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## **10-Point Commitment made by the Leaders of the Main Political Parties**

The meeting of the top leaders held today at the Prime Minister's Residence, Baluwatar has taken the following decisions:

1. The Constituent Assembly election is being held on April 10, 2008. This election will usher in historical change in Nepal and will vest sovereignty in the people in the real sense. The election will prove to be a great achievement of the Nepalese people as a campaign to restore sustainable peace as per their aspirations, to institutionalise democracy, to achieve prosperity of the country and to build a new Nepal as an independent, self-respecting, peaceful and prosperous nation. Expressing strong commitment to hold the election in a free, fair and fear-free manner, we appeal to all political parties, electoral candidates, civil society, people of different professions and occupations, and all citizens to make the election a success.
2. The foundation of democracy can be strengthened only by respecting and safeguarding the people's right to vote freely. Therefore, expressing the following commitments for a peaceful, fair, free and credible election, we urge all concerned to conduct their activities accordingly.
  - a) No one shall disturb or obstruct any programmes, including political campaigns organised by any political party or candidate, and shall conduct all programmes in a peaceful manner.
  - b) No one shall make any statements that may incite the peaceful environment of election.

- c) No one shall engage in, or cause others to engage in, any acts of threatening, physically assaulting, threatening, or exerting psychological pressure on voters. The p administration shall take action against persons carrying out such activities.
- d) No one shall obstruct any party, candidates or their supporters and well-wishers from campaigning in an area in the pretext it being one's stronghold.
- e) All shall fully abide by, and enforce, the Election Code of Conduct issued by the Election Commission.
- f) No one shall engage in, or engage others in, activities such as carrying and displaying weapons, including sticks, *khukuri* and spears and spread terror and aggression. The Government shall immediately arrest and take action against anyone involved in such activities.
- g) An all-party apparatus shall be formed at district level to hold the election in an easy, peaceful and smooth manner. Distinguished persons from a cross-section of professions in the district shall also be included in the machinery.
- h) The District Administration Office and the police shall make arrangements for a hotline to collect immediate information about violations of the Code of Conduct and incidents that disrupt the peaceful environment of election, and anyone disrupting the peaceful environment of election shall be arrested immediately and action taken against such persons.
- i) The Government shall expedite its effort to investigate incidents of murder and violence in the course of election and take action against those found guilty.

- j) An effective monitoring committee comprising representatives of civil society shall be constituted at central level to help resolve problems faced in holding the election in a free, fair and fear-free manner. The implementation of all past agreements, including the 23-Point Agreement, shall be stressed.

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| 1 | Nepali Congress, President Girija Prasad Koirala,                    | Sd. |
| 2 | Nepal Communist Party (UML), General Secretary<br>Madhav Kumar Nepal | Sd. |
| 3 | Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist), Chairman Prachanda                | Sd. |

April 1, 2008