

**E-seminar Title:** The State's Role in PSD in New Nepal

**Subject:** Closing Statements

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We had a meaningful discussion and now it is time to wrap up. We would like to thank the discussants and participants for a very productive discussion. As Nepal ascends towards liberalism, plurality and prosperity, even at this transitional period, the question of reconstruction and regeneration becomes more and more crucial. Just as democracy cannot function without participation of voters, a liberal economy cannot function without a sound and well-functioning private sector.

The e-seminar focused on a number of important themes within the PSD perimeter. A lively discussion on hydropower remained at the heart of the e-seminar which reminds us of not only the challenges Nepal is currently facing but also the hope Nepalis have about its economic potentials. This adds more responsibilities in the shoulders of policy makers and business leaders in Nepal.

The e-seminar engaged in a number of other issues directly or tangentially. First, we discussed the issue of PSD in the contexts of various political scenarios Nepal might interface, including communism, capitalism and federalism. Second, we discussed the role of institutions and incentives in inviting FDI and ushering in knowledge transfer, largely in hydroelectricity but also in other sectors. The issue of public-private-partnership and unbundling of risks remained at the core of this discussion; and its complex interlinkages with political and security aspects dominated the discussion. Third, we discussed the importance of micro, meso and macro policies for advancement of SMEs and niche products. Fourth, we discussed the connection between PSD and social change so as to examine potential role for the private sector in quality upgrade and equity in education and health.

We will prepare the proceedings of the e-seminar shortly, which we will share with you when ready. If you have any suggestions or further questions, either in the substance or modality of the e-seminar, please do write to us. This is the first e-seminar LDN and NSC have organised, and we will benefit a lot from your feedback. We hope you agree with us that a cost-effective portal for sharing ideas between the professionals in Nepal and among the diaspora might add a lot of value to the Nepali policy discourses in future.

We thank the discussants and the participants again for sharing your valuable knowledge in this e-seminar.