

**Summary of Observation Findings on the
Election Commission of Nepal’s “Voter Registration with Photograph” Program
19 April 2011**

Introduction

The Election Commission of Nepal (ECN) is conducting a nationwide voter registration process to create a new computerized voter register. Following an invitation from the ECN and as part of broader efforts to observe the peace and constitutional processes at the local level, Carter Center observers were deployed to 13 districts in February and March 2011 to gather information about the voter registration process. The Center’s observation objectives are to support the electoral process, to promote confidence in the ECN and the voter registration process to the degree warranted, and to contribute to the overall strengthening of the democratic process in Nepal.

Carter Center Methodology

Carter Center teams of international and national long-term observers (LTO) were deployed in late February and March 2011 to collect information about the voter registration process in 13 of 43 districts where registration took place during the “bridging” phase. Specifically, observers collected information from nine Tarai districts (Banke, Bara, Dang, Dhanusa, Kanchanpur, Kapilvastu, Morang, Parsa, and Rupandehi) and four Hill districts (Doti, Ilam, Kathmandu, and Kavrepalanchok). Carter Center LTO teams gathered information about registration turnout targets, voter awareness and participation, voter registration management, data management, and political party participation, and also conducted direct observation at 25 voter registration places. The Carter Center conducted its observation activities in accordance with Nepali law, the ECN Code of Conduct for Election Observation, and international election observation standards.

Proactively responding to concerns about the quality of the 2008 CA voter list raised by election observers and others and embarking upon a major effort to create a more accurate voters' list;
In response to the February 2011 Supreme Court ruling on the requirement of a citizenship certificate for registration, sending a letter to request the Government of Nepal to issue citizenship certificates to all eligible Nepalis;
Engaging in dialogue with protesting political parties to seek ways to accommodate their concerns; and
Broadening its policy on proof of migration requirements in order to facilitate easier access for

