

16th European Regional Conference Report

March 28–30, 2025 | AX ODYCY Hotel, Malta

Prepared by: *Non-Resident Nepali Association (NRNA)*

Introduction

The 16th European Regional Conference, themed “*Investing in Nepal: Unity for Prosperity*,” was successfully held from March 28 to 30, 2025, at the AX ODYCY Hotel in Malta. Hosted by the Non-Resident Nepali Association (NRNA) in collaboration with the European Regional Council and the International Coordination Committee (ICC), this conference brought together Non-Resident Nepalis (NRNs) from across Europe and beyond. The event provided a vital platform for discussing key issues affecting the Nepali diaspora while fostering cooperation on advancing Nepal's development across various sectors.

The theme of the conference underscored the importance of unity among NRNs to ensure prosperity in Nepal. Delegates from various countries engaged in meaningful discussions on critical issues including investment, entrepreneurship, infrastructure, youth and women empowerment, and strengthening the connection between the global Nepali community and Nepal.

Objectives of the Conference

The objectives of the 16th European Regional Conference were:

1. **Promote Investment Opportunities:** Highlight investment prospects in Nepal’s priority sectors and facilitate NRN involvement.
2. **Enhance Collaboration:** Strengthen ties between NRNs and local entrepreneurs to stimulate development.
3. **Leverage Diaspora Expertise:** Encourage the Nepali diaspora to contribute their expertise toward national development.
4. **Advocate for Policy Reforms:** Promote dual citizenship and simplified investment procedures to enhance diaspora participation.
5. **Empower Communities:** Focus on the empowerment of youth and women within the global Nepali community.
6. **Align with SDGs:** Ensure that diaspora initiatives align with Nepal's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

7. **Facilitate NCC Collaboration:** Strengthen coordination between National Coordination Committees (NCCs) and the ICC.

Key Decisions and Outcomes

The conference led to several important resolutions and commitments aimed at advancing the interests of NRNs and Nepal:

1. **Non-Resident Nepali Citizenship**

The conference reaffirmed the principle of "Once a Nepali, always a Nepali," calling for swift legal enactment of the rights provided under Article 14 of the Nepali Constitution for NRNs, including social, cultural, and economic rights.

2. **Youth and Second-Generation Engagement**

Recognizing the disconnection faced by second-generation NRNs, the conference recommended the establishment of Nepali language schools and cultural programs in each country to preserve heritage and strengthen diaspora identity.

3. **Women and Youth Empowerment**

The conference emphasized the need for expanded skill development programs for women and youth, as well as their meaningful participation in all NRNA activities. It was agreed that countries with large Nepali female populations would establish support shelters, and NCC Malta would lead Europe's participation in Nepal's 10th National Games.

4. **NRNA Development Fund Activation**

The Government of Nepal's NPR 10 billion NRNA Development Fund was welcomed. The conference recommended adjustments to SEBON guidelines to facilitate smoother investment processes for NRNs.

5. **Air Connectivity**

The conference highlighted the urgent need for direct flights between Nepal and major European cities. It called on the Government of Nepal to prioritize the removal of Nepal from the EU aviation safety blacklist to improve connectivity.

6. **Diplomatic Representation**

A call was made for the establishment of Nepali embassies in Malta, Romania, Croatia, Poland, and Cyprus, alongside the creation of an emergency regional fund for addressing diplomatic and community-related contingencies.

7. **Combating Human Trafficking**

It was resolved that NCCs would collaborate with the Government of Nepal to establish

joint mechanisms to combat illegal migration and human trafficking in vulnerable countries such as Portugal, Italy, Turkey, Romania, Croatia, and Serbia.

8. NRNA Advisory Board Formation

The conference urged the Government of Nepal to form the long-pending NRNA Advisory Board, including representatives from the diaspora and relevant ministries, in line with provisions in the NRNA Act.

9. PNO Identification Cards and Gurkha Rights

The issuance of Persons of Nepali Origin (PNO) identification cards for foreign nationals of Nepali origin was advocated. Additionally, the conference emphasized the need for a diplomatic resolution to the ongoing Gurkha rights issue in the UK.

10. Investment in Emerging Sectors

NRNs were encouraged to diversify investments beyond hydropower and tourism into emerging sectors like IT, agriculture, forestry, herbal medicine, and green hydrogen. The global carbon market and engagement with Nepali-origin health professionals were also highlighted as key areas for growth.

11. 12th Global NRNA Conference

It was confirmed that the 12th Global NRNA Conference will take place from October 11–14, 2025, as per the Supreme Court's decision. NCCs were advised to complete national conventions and expedite open membership by July 2025.

12. Myanmar Earthquake Relief

The conference expressed condolences for the victims of the recent earthquake in Myanmar and committed NPR 2 million in support of affected Nepali-origin communities, which will be delivered through NCC Myanmar.

13. Condolences for Kathmandu Incident

A moment of silence was observed for the victims of the recent tragedy in Kathmandu, with a call for unity and peace within Nepal during these challenging times.

14. 17th European Regional Conference

The next European Regional Conference will be hosted by NRNA NCC Ireland in Dublin, as announced during the conference.

Recommendations

To ensure continued progress on the conference's resolutions, several key recommendations were made:

- 1. Legal Reforms for NRN Citizenship**

The Government of Nepal is urged to fast-track the legal reforms necessary for granting NRNs citizenship rights and ensuring voting rights for NRNs in future elections.

- 2. Encouraging Investment**

The Government should continue to enhance investment opportunities for NRNs by expanding access to Initial Public Offerings (IPOs) and improving investment policies.

- 3. Youth and Women Empowerment**

Increased focus should be placed on youth and women empowerment within NRNA organizations, ensuring second-generation NRNs are actively involved in leadership roles.

- 4. Support for Migrant Workers**

A social security fund for Nepali migrant workers should be established, with mechanisms for utilizing their skills and knowledge to contribute to Nepal's development.

- 5. Cultural and Tourism Development**

Efforts should be made to develop collaborative tourism initiatives, especially related to sports and culture, to promote Nepal's global tourism profile and strengthen cultural exchanges.

Conclusion

The 16th European Regional Conference marked a significant milestone in reinforcing diaspora unity and commitment toward Nepal's development. With robust participation from across Europe and beyond, the conference successfully provided a collaborative platform to address key issues facing the global Nepali community while aligning with the theme "Investing in Nepal: Unity for Prosperity."

The event facilitated in-depth discussions on trade, migration, youth engagement, women's empowerment, innovation, and collective investment, resulting in concrete recommendations and renewed energy for action. It underscored the critical role of diaspora partnerships in driving sustainable progress, advocating for essential policy reforms, and strengthening institutional coordination between NCCs and the ICC.

By affirming commitments such as initiating cultural programs for second-generation NRNs, activating the NRNA Development Fund, promoting inclusive participation, and advocating for improved air connectivity and diplomatic presence, the conference set a proactive roadmap for the

years ahead. The announcement of Ireland as the next host for the 17th European Regional Conference further reflects the momentum and continuity of this shared mission.

As NRNA continues to evolve as a global force for Nepal's prosperity, the outcomes of the Malta conference will serve as a guiding foundation for future initiatives. The solidarity, vision, and determination demonstrated throughout this gathering ensure the diaspora's unwavering dedication to building a stronger, inclusive, and prosperous Nepal.

Annex:

Sponsors:

Declaration

