

Federal Parliament:

The Constitution of Nepal, adopted in 2015, envisions bicameral legislature. According to the Article 83 of the Constitution, the House of Representatives (Also known as Lower House) and the National Assembly (Also known as Upper House) are named as the Federal Parliament. Key functions of the Parliament are as follows:

- to formulate the laws within the jurisdiction related to federal, concurrent and residual power,
- to form government,
- to discuss and approve government's policies and programs,
- to make decisions regarding constitution amendment and general referendum,
- to discuss and approve budget,
- to oversee the performance of the government,
- to give necessary directions and suggestions to the government and
- to ratify international treaties.

Of the total 334 members in the Federal Parliament, there are 112 (i.e. 33.53%) women members.

House of Representatives (HoR) :

According to the provisions enshrined in the Constitution, Lower House of the Federal Parliament has altogether 275 members among which 165 members (i.e. 60% of the total members) are elected through the first past the post (FPTP) electoral system and remaining 110 members (i.e. 40% of the total members) through the proportional representation (PR) electoral system. The term of this House is for five years.

The composition of political parties in the House is as follows:

S.N.	Name of Political Parties	No. of member		Total
		First Past the Post Electoral System	Proportional Electoral System	
1	Nepal Communist Party (NCP)	116	58	174
2	Nepali Congress	23	40	63

3	Rastriya Janata Party, Nepal	11	6	17
4	Federal Socialist Forum, Nepal	10	6	16
5	Naya Shakti Party	1	-	1
6	Nepal Workers and Peasants Party	1	-	1
7	National People's Front	1	-	1
8	Rastriya Prajatantra Party	1	-	1
9	Independents	1	-	1
Total		165	110	275

Of the total 275 members in HoR there are 90 (32.73%) women members.

National Assembly:

The National Assembly, also known as the upper house of the Federal Parliament and constituted pursuant to the Article 86 of the Constitution, is a permanent house. Consisting of 59 members altogether, the House has the provision of a certain term of office for the members according to which the term of office of the one third of the members expires in every two years.

The composition of political parties in the House is as follows:

S.N	Name of Political Parties	No. of MPs
1	Nepal Communist Party (NCP)	39
2	Nepali Congress	13
3	Rastriya Janata Party, Nepal	2
4	Federal Socialist Forum, Nepal	2
5	Nominated	3
Total		59

Of the total 59 members in the National Assembly, there are 22 (37.29%) women members.

Qualification for members:

Pursuant to Article 87 of the Constitution, a person who has the following qualification shall be qualified to become the member of the Federal Parliament:

- being a citizen of Nepal,
- having completed the age of twenty five years, for the House of Representatives, and the age of thirty five years, for the National Assembly,
- not having been convicted of a criminal offense involving moral turpitude,
- not being disqualified by any Federal law, and
- not holding any office of profit.

Circumstances of vacation of seat of the members:

According to the Article 89 of the Constitution, the seat of a member of the Federal Parliament becomes vacant in any of the following situations:

- if he or she tenders resignation in writing before the Speaker or Chairperson,
- if he or she is no longer qualified or ceases to possess the qualification under Article 87,
- if the term of the House of Representatives or the term of office of the member of the National Assembly expires,
- if he or she absents himself or herself from ten consecutive meetings, without giving notice to the concerned House,
- if the political party of which he or she was a member when elected provides a notification in accordance with the Federal law that he or she has defected from the party,
- if he or she dies.

Provisions for Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives and Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the National Assembly:

- In both Houses, members shall, not later than fifteen days of the date of holding of the first meeting of the respective houses, elect a Speaker, Chairperson, Deputy Speaker and Vice-Chairperson from amongst themselves,
- In both Houses, election shall be so held that there is one woman out of the Speaker and the Deputy

Speaker, and the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson. With regard to the Lower House only, the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker should be representatives from different political parties.

- In the absence of the Speaker and Chairperson, the Deputy Speaker and the Vice-Chairperson chair their respective Houses.
- If election to the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker, and the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson is not held or if both the positions in both Houses remain vacant, the attending member who is by age the senior-most presides the meeting of their respective Houses.

Circumstances of vacation of the office of Speaker or Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives and Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson of National Assembly respectively:

- If he or she ceases to be a member of the House,
- If he or she tenders resignation in writing,
- If a resolution is passed by a majority of two-thirds of the total number of the then members of the House to the effect that his/her conduct is not compatible with his/her office.

Committees of the Federal Parliament

According to Article 97 of the Constitution, the House of Representatives and the National Assembly can form thematic as well as joint committees.

Thematic committees of House of Representatives (HoR):

- Finance Committee,
- International Relations Committee,
- Industry, Commerce, Labour and Consumer Welfare Committee,
- Law, Justice and Human Rights Committee,
- Agriculture, Cooperatives and Natural Resources Committee,
- Women and Social Committee,
- State Affairs and Good Governance Committee,
- Development and Technology Committee,
- Education and Health Committee and
- Public Accounts Committee.

Thematic committees of National Assembly (NA) :

- Sustainable Development and Good Governance Committee,
- Legislation Management Committee,
- Delegated Legislation and Government Assurances Committee and
- National Concerns and Co-ordination Committee.

Joint Committees:

- Parliamentary Hearing Committee and
- Committee for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Implementation of the Directive Principles, Policies and Obligations of the State.



FEDERAL PARLIAMENT OF NEPAL

BRIEF INTRODUCTION

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**FEDERAL PARLIAMENT SECRETARIAT
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