

## **Suggestions from Prof. Alok Bohara (based on the suggestions received from NCCs)**

1. There is almost unanimous support for a non-ethnic federal model. I would suggest we draft a strong press release on behalf of this NRN-appointed Committee consisting of five or six of us (KulJi, SuryaJi, myself, Dineshji, JugalJi, DabadiJi etc) with the emphasis that the suggestions were forwarded by 60 or so organizations from all over the world representing millions.

This is a quite powerful message that needs to be published widely as a news item in all of our news organizations. This sends a powerful message to the parties and our minister friends, political leaders, and intellectual activists that we Diaspora do not subscribe to their ethno-centric view and divisive approach in creating this constitution. Instead of playing into our fear and differences through divisive languages and slogans, we need to collectively play up our common destiny. Even though the NRN organizations from all over the world do recognize the essence of inclusiveness and attention to social justice and ethnic harmony through our constitution, the model of governance and economic progress for this impoverished nation cannot be solely based on the ethno-centric federal structure.

This news item should focus just on this one item with the reference that the rest is going to come in the near future.

### **Additional points:**

2. Overwhelming support for a mixed electoral system mixed-proportional (e.g., 50/50 70/30).
3. A strong support for a minimum threshold for proportional seats (3-5% of the popular vote to qualify to secure proportional seats)
4. Strong support for a term limit of the executives (president and/ or PM)
5. Good many member organizations want to institute a mechanism to stabilize the government so that it does not change at the whim of a party or a personality -paraphrasing. (e.g., constructive vote of no-confidence). Some have understood the questions, and others have expressed in their own way.
6. Strong support for internal democracy in party polity (term limit; code of conduct, transparency, openness in financial matters etc.)

I am very pleased to see such a cohesive and forward-looking suggestions coming out of our NRN organizations that seems to be more driven by the welfare of the country rather than individual members' ethnic and /or party and/or class identity.