken from verifying a voter eligibility to casting a vote).
- 6.1.6 Use Electronic Voting Machines (EVM) for polling.
- 6.1.7 Introduce Braille script on the ballot papers in at least five constituencies on a trial basis.
- 6.1.8 Provide for accessibility of wheel chairs for the handicapped in at least one polling center per constituency if geographically feasible.
- 6.1.9 Arrange for mobile voting in 100 or more bed hospitals and in old homes with more than 25 people.
- 6.1.10 Make the election staff more inclusive and encourage local participation.
- 6.1.11 Conduct a feasibility study on pre-voting and absentee voting.
- 6.1.12 Introduce an identification document with the voter photograph as a mandatory provision for voting.
- 6.1.13 Conduct a feasibility study on in- and out-of-country voting for permanent and temporary residents.
- 6.1.14 Devise an appropriate mechanism for monitoring the campaign expenses and its actual implementation.
- 6.1.15 Develop an effective mechanism to improve the quality of the domestic election observation.

6.2 *Reform of the Electoral Rolls*

- 6.2.1 Make the local electoral bodies responsible for collecting and updating the electoral rolls.
- 6.2.2 Start the process of preparing the electoral register to include the voter photograph.
- 6.2.3 Increase the accuracy of the electoral register to more than 95 percent.
- 6.2.4 Update the electoral register throughout the year, closing it only during the 75 days before election day.

6.3 *Improvements in Voter Awareness*

- 6.3.1 Launch the voter education program on a regular basis and not just during the election process to reach out at least 95 % of the voters.
- 6.3.2 Conduct voter education programs in 17 different languages and sign language.
- 6.3.3 Endeavor to achieve a two-thirds voters' turnout..

6.4 *Human Resource Development*

- 6.4.1 Provide for basic training on election management to all employees of the Election Commission.
- 6.4.2 Involve at least 10 percent of the employees in training, study program, research and observation related to election management, in or outside the country on a yearly basis.
- 6.4.3 Allocate 20 percent of the total amount of salary for training purposes.

- 6.4.4 Conduct a feasibility study on the formation of an election management core team in the Commission.
- 6.4.5 Manage elections in 200 polling centers using, on a trial basis, staff directly recruited by the Commission.

6.5 *Reforms in Management*

- 6.5.1 Decentralize the preparation of the electoral register to the local level.
- 6.5.2 Limit the preparation period for the elections to 90 days.
- 6.5.3 Decentralize procurement and management of election materials to the local level except highly sensitive items.
- 6.5.4 Entrust responsibility for determining the location of polling stations and the development of minimum infrastructure to the local level.
- 6.5.5 Initiate a policy of managing elections through the local level offices of the Commission.
- 6.5.6 Keep information of all the polling stations in the Geographic Information System (GIS) and at the district level.

6.6 *Information Technology Advancement*

- 6.6.1 Make information technology accessible to all employees in the Commission and its field offices.
- 6.6.2 Link the Commission and its field offices through an Information and Communication Technology (ICT) network.
- 6.6.3 Install management information systems in the Commission and its field offices.
- 6.6.4 Provide updated election information on the Internet.
- 6.6.5 Replace the existing voter registration system with a new Registration System.

6.7 *Physical Infrastructure Development*

- 6.7.1 Establish election resource centers in strategic locations.
- 6.7.2 Construct warehouses and office buildings in strategic locations.
- 6.7.3 Acquire land for ten additional local offices..

6.8 *More Effective Collaboration with Stakeholders*

- 6.8.1 Establish a permanent mechanism at central and local levels for regular interaction with the stakeholders.
- 6.8.2 Establish and operate an election information center along with a library.
- 6.8.3 Collaborate with the political parties for their institutional strengthening.

6.9 *Research and Development*

- 6.9.1 Conduct a study and analysis of all important issues such voters' participation, voter education, campaign expenses, code of conduct and training, election observation, and election management during the Constituent Assembly election.
- 6.9.2 Provide a research facility in the election information center for studies and research.

- 6.9.3 Develop indicators of core election activities through various studies.
- 6.9.4 Disseminate information about the Commission's ongoing activities through quarterly bulletins and publish election related journals.

6.10 Reform in Monitoring and Evaluation System

- 6.10.1 Develop a monitoring and evaluation system with indicators.
- 6.10.2 Implement the developed monitoring and evaluation system.
- 6.10.3 Carry out a mid-term and final evaluation of the Strategic Plan in 2011/12 and 2014-15, respectively.

7. Strategic Issues and Challenges:

The issues and challenges faced in the past and possible issues and challenges while implementing this Strategic Plan are summarized below:

7.1 State Restructuring and Inclusion

It has been already decided the adoption of a federal system where all classes, communities, and people from geographically backward areas will have proportional access to resources distribution and policymaking. In such a context, it is challenging to design an electoral system in the new constitution that reflects these changes and meet the aspirations of the people accordingly.

7.2 Election System and Legal Structure

The task of formulating the required legislation to implement the electoral system within the given deadline as mandated by the Constitution will be a challenge for the election management.

7.3 Resource Availability

Ensuring adequate physical and human resources for the electoral process will also be a challenging demand.

7.4 Retention of Human Resource and their Capacity Building

The absence of an exclusive election staff brings along a high turnover of personnel. The Commission is dependent on personnel provided by the government. These frequently transfer of persons jeopardizes the efforts to build capacity and to form and develop a long-term election-oriented staff.

7.5 Technological Changes

Although the development and use of new technologies are effective ways to hold fast, cost effective and credible election processes, obtaining the resources and achieving the levels needed for using such technology is challenging and demanding.

7.6 Relation with the Stakeholders and High Expectations

Elections involve issues of common interest and concern; voters, political parties as well as various groups and communities share some interests and participation in the election management Challenges concentrate on establishing a regular contact, coordination and active support of the stakeholders.

7.7 Political Culture

Political culture has a significant role in advancing the institutional development of democratic values and principles. However, unhealthy competition among the political parties during elections is quite challenging for the election management body.

7.8 *Voter's Disappointment*

Public opinion expressed in a fearless atmosphere is the foundation of democratic governance. In case the political parties or candidates cannot live up to the expectations of the voters to bring stability, peace and development in the country then this could discourage the voters to use their voting rights. This disenchantment of the voters could be a setback to the overall electoral process.

7.9 *Physical Infrastructure*

Management of the physical infrastructure and election materials is a challenge. Lack of physical infrastructure such as roads, communication, drinking water, electricity and other shortcomings in the polling centers makes election management even more difficult.

7.10 *Demographic Changes*

Demographic changes resulting from migration to the cities, district headquarters, other more developed places, and the Tarai present a challenge to the election management.

7.11 *Socio-economic Disparity*

It is also a challenge the continuation of a policy of managing and mobilizing resources, and working style, despite geographic and socio-economic disparities.

7.12 *Governance System*

Since elections are issues of common concern and interest, they need support from all sectors. Governance becomes less effective after the announcement of the election date because of the virtual transitional character of government and the difficulties for initiating new programs that impact negatively on the Commission's capacity to use resources at its optimum level.

7.13 *Logistics Management*

Due to a lack of adequate resources and geographical remoteness, management of logistics (procurement, transportation and distribution) requires extra attention and efforts.

7.14 *Election Commission's Work Culture*

Work in the Election Commission has become seasonal as workload increases considerably once the election date is announced, and subsides after the election. Taking the necessary steps to make the Election Commission's workload more consistent throughout remains a major challenge.

8. Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats Analysis (SWOT Analysis)

8.1 *Strengths*

- 8.1.1 Since the Election Commission has been conducting various types of elections since its establishment, it has a long institutional experience on conducting elections.
- 8.1.2 The Election Commission has been an independent constitutional body since promulgation of the Constitution of Nepal 2019B.S (following the first amendment in 2023) and in all other subsequent constitutions.
- 8.1.3 The Election Commission has conducted elections in the past in accordance with the existing laws, thus possessing the experience and the basic legal knowledge and infrastructure needed for future elections.
- 8.1.4 The national and international credibility of the Election Commission derived from its impartial role played in the conduct and management of the last election is an invaluable asset

- 8.1.5 In the process of making election management easy and simple, the Election Commission has expanded its activities all over the country without limiting it to its central headquarters. The Election Commission, with offices at central level and in all 75 districts, gives it a nation-wide presence.
- 8.1.6 Despite the provision for permanent staff positions filled by Nepal's government employees assigned for regular operations of the Election Commission, the role of such employees has been neutral so far.
- 8.1.7 The responsibility of the Election Commission to conduct, supervise, direct and control elections is a mandate by the Interim Constitution of 2007. In addition, the Election Commission Act of 2007 has also given special rights to the Commission. These two instruments give the Commission enough flexibility to manage elections within its jurisdiction.
- 8.1.8 Since the electoral rolls and other election related activities have been computerized both at central and district levels, the Election Commission is optimistic about expanding the use of modern technology into all its activities.
- 8.1.9 The Commission has been able to maintain its credibility through its transparent and participatory working approach.

8.2 Weaknesses

- 8.2.1 Though the Commission owns its office building at the central level, in most districts it lacks its own infrastructure. The absence of adequate infrastructure carries with it several difficulties for the fulfillment of its activities. Security reasons, e.g., limits the scope for the rental of buildings for use as election offices in the districts..
- 8.2.2 Compared to other government offices and constitutional bodies, the Election Commission and its local offices are not attractive to employees. This has made it difficult for the Commission to retain its staff.
- 8.2.3 The Commission depends on the government for financial and other resources; this government control has created difficulties for the operations and activities of the Election Commission.
- 8.2.4 The constant transfer of personnel create difficulties for the Commission. Since most of work in the Commission is technical, most of the staff transferred from other government institutions lack professional competency. Even in the case of long-term and permanent staff, the Commission has not been able to conduct sufficient capacity building programs.
- 8.2.5 The Commission relies on the government and other organizations support to prepare the electoral register and to manage the electoral process. The Commission faces difficulties when trying to utilize resources from other sectors.
- 8.2.6 The polling centers lack the physical infrastructure necessary for polling, and even when such conditions are present these centers don't have enough capacity and ability to manage elections, thus creating several inconveniences.
- 8.2.7 The lack of an information network at the polling centers made it difficult the promptly dissemination and exchange of information.
- 8.2.8 The elections conducted by the Commission are seasonal in nature. The Commission has to prioritize its election related work once the government announces the election date. Since the election is conducted on a given date, the Commission during that period deploys additional employees temporarily. This situation creates difficulties for recording documentation and information and turns the Commission's activities into an event-based activity.

- 8.2.9 The Commission conducted elections based on traditional methodologies. The election process generally focuses on “what was done in the past?” To a certain extent, this approach hindered the Commission's effort to modernize itself professionally.
- 8.2.10 The centralized decision-making process, the practice of conducting elections with temporarily hired Returning Officers, and the process of deploying staff on a temporary basis put a question mark on their accountability and causes a loss institutional memory.
- 8.2.11 The Commission is strongly centralized. As a result, election offices operating at district levels lack adequate decision-making power.
- 8.2.12 Stakeholders—including political parties, government, and the media—are supposed to carry out and fulfill the election related policies and decisions made by the Commission. During the elections period, the tendency of the stakeholders to disregard such policies and decisions, made in consultation with them, creates problems for the election management body.
- 8.2.13 The law provision to appoint the Returning Officers from a specific group restrains the Commission in the appointment of Returning Officers outside that provision. This restriction creates inconveniences for the Commission as Returning Officers are appointed according to the positions they hold rather based on their performance.

8.3 Opportunity

- 8.3.1 The state's commitment towards a democratic system indicates that election related activities will continue to get priority.
- 8.3.2 Since elections are the bedrock of a democratic system, electoral reform has become an issue of international concern and priority.
- 8.3.3 The credibility established by the Election Commission in the last election can be a positive factor for obtaining resources for reforming the election process and system, and brining new technology from both national and international sources.
- 8.3.4 There has been increasing awareness among voters, political parties and all other concerned stakeholders about elections, their principles, values and importance.
- 8.3.5 Political parties are leading actors in elections. The Commission noted that the political parties' commitment towards elections has increased in recent times.

8.4 Threat

- 8.4.1 Without the political parties' commitment, the goals of an electoral process cannot be achieved. The Commission has been active in getting such commitment. However, such commitment by the political parties is generally not fulfilled and creates doubts regarding any future reforms.
- 8.4.2 During elections, the political parties behavior often give rise to an immature and unsophisticated political culture that disrespects the values and principles of elections and works towards maneuvering election results in their own favor.
- 8.4.3 Aspirations of the people are increasing but such aspirations generally cannot be fulfilled immediately after an election. This public disappointment creates disillusionment towards elections in general.
- 8.4.4 Resources are normally sought and obtained during elections only. Election related issues have not gained continuous priority and consideration. Consequently, there have not been continuous flows of the required resources for the Commission's operations.

- 8.4.5 People have high expectations from their elected representatives regarding development and other issues which they want to see considerable changes. However, such expectations have not been fulfilled. Additionally, the differences among political parties and its influence on public life are creating more disappointment among the people. Consequently, people are often getting disillusioned with elections in general. This public disillusionment towards elections can be hazardous for managing effective elections.
- 8.4.6 The national and international community expects and believes that the elections conducted by the Commission are impartial. Impartiality can only be achieved if all institutions involved in conducting the elections are neutral and impartial. At times, however, partisan stakeholders' activities can pose serious obstacles for impartial elections.
- 8.4.7 Election related activities are gradually moving towards increased use of new technology. Many activities such as voter registration rely almost entirely on computerized activities. However, the absence of adequate infrastructure needed for such activities (e.g., electricity) causes several setbacks.
- 8.4.8 Elections are not limited to any specific corner of the world. Elections have taken firm root globally. However, there are no uniform standards about elections values. Thus, the inconsistencies between national and international contexts may difficult the efforts to achieve international legitimacy.
- 8.4.9 Availability and management of the election related materials could be challenging due to the limitations of the domestic market (causes reliance on international market), geographical remoteness (makes transportation difficult), and eventual strikes and shutdowns.
- 8.4.10 Various groups and professionals are in the process of asserting their identities in the changing context. Elections are part of some of the issues involved and if not addressed in time they can cause problems for carrying out the Commission's activities.
- 8.4.11 There is a dependence on donor support which sometimes is not reliable. When donors' priorities change, they cause adverse effects on resources mobilization.

9. Role of the Stakeholders

The list of the stakeholders concerned with the election system and management is in the Annex of this document. The expected role from these stakeholders for conducting free and fair elections is as follows:

9.1 Political Parties and Candidates

Political Parties and Candidates are the key stakeholders of the elections. Their support is fundamental in the conduction of impartial elections in an atmosphere without intimidation, in the formation of public opinion, in conducting voter and civic education awareness programs, in the formulation of a code of conduct and registration of political parties, facilitating the election process, assisting in voter registration, and supporting the implementation of laws and regulations.

9.2 Voters

Enthusiastic participation of voters is the foundation of successful elections. Voters support the conduction of elections by registering their names in a given deadline, participating in the elections to exercise their voting rights, playing the roles of aware voters, respecting other's voting rights, observing the laws and codes of conduct, refraining from any illegal incentives, and by casting a secret ballot.

9.3 Legislature/Parliament

The Constituent Assembly and its members can play an active role in institutionalizing the election system and making it transparent and legalized. Legislature/Parliament can contribute significantly to maintaining

the role of the Election Commission as a constitutional body and supporting it through necessary legislation.

9.4 *The Judiciary and the Election Court*

The Judiciary and the Election Court support the election management by interpreting electoral laws, providing necessary human resources for its operation and settling residual electoral disputes.

9.5 *Government and Administration*

The Government administrative machinery supports the election process by announcing the election and its date, and formulating the laws pertaining to the election. It also creates an election atmosphere, enforcing the implementation of an election code of conduct, providing necessary means, resources, providing any kind of assistance required for conducting elections, and not interfering with the activities of election management body.

9.5.1 *Ministry of Finance*

The Ministry of Finance supports the management of the elections by obtaining resources for short-term and long-term reform plans, providing the necessary means and resources to hold elections, and coordinating the mobilization of external assistance.

9.5.2 *Planning Commission*

The Planning Commission supports the elections by approving short-term and long-term programs for electoral reforms including elections in priority programs, and by providing resources for carrying out such election programs.

9.6 *Security Agency*

Security forces have an important role in creating a fearless environment to holding elections. The security forces support the management of the elections by devising a security plan for the elections, giving a sense of security to the people, supporting the enforcement of the codes of conduct, safeguarding the election materials, and guarding the borders during the elections.

9.7 *Government Employees and Teachers*

Government employees and teachers support the election management by creating an election environment, working as election staff, acting professionally, supporting the stakeholders, and assisting in the conduction of free and fair elections.

9.8 *Local bodies*

Local bodies support the election management by providing the necessary staff, physical facilities, creating an election atmosphere, observing the election code of conduct, disseminating election information to the people and assisting in voter registration, voter education and all election related activities.

9.9 *Election Experts and Technical Experts*

- (a) Election Experts: Election experts support the elections management by advising the Commission on all aspect of election process, contribution for the formation of public opinion for the electoral reforms, providing suggestions and advice on crucial issues and problems, and advocating for the values and principles of the elections.
- (b) Technical Experts: Technical experts make it possible to bring new technology into use for the elections. They support the election management by providing technical backing through

researching and developing appropriate technology, standardizing the use of such technology to prevent any interference, and by complying with a professional conduct.

9.10 Media

Media support the conduction of free and fair elections by disseminating election information, observing the code of conduct for the media, informing the voters, creating an environment for the elections, publicizing any irregularities during the election process, and promoting the respect and observance of the codes of conduct.

9.11 Civil Society, Leaders and Personalities

Civil society, leaders and personalities of the society play an important role in the creation of a positive and conducive public opinion for the elections, generating at the same time pressure for the electoral reforms, exerting pressure on the political parties, candidates and other groups against any irregularities in the elections. They also act as a watchdog for conducting free and fair elections, monitoring the observance of the code of conduct, and creating awareness among the voters to increase their participation in the elections.

9.12 Human Rights Agencies

Human Rights bodies have a significant role in the protection and safeguard of human rights of voters, candidates and all others involved in the elections.

9.13 Community and Non-Governmental Organizations

Community-based organizations and non-governmental organizations support the management of elections by informing the voters, creating a conducive campaign period, offering services to the voters around the polling stations, creating awareness about voting, encouraging programs to increase voter's turn-out, and raising awareness for observing the code of conduct.

9.14 International Community

International community is a key stakeholder during an electoral process. It supports the elections by contributing to the creation of an election environment as well as by providing resources, giving international legitimacy, mobilizing observers, facilitating sharing of experiences, informing about the elections in their respective countries, and mobilizing resources collectively.

9.15 Observers (National and International)

Election observers support elections by observing the election activities continuously and submitting reports based on their observation. They support the Commission by reporting irregularities during the election process. They also help in making voting and other election activities more organized. Moreover, they promote with their presence a free and fair election environment, monitor the observation of the codes of conduct, and provide inputs for improving the election system.

9.16 School Management Committee

School management committees support the election management by providing their school building space for setting up polling stations, assisting in deploying teachers and other staff for the elections as well as for the voter education programs, helping in making polling stations organized and developing the required infrastructure for elections in schools.

9.17 Professional Associations

Professional organizations support the election management by creating awareness among the voters and pressuring for the compliance of the code of conduct.

10. Implementation of Strategic Plan

The Strategic Plan will be implemented as follows:

10.1 Implementation

The Strategic Plan will be expanded to contain its areas of activities, programs, budget, timelines and responsible bodies and officials for carrying out its objectives, and identifying the necessary resources and mobilization procedures.

10.2 Steering Committee and Project Management

The Commission will form a Steering Committee to monitor and supervise implementation of this Strategic Plan. For regular management of the implementation of the strategic plan, the Commission will designate one of its Joint Secretaries as the focal point.

10.3 Resource

Necessary resources will be obtained through the national annual budget. In addition to the national resources, international resources will be mobilized in coordination with the concerned agencies to implement this strategic plan.

Annex (Relating to Chapter 9)

Identification of Stakeholders

- 1.1 Political parties and independent candidates
 - 1.1.1 Political parties registered with the Commission
 - 1.1.2 Political parties participating in the elections
 - 1.1.3 Political parties' candidates
 - 1.1.4 Independent candidates
- 1.2 Voters
 - 1.2.1 Voters who have their names included in electoral rolls
- 1.3 Legislature/Parliament
 - 1.3.1 Legislature-Parliament
 - 1.3.2 Subject-wise Parliamentary committees
- 1.4 Judiciary and Election Court
 - 1.4.1 Supreme Court
 - 1.4.2 Appellate Courts
 - 1.4.3 District Courts
 - 1.4.4 Judicial Service Commission
 - 1.4.5 Judicial Council
 - 1.4.6 Office of the Attorney General
 - 1.4.7 Election Court (Constituent Assembly Court and other designated election courts)
- 1.5 Government/administrative machinery
 - 1.5.1 Ministries, Secretariats and Commission of the Government of Nepal
 - 1.5.2 Public corporations
 - 1.5.3 Local Bodies
 - 1.5.4 Development Boards
- 1.6 Security body
 - 1.6.1 Security liaison ministries (Home and Defense)
 - 1.6.2 Nepal army
 - 1.6.3 Armed Police Force
 - 1.6.4 Civil Police
 - 1.6.5 Central Bureau of Investigation
- 1.7 Government Employees and teachers
 - 1.7.1 Employees of the Government of Nepal, Development Boards, Public Corporations and Local Bodies
 - 1.7.2 Community School Teachers
 - 1.7.3 University Teachers
- 1.8 Local Bodies

- 1.8.1 Village Development Committees
- 1.8.2 Municipalities
- 1.8.3 District Development Committees
- 1.9 Election Experts and Technical Experts
 - 1.9.1 National and international experts in electoral system and procedures
 - 1.9.2 Experts who prepare sample ballot papers
 - 1.9.3 Experts on the use of electric voting machine
 - 1.9.4 Experts involved in the operation of other technology
- 1.10 Media
 - 1.10.1 Private sector mass media (electronic and printing)
 - 1.10.2 Governmental media (electronic and printing)
 - 1.10.3 Media workers
 - 1.10.4 Media houses
- 1.11 Civil society
 - 1.11.1 Professional organizations
 - 1.11.2 Organizations involved in the field of civic concern
 - 1.11.3 Civil society leaders
- 1.12 Human rights related bodies
 - 1.12.1 National Human Rights Commission
 - 1.12.2 Organizations involved in the field of human rights
- 1.13 Community-based and non-governmental social organizations
 - 1.13.1 Community-based social organizations throughout the country (women, mother unions, children, farmers groups, and others)
 - 1.13.2 Leaders of various fields in the society
- 1.14 Neighboring countries and international non-governmental organizations
 - 1.14.1 Neighboring countries
 - 1.14.2 International donor agencies (bilateral, multilateral international bodies and international non-governmental organizations)
- 1.15 Observers (National and international)
 - 1.15.1 National and international observation organizations accredited for election observation
 - 1.15.2 International observers invited by the Commission
 - 1.15.3 National and international observation organizations involved in the observation of past elections
- 1.16 School management committees
 - 1.16.1 Community school management committees
- 1.17 Professional organizations
 - 1.17.1 Employees, teachers, professors, media workers, law practitioners and others.