

**Community of Practice on Social Accountability  
Nepal, February 17, 2012**

**Background**

Pro Public organized in-country consultation on Community of Practice on Social Accountability (CoPSA) approaches at Kathmandu on February 17, 2012. More than 34 representatives and social accountability (SAc) practitioners from governments, INGOs and various civil society organisations actively participated in the programme and provided inputs and reflections on the present context of the practice of SAc tools in Nepal (*See attached list of participants*).



The main objectives of the meeting were to identify the agenda and needs of Nepal for promoting CoPSA in Nepal and across the South Asia region. Affiliated Network for Social Accountability, South Asia (ANSA SAR) has been working for promoting CoPSA in the region. For this purpose, ANSA SAR has entrusted Consumer Unity & Trust Society of Jaipur, India, as a regional anchor while Pro Public and SAP Nepal has been designated as country anchor and member respectively.

The objective of in-country consultation was to identify country-specific needs, agenda and issues on SAc that would be further taken up for regional-level design workshop scheduled in Colombo, Sri Lanka from February 28-March 02, 2012.

The following issues and agendas were identified and discussed in the consultation.

<b><i>Sr. No.</i></b>	<b><i>Issues</i></b>	<b><i>Level</i></b>	<b><i>Proposal</i></b>
<b>1.</b>	<i>Maintain uniformity in practice of SAc tools</i>	National	As various organisations are practicing SAc tools differently, there is a need to standardise and develop common manuals/guidelines for SAc tools (Public Hearing, Social Audit, Public Audit, Citizen Report Card, Community Score Card, Public Expenditure Tracking Survey etc) and maintain their uniformity in practice
<b>2.</b>	<i>Formation of E-portal on SAc</i>	National	Since there is no single depository e-domain for sharing experiences, best practices and knowledge on SAc tools, e-portal needs to be formed for wider sharing and learning on SAc approaches
<b>3.</b>	<i>Customization of SAc tools and</i>	National	As there are many new SAc tools being practiced at the regional levels, it is the need to customise such new tools in the Nepali

	<i>approaches</i>		context for their wider application and use
4.	<i>Establish a SAc network forum</i>	National	Nepal needs to develop a national level network of like-minded organisations/people where others can learn and share their experiences on use of SAc tools
5.	<i>Documentation of the best practices and case studies on SAc tools and approaches</i>	National	Many organisations have been using SAc tools and have rich experience on it. But due to poor documentation system, organisation-specific experiences and best practices do not have gateway to others. Thus, a documentation approach needs to be pursued for sharing best practices and case studies among the likeminded stakeholders
6.	<i>Periodic meeting and sharing of SAc activities</i>	National	Since there is no such meetings among the SAc tools practitioners, a periodic meeting needs to be held among them for sharing and learning from each other's experiences
7.	<i>Sensitize people on use of SAc tools</i>	National	Unless people are empowered to use these SAc tools at their own level, the quality of accountability could be improved. Thus, there should be a national campaign to empower and inform grassroots people about the benefits of the SAc approaches/tools
8.	<i>Organize Share-Fair on SAc tools and experiences</i>	National	This offers an opportunity for like-minded organisations to come together and share their experiences/lessons learnt on SAc tools and mechanisms
9.	<i>Marketing of the SAc tools</i>	Regional	Nepal has promulgated a unique Good Governance Act in 2008 which provisions SAc tools, such as public hearing, public audit and citizen report card. So, this kind of legal provisions may be useful for partner organisation to institutionalise these tools. Similarly, Nepal also needs to engage CSOs and government oversight agencies to implement act's provision effectively
10.	<i>SAc Tools Campaign</i>	National	As present campaign for SAc tools has been more projects driven which does not ensure its sustainability after the project phase out. So, it needs to be made sustainable through initiatives from the grassroots level. The education part of the SAc tools needs to be increased through building capacity and awareness level of the people
11.	<i>Develop a SAc tool hand book</i>	National	Nepal has been practicing several SAc tools in isolation. So, it has been felt to develop a hand book on SAc tools to develop common understanding among practitioners.
12.	<i>National sharing event on SAc tools practitioners</i>	National & Regional	Organise five regional SAc tools, events and one national level event to share and learn from each other's experiences on SAc practices
13.	<i>Develop SAc tools training video documentary (PH/PA, CRC &amp; CSC</i>	National	It has been felt that the SAc tools' training video documentary would be useful to develop common understanding among practitioners. This can also be disseminated among the regional participants
14.	<i>Constructive engagement of service providers</i>	National	Engaging government service providers will ease to lobby at policy level and also internalise SAc tools in their regular annual plan

