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Research Article

# Foreign Policy of Nepal: Understanding on Bilateral, Regional and Multilateral Relations of House of Representatives, GoN

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## ABSTRACT

*The research article “Foreign Policy of Nepal: Understanding on Bilateral, Regional and Multilateral Relations of House of Representatives, GoN” underscores fundamentally examine and critically analysis the perception and knowledge of the respondents on international relations, foreign policy and diplomacy. The research is based on quantitative research method that reflects the understanding of the respondents 2080 -2082 B.S, to measure the understanding on foreign policy, regarding bilateral, regional and multilateral relations in international relations based on foreign policy of Nepal. In this regard, primary data has been use; thus, the primary data has been collected, analyzed and interpreted. The reason behind conducting the research on this topic is to generate the basic understanding and analyze the reason how Nepal positions herself diplomatically in the international arena based on foreign policy. Paradigm: The research philosophy is under pragmatism followed by the inductive research approach. The methodological choice is based on quantitative and the survey research strategy in application. The researcher gathers primary data through purposive sampling; it is the main source of data collection and the data analysis is based on quantitative data analysis using SPSS software. The finding reveals a significant understanding of the respondent’s calibrated to formulate the diplomatic execution on bilateral, regional and multilateral relations of Nepal.*

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**Keywords:** Bilateral relations, foreign policy, international relations, multilateral relations, regional relations.

## INTRODUCTION

Foreign policies of Nepal, with its borderline neighbors, China and India, as well as northern and southern hemispheric States are not distinctly independent but rather mutually interconnected. The contemporary Nepal's first established diplomatic ties with the UK in 1816 (MOFA, 2025). But the historical and cultural connection between Nepal and Tibet date back centuries, rooted in trade, religion and shared cultural practices. A notable example is the marriage of Nepalese Princess Bhrikuti to Tibetan King Songtsen Gampo in the seventh century, which significantly contributes to the spread of Buddhism in the region. Additionally, the influence of Nepali craftsman Araniko in the thirteenth century were pivotal in shaping Chinese architecture, further illustrating the rich tapestry of cultural interconnections that have developed over time, further enhancing bilateral and regional relations with the northern bloc. 'The term "Nepal" is very old and has been used even in the Athvarvebed supposed to be written nearly five thousand years ago. This term has its mention in the Kautilya's Arthasastra too (Dahal, 2018). 'Historically, Nepal is a country having a rich historical heritage and long glorious past, is one of the seventeen oldest states in the world, which was never been colonized by western powers throughout its entire history' (p.90). As of October 2025, the UN comprises 193 member states, each enjoying equal representation within the General Assembly. In addition to these member countries, the assembly also recognizes two permanent non-member observer states i.e. the Holy See (Vatican City) and the State of Palestine. 'Out of the total states associated with the UN, Nepal is one of the oldest states having five thousand years near long history. There are many countries in the international political systems which have their geographies but very short histories. The people in the US sometimes feel uneasiness/ discomfort in their short histories. The US became independent from Great Britain and developed statehood in 1776, one year after King Prithvi Naraya Shah, the first unifier of contemporary Nepal, died in Nepal. Simultaneously, the US becomes second generation state, independent Dominion of India (1947) until its constitution was adopted on January 26, 1950. At that time, it formally became the Republic of India and Bangladesh (1971) becoming the third and fourth generation states respectively for Nepal. "During the fifth century, Nepal was one of the few countries in the world to circulate gold coins. In 464 A.D., for the first time the Monanka coin was mint by King Man Dev marked a pivotal moment in the monetary history of Nepal' (p.90).

Nepal till July 17, 2024 maintains diplomatic ties with 182 countries (MoFA, 2025). The guiding concepts, policies, and duties of the Nepali regarding about its foreign policy are laid out in the present Constitution of Nepal. As stated in part four directive principles, policies and obligations of the State article 50(4) states that, ‘the State shall direct its international relations (IR) towards enhancing the dignity of the nation in the world community by maintain IR on the basis of sovereign equality, while safeguarding the freedom, sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence and national interest of Nepal. Article 51(m) (1), policies relating to IR states that, ‘to conduct independent foreign policy based on the Charter of the United Nations (UN), non-alignment (NAM), principles of *Panchsheel*, international law and the norms of world peace, taking into consideration of the overall interest of the nation, while remaining active in safeguarding the sovereignty, territorial integrity, independence and national interest of Nepal’ (Constitution of Nepal, p. 42-43).

Nepal has stated nine major foreign policy objectives, which are as follows: ‘(1) to strengthen bilateral relations with all countries, including neighbors, based on sovereign equality, mutual benefit, and respect; (2) to advance national interest by strengthening Nepal’s national identity and representation in international and regional fora, (3) to play an effective role in multilateral fora for world peace (4) to cooperate in establishing a just, inclusive, and fair system of international law; to advance regional cooperation, peace, and collaboration, (6) to aid in the socioeconomic change of the nation by engaging in economic diplomacy in areas like promoting investment, export, and tourism as well as mobilizing development cooperation, (7) to assist in achieving the goal of a prosperous country and its citizens to safeguard the interests of Nepali people as well as legitimate foreign business, labor, and employment entities, and (9) to advance soft power by highlighting the nation’s exceptional natural beauty, native civilization, lifestyle, diversity, arts, languages, literature, and sports’ (K.C & Timilsana, 2023).

These goals set forth a broad range of requirements for diplomatic missions and foreign policy actions. However, there is still more research to be done on how diplomatic practices and the use of diplomats/ statecrafts’ resources can advance goals. Long-standing bilateral relations between Nepal and the countries with which it has bilateral ties have resulted in ‘the establishment of 31 residential embassies, 3 permanent missions to the United Nations and other international organizations and 9 consulate generals, including; Consulate General of Nepal, Dallas and Consulate General of Nepal, San Francisco, USA, yet to be established; in process and 53 honorary counsels (MOFA, 2025). These countries are spread across the African,

American, Asian, European, and Oceania continents. Additionally, Nepal maintains diplomatic relations with several international, regional, and multilateral organizations, 'including the UN, WHO, WTO, SAARC, BIMSTEC, ACD, SCO,' (Kharel, 2024) Bangladesh, BBIN Vehicle movement etc. Nepal also participates in and signs multilateral agreements. As of late October 30, 2025, Nepal has ratified 218 international treaties with additional bilateral and specific pacts. Such participations in international forums such as bilateral, regional, and multilateral Nepal promoted her soft power in international political system (K.C & Timilsana, 2023). Thus, according to Hudson, foreign policy is "a strategy or approach chosen by the national government to achieve its goals in its relations with external entities" (Tat, 2019, chapter 7, p. 2). In simple words, 'foreign policy is the plan or strategy to achieve national interests. They are generally designed to protect national interests, national security, ideological goals and economic prosperity of a country. These can include economic, diplomatic, military and social and cultural relations with other nations' (Bastola, 2025). Thus, on the basis of above illustrated background the researcher conducted a field survey relies on quantitative research method on international relations committee members of the House of Representatives GoN to know their in-depth understanding on bilateral, regional and multilateral relations of Nepal's foreign policy.

## DATA AND METHODS

The objective of this research article is to explore and analyze the understanding of Member of the House of Representatives on bilateral, regional and multilateral relations of Nepal's foreign policy. Apart from this, it has also the specific objectives to assess the pattern of Nepal's foreign policy behavior. Thus, the researcher is mainly concerned with the foreign policy understanding exhibited by Nepal on the understanding of House of the Representatives, GoN. Hence, the research is grounded in a pragmatist philosophy and employs an inductive approach. It utilizes a quantitative methodology, specifically through a survey research strategy. Primary data serves as the principal source of data collection, with analysis conducted using SPSS software to interpret the quantitative data. The findings indicate a substantial understanding among respondents, which is essential for shaping Nepal's diplomatic strategies in bilateral, regional and multilateral relations. Thus, the research study conducted by the researcher, out of the total population of the international relations committee members of the House of Representatives, GoN (N) 27, (n) 26 sample sizes has been taken, and the findings from these respondents are analyses and discussed below in results and discussion section .

## LITERATURE REVIEW

Foreign policy is not a completely new concept in its true sense in the sphere of IR and foreign affairs of Nepal. Since antiquities it has been practiced by sovereign and independent States from five thousand years ago when there were only seventeen states in the International political system (Dahal, 2018). Though, the course of foreign policy and its importance of it in the contemporary IR have been persistently massive. Until the 1970s, in practice, the foreign policy has been defined as the political process.

The concept of foreign policy has also evolved over time; it encompasses a broad range of issues, such as national interest, security, economy, diplomacy, socio-culture, international organizations, power, human alliances, political alliances, etc. The growing interdependence and globalization of the world have made foreign policy an even more critical area of research study, as States must navigate a complex and ever-changing global landscape to achieve their national interests and objectives. According to Acharya (2014), ‘the foreign policy during Prithvi Narayan Shah’s time had five major components: unification of the nation, military build-up, cautious friendship with British India and China, balance between offensive and defensive approaches, and strengthening the national economy’ (Bastola, 2025). Nepal maintains a policy of neutrality between her neighbors has amicable relations with other countries in the region and has a policy of NAM on the global stage.

Foreign policy and development diplomacy are vital parts of Nepalese foreign affairs. It has been continuing since 1934 A.D., after the first formal establishment of foreign affairs in Lhasa (Tibet) and Patna (India). Program based diplomacy was started in the mid 1990s, including economic diplomacy (MoFA, 2022). Moreover, diplomacy for development became a new dimension of foreign policy after the restoration of democracy in 1990. Even though, May 26, 1850 the State visit of Junga Bahadur Rana to Great Britain was the founding stone of foreign relations and development of foreign policy and diplomacy in the history of Nepal.

Foreign policy is a set of policies and practices a nation-state or government adopts to govern and strengthen its relations with third countries, allies, and partners. Foreign policy typically safeguards a nation’s national interests, security, political objectives, and economic growth (Aryal et al., 2011, p.11). On the other hand, “foreign policy refers to the specific strategy or method adopted by a country’s government to accomplish its objectives in dealings with other countries” (Smith & Dunee, 2012). Jaiswal, further explains that “it encompasses the methods through which the central governments of independent nations establish relationships

with one another and with the global system to attain diverse goals or objectives” (Jaiswal, 2016).

### **Theoretical Review**

Foreign policy of Nepal is embedded in its constitution of Nepal 2015 article 5(1), 51 (m) (Constitution of Nepal 2015, p. 42) prioritizes sovereignty, territorial integrity and economic development, while adhering to principles such as NAM, *Panchsheel* and the UN Charter. Geographical positioned strategically between China and India, Nepal employs hedging and balancing strategies to navigate its relationships, engaging bilaterally with both neighbors and regionally through organizations like SAARC, BIMSTEC, SCO, BBIN, Indo-Pacific Strategy, as well as multilaterally via the UN and Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).

The geopolitical strategy of Nepal requires a cautious map-reading of global effervescent at the same time as prioritizing State’s national interests. The foreign policy of Nepal has been influenced by domestic political factors. Thus, researcher concentrated on how to manage power imbalances with diplomatic friendly States and the immediate neighbors China and India through proactive multilateralism and strategic alliances based on the small States power theory in response to politically instable country like Nepal. Hedging has been appears as a fundamental approach for preserving autonomy, by which provision of the contemporary politics of Nepal to balance its relationships and reduce the risks with major powers countries in maintaining the political world order.

In the lenses of realism, liberalism and constructivism further clarify how Nepal’s geopolitics shapes the interpretation of foreign State’s which enable to guide to sketch the outcome of foreign policy of Nepal. In its bilateral relations, particularly with China and India emphasizes economic cooperation and border management at the same time as determined to endorse its sovereignty. Additionally, ‘Nepal seeks to broaden its diplomatic ties with diplomatic friendly States, adhering to the motto of “amity with all, enmity with none,” “a good friend of all” in foreign policy’ (Chetri, 2020). Nepal’s engaged in various regional organizations, focusing on enhancing partnership and addressing common challenges in the regional level. Nepal has assured to multilateralism by actively engaging with Indo-Pacific Strategic Partnership, IPU, NAM and the UN foster global dialogue. Within this context, the respondents of the research study plays a vital role in shaping the foreign policy of Nepal, by reflecting the influence of political changes based on the various lenses of realism, liberalism and constructivism.

The article 5, has been stated regarding the national interest (The Constitution of Nepal, 2015, p.4) similarly article 51, has been stated as a guiding principle for policy formulations (p. 28-43). Nepal's geographical strategic position between China and India, the geopolitical implication is delicate; requires a careful balance of power to ensure security and developmental progress. Furthermore, economic diplomacy is indispensable for magnetizing investment, enhancing trade, while Nepal seeks to adapt its sustainable principles of NAM to navigate contemporary challenges of global politics and great power rivalry.

Thus, the IR and foreign policy of Nepal can be drawn through the spectrum of realism, liberalism and constructivism. First of all, realism accentuates 'the anarchic nature of the international system, where states prioritize their survival and power, often emphasizing military strength and national interests' (Morgenthau, 1948). Since its inception, Nepal has adhered to realist theory of IR, strategically positioning itself between its muscularly giant neighbors, as expressed by Prithvi Narayan Shah's metaphor of being "a yam between two boulders" (Dibya Upadesh, para 5, p. 5). Following 'the Treaty of Sugauli 1816, Nepal adopted a more cautious foreign policy' (Atique, 1983; Rose, 1971), 'focusing on maintaining robust defense mechanisms against potential treats, a stance reinforced by historical conflicts and ongoing territorial disputes' (Bastola, 2025, P. 239).

Secondly, liberalism accentuates 'the significance of international cooperation and economic interdependence as pathways to security' (Keohane & Nye, 1977). Nepal's engagement in regional organizations such as, BBIN, BEMISTIC, Economic Corridors, SAARC, SCO etc. and international forums like Indo-Pacific Strategic Partnership, IPU, the UN and WTO reflects its commitment to multilateralism and cooperative security. The diplomatic relations established by King Mahendra with China, India and the US 'exemplify a strategic shift towards economic diplomacy aimed at enhancing national security through interdependence' (Brown, 1996), thereby fostering strong economic ties and reducing dependency on any single nation.

Thirdly, the theory of constructivism in IR and foreign policy of Nepal accentuates 'the role of identity, norms and social structures in shaping State behavior, suggesting the historical narratives, cultural influences and domestic politics significantly impact foreign policy' (Wendt, 1992). In this perspective the evident in the development of Nepal's foreign policy, particularly regarding the role of national identity in its diplomatic initiatives in international political arena is effective. For instance, King Birendra's 'proposal for Nepal as a "Zone of Peace" during the NAM summit February 25, 1975, exemplifies how identity and



normative frameworks shape foreign policy decisions' (Acharya, 2014). Finally, the proposal aimed to position Nepal as a neutral entity accompanied by region conflicts, underscoring the significance of national identity in security policy formulation.

Nepal's adherence to NAM not only addresses its immediate security concerns but also enhances its image as a peace promoting nation on the global stage. Foreign policy of Nepal is shaped by her strategic geographical positioning between the two major powers, which explains her security concerns and focus on maintaining a balanced, neutral stance (Bastola, 2025).

These theoretical perspectives collectively support the understanding of Nepal's foreign policy, particularly in the context of its bilateral, regional and multilateral relations as explored in the research study.

### **Empirical Review**

Only after 1980s the materialization of precise concepts of foreign affairs is a comparatively contemporary improvement in the research study of IR and foreign policy of Nepal. The principal theoretical concern in the study of international relations and foreign policy is the extent to which development diplomacy is fixed to the state and public interests.

The foreign policy is also called external policy of the State that is a statute of political strategies and actions in interaction with other international partners' or the diplomatic friendly nations. It encompasses the ample array of objectives, including national interests, defense security, International Political Economy, diplomacy, socio-cultural relations, International Organizations, power, human alliances, political alliances, bilateral, regional and multilateral relations along with the knowledge and perception of the concerned body of the State authority. The promulgation of foreign policy is subjective by different factors such as state internal considerations, the behavior of foreign States, and geopolitical strategies, as well as the understanding of the respondents on the foreign policy of Nepal.

The general objective of the foreign policy of Nepal is to guide the activities and relationships of one State in its interactions with other States. The development of foreign policy is influenced by domestic considerations, the policies or behavior of other States, or plans to advance specific geopolitical designs. Diplomacy is the tool of foreign policy, war, alliances and international trade may all be manifestations of it. Foreign policy is a critical area of study in IR that seeks to explore how a State interacts with other States and non-state actors in the international political arena. Thus, it involves the formulation, implementation and evaluation of a country's strategy towards achieving its national interest and objectives.



## RESULTS AD DISCUSSION

The research study focuses on four key questions regarding the political enjoyment of respondents' political engagement within the context of foreign policy of Nepal. It examines three dimensions of IR- bilateral, regional and multilateral which highlighting their significance in the political practice of Nepal. This analysis aims to provide a comprehensive understanding on how the House of Representatives of the Government of Nepal navigates these relationships in realm of international politics, IR and foreign policy of Nepal.

### **Demographic Characteristic of International Relations Committee Members of the House of Representatives of the year 2080-2082 B.S**

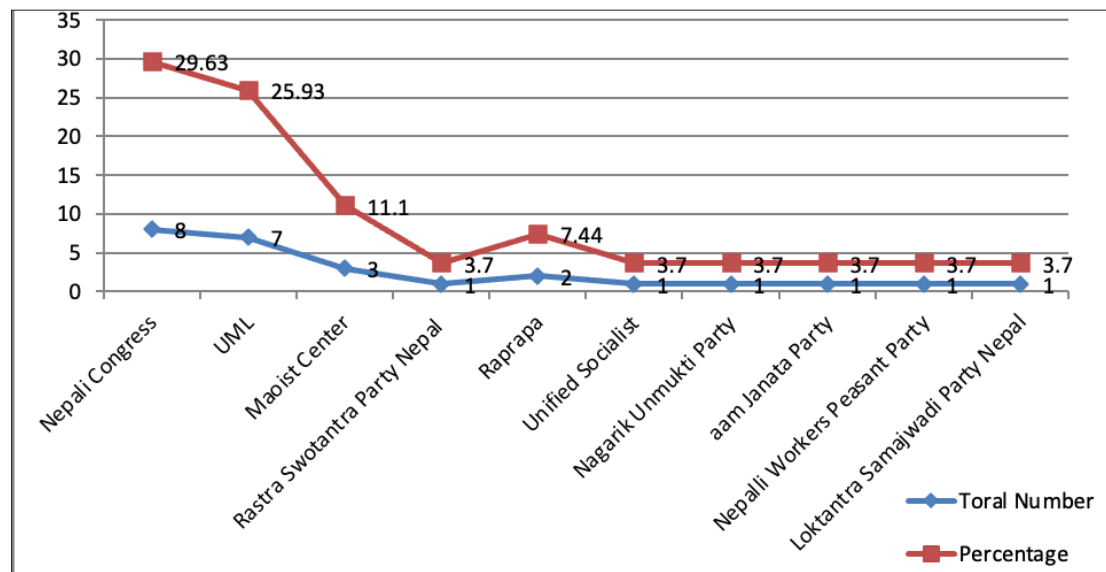
In present governance, the source of state power emanates from people and the sovereignty vested in people is exercised by people's representatives themselves is the spirit of the Constitution of Nepal, 2015, the interpretation of a core principle, primarily found in the Preamble and Article 2. Since the government is directly accountable to parliament in a parliamentary form of governance system, its activities and working styles are regularly discussed in parliament. Having regard to the workload of parliament, periodically running sessions, limited time, and incapability of conducting in-depth study in every organ, etc., parliament constitutes various thematic committees comprising its members in order to precede continuously regular and emergency functions of the parliament without lessening its role (Article 97).

The Constitution reserves parliament's unlimited power to constitute committees for important and necessary matters with the objective that the functions of the parliament are well performed in a smooth manner and that assistance is rendered in conducting the House by easily resolving the problems arising frequently. The Constitution of Nepal 2015, in Article 83, provides that there shall be a federal legislature consisting of two houses to be known as the House of the Representatives and the National Assembly, which shall be called the "Federal Parliament." Likewise, clause (1) of article 97 of the Constitution provides that the House of Representatives and the National Assembly may constitute committees pursuant to federal laws. The Constitution of Nepal, adopted in 2015, Part 8 Federal Legislature; Article 83 Federal Legislature states, 'there shall be a Federal Legislature consisting of two Houses to be known as the House of Representatives and the National Assembly, which shall be called as the Federal Parliament'. Clouse (1) of the article 84 states, 'the House of Representatives shall consist of a total of 275 members'. Clause (1) (a) states, 'there shall be 165 (60%) of the total members are elected through first-past-the-post (FPTP) electoral system, with one being

elected from each of 165 election constituencies delimited in Nepal on the basis of population and geographical convenience and specificity; and clause (1) (b) 110 (40%) members are elected through the proportional electoral system where voters vote for political parties with the whole country being considered as a single election constituency' (Constitution of Nepal, 2015). Clause (1) of the Article 97 Constitution of Committees : states, ' the House of Representatives and the National Assembly may constitute as provided for the federal law' (Constitution of Nepal, 2015).

**Figure 1**

*Demographic Characteristics of International Relations Committee Members of the Year 2080-2082 B.S*



*Note:* Field Survey 2024 on International Relations Committee Members of House of Representatives, GoN

As per the provision referred to in the House of the Representatives Rules, 2018, the parliamentary committees to be formed, in order to render assistance to the regular work of the House of the Representatives, to make the GoN accountable and responsible to the House of the Representatives, to give necessary direction, and to provide opinion and advice after monitoring and evaluating the act and activities carried out by the government and to achieve the objective under article 97 of the Constitution, do stand as a mini parliament. Out of the ten thematic committees of the House of Representatives, the international relations committee is one of the important committees. In respect to the meeting of the committee, the chairperson

of the committee calls the meeting of the committee as required. However, the meeting of the committee is in recess, if one-fourth of the members of the committee request in writing to the chairperson with an agenda for discussion that it is appropriate to call the meeting, the chairperson have to fix within five days the date and time for the meeting. The chairperson presides over the meeting of the committee, and in his absence, the member chosen from amongst the members themselves shall preside over the meeting of the committee. The quorum of the committee is fifty-one percent of the total number of members of the committee. If no quorum is constituted in a meeting of the committee, the chairperson of the committee may withhold the work of the meeting until the quorum is constituted or withhold the meeting for another time or day. However, if the meeting of the committee is adjourned for two times consecutively for lack of quorum, the meeting may take place for the third time if at least one-fourth of the members are present.

**Table 1**

*Political Involvement*

		Frequency	Percent
	Domestic	11	40.7
	Regional	1	3.7
	Global	8	29.6
	Total	20	74.1
Missing	System	7	25.9
Total		27	100.0

*Note:* Field Survey 2024 on International Relations Committee Members of House of Representatives, GoN

The observed demographic characteristics of international relations committee members of the House of Representatives from the years 2080-82 show that the respondents political practice and their political involvement findings show that 40.7% are involved in domestic politics, 3.7% are involved in regional politics, and 29.6% are involved in global politics; likewise, 25.9% of the data is missing due to respondents failing to respond to the questionnaire, respectively.

The international relations committee members of the House of Representatives engage in a range of practices that facilitate their involvement in domestic politics while addressing international issues. Their work aims to ensure that foreign policy aligns with the needs and priorities of the Nepalese. Similarly engage in a range of practices that involve legislation, advocacy, constituent engagement, and collaboration with political parties and civil society. The above finding rates the behaviors of respondents and their role in shaping domestic politics

and addressing the needs of the State's national issues. In respect to the regional engagement, the respondents rate a range of practice that underline on enhancing Nepal's regional political involvement through diplomatic engagement, policy formulation, security cooperation, and various forms of diplomacy. Their effort aims to reinforce Nepal's position in the regional political development and landscape while addressing common challenges collaboratively. It seems that Nepal's global political involvement is through advocacy, diplomacy, policy formulation, and engagement with IOs and international communities. Their efforts aim to position Nepal as a proactive player on the global stage while addressing both national and international concerns. In the entire development, 'Foreign policy involves goals, strategies, measures, methods, guidelines, directives, understandings, agreements and so on, by which national government conduct IR with each other and with IO and nongovernment actors' (Carlsnaes, 2002; Gautam, 2014).

The statistic tool to measure the chi-square test, SPSS, is used, which shows that the 33 cells (100%) have an expected count less than 5. The minimum count is 05. The standardized statistic is 0.869. Hence, the expected count or value is less than the standardized statistic value. Thus, from the data outcome, we come to conclude that the null hypothesis is rejected and the alternative hypothesis is accepted. Hence, the respondents enjoy more domestic political involvement. Thus, the research finding shows that the respondents are more likely to enjoy their domestic politics rather than the global and regional politics for the effective execution of the foreign policy of Nepal.

## Bilateral Relations

**Table 2**

### *Bilateral Relations*

		Frequency	Percent
Missing	Fair	6	18.6
	Good	14	55.6
	Total	20	74.1
	System	7	25.9
Total		27	100.0

*Note:* Field Survey 2024 on International Relations Committee Members of House of Representatives, GoN

The observed demographic characteristic of the respondent's rate of the bilateral relations in Nepal in terms of foreign policy shows that 51.9% are good and 22.2% are fair,

likewise, 25.9% of the data is missing due to respondents failing to respond to the questionnaire, respectively.

Bilateral relations are the critical factor in shaping the foreign policy of Nepal. Here's how they can be assessed: basically Nepal-India, Nepal-China, Nepal-US and Nepal-EU relations appear vital in terms of bilateral relations. In which the relationship with India is paramount due to historical, cultural, and economic ties. India is Nepal's largest trade partner and a key provider of aid and investment and vice versa china is equally potential in this respect. Bilateral relations with India significantly influence Nepal's domestic politics and foreign policy decisions.

Even though, bilateral relations between China and Nepal in recent years, Nepal has sought to strengthen its ties with China, particularly through economic investments and infrastructure projects under the BRI. This shift reflects Nepal's desire to diversify its foreign relations and reduce dependency on India. Bilateral relations often include security cooperation, which is essential for Nepal's political and economic stability. Agreements with India on defense and intelligence sharing are vital for addressing security concerns, while growing ties with China may also introduce new dimensions to Nepal's security setting. Likewise, economic partnerships, bilateral trade agreements, and economic cooperation are crucial for Nepal's development. By fostering strong economic ties, Nepal aims to improve trade, attract investment, and enhance infrastructure development, by which it impacting its overall foreign policy. On the other hand, cultural diplomacy plays a significant role in bilateral relations, particularly with China and UK in the past and India and US at present. People-to-people connections, educational exchanges, and cultural initiatives strengthen ties and foster goodwill, which can have positive consequences for foreign policy. Similarly, regional influence of bilateral relations also executed in Southern subcontinent neighboring countries, such as Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Pakistan, the Maldives and Sri Lanka. Strengthening these relationships enhances Nepal's regional influence and contributes to multilateral initiatives aimed at fostering cooperation and stability in South Asia.

The statistical tool to measure the chi-square test, SPSS, is used. The 22 cells (100%) have an expected count less than 5. In which the minimum expected count is 0.25, likewise, the standardized statistic count value is 0.893. Hence, the expected count is less than the standardized statistic value, which means the null hypothesis is rejected and the alternative hypothesis is accepted. Thus, the respondent understanding's rate on bilateral relations is comparatively good in terms of IR and foreign policy of Nepal.

Hence, such relations are the fundamental aspect of the foreign policy of Nepal, shaping its security cooperation, economic strategies and cultural exchanges. By managing these relationships effectively, Nepal seeks to enhance its national interests and navigate the complexities of regional and global political practices.

## Regional Relations

**Table 3**

*Regional Relations*

		Frequency	Percent
	Fair	6	22.2
	Good	13	48.1
	Excellent	1	3.7
	Total	20	100.0
Missing	System	7	25.9
Total		27	100.0

*Note:* Field Survey 2024

The demographic characteristic of the respondent's rate of the regional relations in Nepal in terms of foreign policy shows that 3.7% rated it excellent, 48.1% rated it good, and 22.2% rated it fair, respectively.

Regional relations are a significant factor in shaping the foreign policy of Nepal. Here's an assessment of their importance: In terms of geopolitical context, Nepal's location between India and China makes regional relations crucial. The need to balance these two powerful neighbors influences many of Nepal's diplomatic strategies and foreign policy decisions. Nepal, as a member of SAARC, engages in regional initiatives aimed at fostering economic integration, political stability, and collaboration on common challenges, such as climate change and poverty. On the other hand, Nepal's involvement in BIMSTEC, BBIN and SCO enhances its regional connectivity and economic collaboration with Southeast Asian nations and Northern bloc, promoting trade and investment opportunities. Thus, the regional security concerns, such as terrorism and cross-border crime, are essential for Nepal. Regional cooperation through platforms like BIMSTEC, BBIN, SAARC and SCO helps Nepal work with neighboring countries to enhance collective security. The respondent understanding's rate on regional relations is comparatively very good in terms of IR and foreign policy of Nepal.

The statistical tool to measure the chi-square test, SPSS, is used. The 44 cells (100%) have expected counts less than 5. In which the minimum expected count is .05, likewise,

the standardized statistic count value is 1.123. Hence, the expected count is less than the standardized statistic value, which means the null hypothesis is accepted and the alternative hypothesis is rejected. Thus, the respondent understanding's rate on regional relations is comparatively good in terms of IR and foreign policy of Nepal.

Therefore, regional relations are a fundamental aspect of the foreign policy of Nepal, influencing its diplomatic strategies, economic collaboration, and security initiatives. By active engagement with its neighbors and regional organizations, Nepal aims to enhance stability, promote economic growth and navigate the complexities of its geopolitical landscape.

## Multilateral Relations

**Table 4**

*Multilateral Relations*

		Frequency	Percent
Missing	Poor	2	7.4
	Fair	7	25.9
	Good	11	40.7
	Total	20	74.1
	System	7	25.9
Total		27	100.00

*Note:* Field Survey 2024 on International Relations Committee Members of House of Representatives, GoN

The demographic characteristic of the respondent's rate on the multilateral relations in Nepal in terms of foreign policy shows that 49.7% rated it good, 25.9% rated it fair, and 7.4% rated it poor, respectively.

Researcher observed that multilateral relations are the fundamental dynamic in shaping the IR and foreign policy of Nepal. By the assessment of their significance in global engagement of multilateral relations that allows Nepal to engage with a wider range of international communities and IOs, enhancing its global presence and influence. Participating in forums like IPU, Indo-Pacific Strategy and the UN enables Nepal to advocate for its interests and contribute to global discussions. Through multilateral organizations such as Asian Development Bank, IMF, World Bank and World Trade Organizations, Nepal secures funding and technical support for development projects. These relationships are important for addressing economic challenges and improving infrastructure of Nepal. In practices Nepal has a strong tradition of contributing to UN peacekeeping missions. This involvement not only enhances Nepal's



international reputation but also strengthens its diplomatic ties with other nations committed to peace and security in international politics. The issues of balancing power dynamics, the multilateral relations allow Nepal to navigate the complex dynamics between larger powers like China or US. By participating in various international frameworks, Nepal can assert its sovereignty and pursue a balanced foreign policy for equal dignity in international politics and international relations.

The SPSS software is used to measure the chi-square test. The 33 cells (100%) have expected counts less than 5. In which the minimum expected count is 0.15, likewise, the standardized statistic count value is 0.079. Hence, the expected count is greater than the standardized statistic value, which means the null hypothesis is accepted and the alternative hypothesis is rejected. Thus, the respondent understanding's rate on multilateral relations is comparatively good in terms of IR and foreign policy of Nepal.

At last, multilateral relations are accepted as a fundamental part of Nepal's foreign policy, which facilitates global engagement, securing development assistance, and contributing to international peacekeeping efforts for global peace and security based on the principle of Buddha diplomacy. By actively participating in multilateral frameworks, Nepal aims to enhance its diplomatic influence and address national and regional challenges effectively.

## CONCLUSIONS

Foreign policy of Nepal efforts on multifaceted issues has become more intricate due to the large number of factors and the diversity of cultures and diplomatic styles. Together with a weakening commitment to multilateralism, this is making it harder to reach agreement and leading to increasingly unpredictable outcomes. These examples also illustrate another significant new development in IR: the way in which IOs are becoming important players in multi-stakeholder diplomacy, as shown by their involvement in bilateral, regional, and multilateral summits and various interagency arrangements. This is very much the case with diplomatic efforts on foreign policy of Nepal. The examples further serve to illustrate synergistic diplomacy, which is yet another feature of contemporary global foreign policy in respect to IR. In the context of bilateral relations it found that 55.64% good, and 18.5% fair; in the context of regional relations it found that 3.7% excellent, 48.13% good, 22.2% fair. Finally, in the context of multilateral relations, it is found that 40.7% are good, 25.9% are fair, and 7.4% are poor, respectively.

Since the foreign policy Nepal is the priority sector approach that seems to be strategically successful. This study highlighted the complex nature of state behavior in the IR and international political system based on bilateral, regional and multilateral relations of Nepal. Foreign policy decisions often have significant implication for the global political milieu, underscoring the significant careful and strategic decision-making. Thus, such decision-making are formed by a range of factors, including domestic politics, national interests, and international politics and geographic consideration.

Theoretical and empirical approaches provide a framework for analyzing and understanding State behavior in the international political system, IR and foreign policy dynamics. Realism, liberalism and constructivism theory of IR offer different perspectives of State behavior, emphasizing the importance of power, institutions and idea in reshaping foreign policy decisions. Hence, the foreign policy is the critical areas of research study in IR and international politics that seeks to explore how a State interacts with other States and non state actors in the global sphere. It engages in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of a State's strategy towards achieving its national interests and objectives.

Thus, foreign policy of Nepal is exemplifying by a careful equilibrium of bilateral, regional and multilateral interactions, with a primary focus on maintained its sovereignty, fostering economic growth and contributing to global peace. Bilaterally, Nepal prioritizes strengthening relationships with China and India, grounded in principles of sovereign equality, mutual benefit and non-interference. These approaches broaden to foreign policy, where Nepal leverages its relationships to enhance security, trade and investment to safeguarding the nation's interests. Additionally, Nepal is committed to peacefully unresolved border disputes with its neighbors. In regional level, Nepal actively advocates for cooperation and collaboration through organizations such as BIMSTEC, BBIN, SAARC and SCO among others, reinforcing its role in promoting regional stability and cooperation. Nepal actively engaged in multilateral relations to further its national interests, participating in various international forums. Since becoming a member of UN in 1955 and IPU in 1967, Nepal has been involved in numerous UN agencies and initiatives, focusing on critical areas such a world peace, disarmament, human rights, sustainable development, climate change and the rights of landlocked and least developed countries. Finally, the research indicates that international relations committee members of the House of Representatives tend to sustain domestic politics over regional and global issues when it comes to the effective implementation of foreign policy of Nepal in international order. Their understanding of bilateral relations is notably strong, highlighting

the importance of these connections in commonly shaping Nepal's diplomatic relations. By effectively managing bilateral ties with diplomatic friendly nations, Nepal aims to strengthen its national interests while navigating the complexities of regional and global political milieu. Similarly, respondents demonstrate a concrete grasp of regional relations, which play a critical role in influencing Nepal's diplomatic strategies. Furthermore, the understanding of multilateral relations among respondents is commendable, underscoring their significance in facilitating global engagement.

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