

# The 6th BRITACOF

Shared Progress in Taxpayer Service for a Better Business Environment

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### Tax Rule of Law Governance in Nepal:

Building a Fair, Modern and Cooperative Tax System

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Introduction **CONTENT Tax Legal System Tax Rule of Law Environment Deepening Tax Cooperation Tax policy Support** 

### Tax Rule of Law Governance

Rule of Law: Limits of Legislation,
Transparency, Accountability and Fairness

#### Tax Rule of Law Governance:

Taxes are levied only as per law,
Taxpayers' rights are protected,
Tax obligations are clear, predictable and enforceable,
Tax administration is transparent and free from undue influence

Focus Areas: Tax Legal System, Tax Rule of Law Environment,
Deepening Tax Cooperation, Tax Policy Support

# Tax Legal System in Nepal

- Tax Legislation:
  - Income Tax Act and Regulation: Self Assessment System
  - Value Added Tax Act and Regulation: Destination Principle
  - Excise Act: Production and Imports of Goods
- Tax Administration
  - Inland Revenue Department
    - Large Taxpayer Office 1
    - Medium Level Taxpayer Offices 2
    - Inland Revenue Offices 47
    - Tax Service Offices 35

### Tax Policy Guided By:

- Five Year Annual Plan
- Domestic Revenue

Mobilization Strategy - DRMS

Annual Finance Acts

# Tax Legal System in Nepal

#### **Current Status**

- Revenue Growth: Increased but below potential
- Tax Base Expansion
- Digitalization Efforts:
  - Online Filing,
  - E-registration,
  - E-payment,
  - E-billing
- Major Challenges:
- Weak Enforcement and Tax Evasion
- Complex Tax Laws
- Frequent Change in Tax Policies

### Tax Rule of Law Environment in Nepal

### **Improving Tax Certainty**

- Efforts to minimize frequent tax policy changes
- Directives, Guidelines, Circulars for clarity
- Advance Ruling and Guidance for tax payers on complex transactions
   Enhancing Taxpayer Compliance
  - Digitalization: Simplified Tax Procedure, digital platforms like Online Tax Filing, e-registration, e-payment....
  - Awareness Programs: Tax Payer Education Programs
  - · Risk Based Audits: Focus on high risk sectors/taxpayers

### Tax Rule of Law Environment in Nepal

### Safeguarding Taxpayer Rights

- Access to appeal Mechanisms: Taxpayer can challenge IRD decisions
- . Confidentiality: Taxpayer information

#### **Preventing Tax Risks**

- Anti-Evasion Measures: Penalties for fraud and underreporting
- Transfer Pricing Provisions: control profit shifting by multinationals
- Data Analytics: Adopting Technology to detect non-compliance
- General Anti-avoidance Rule

## Deepening Tax Cooperation in Nepal

#### Multilateral Tax Coordination Mechanisms

- SAARC/Regional Cooperation
- Working on building mechanism for global tax reforms
- Collaboration with int'l organizations (IMF,WB..) for capacity building
   Improvement of Tax Treaties
  - DTAA network expansion: DTAA with 11 countries
  - Modernization of Treaties: working to make domestic model treaty
  - Ongoing negotiations with key investment partners

### **Strengthening Tax Dispute Resolution**

- Mutual Agreement Procedure (MAP)
- Plans to introduce Advance Pricing Agreements (APA) and safe harbor rule guidelines

## Tax Policy Support in Nepal

### **Supporting the Digital Economy**

- E-commerce Taxation: Vat and Digital Service Tax on cross-boarder digital services since 2023
- Digital Service Providers: Requirement of foreign platforms to register and remit taxes
- Incentives for Technical Startup: Tax holidays and reduced Tax rate for IT/software companies
- Digital Payment promotion: 10 percent VAT refund
- Threshold of Rs. 50,000 for Cash Transaction

## Tax Policy Support in Nepal

#### **Promoting Green Economic Development**

- Tax exemptions for solar/wind energy projects
- Concession rate on IT Industries/Parks
- Concession rate on EV Production/Assemble industry
- Excise and VAT free on EV Charging Station Equipment production and assemble
- Income Tax free on Green Hydrogen Industries, Excise free on machines
- VAT free on E-riksa (three wheeler EV) production
- pollution control: High excise duty on fossil fuel vehicles

