COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

MEMBER/OFFICER POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM ☐ *Original* ☐ *Amendment*

This form is for disclosing the receipt of travel expenses from a private source for travel taken in connection with a Member or officer's official duties. This form does not eliminate the need to report privately-funded travel on the Member or officer's annual *Financial Disclosure Statement*. In accordance with House Rule 25, clause 5, **you must complete this form and *file it with the Clerk of the House by email at gifttravelreports@mail.house.gov*, within 15 days after travel is completed.** Please ***do not*** file this form with the Committee on Ethics.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

1. Name of Traveler: Emilia Sykes
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: Kevin Boyce ***OR*** ☐ None
   b. Relationship to Traveler: ■ Spouse ☐ Child ☐ Other (specify): _____
3. a. Dates: Departure: April 6 Return: April 14
   b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: _____ ***OR*** ☐ None
4. Departure City: Cleveland Destination: Nepal/Bhutan Return City: DC
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: United Nations Foundation
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended (attach additional pages if necessary): Agenda attached to email.
7. Attached to this form are ***each*** of the following, *signify that each item is attached by checking the corresponding box*:
   a. ■ a completed *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form*;
   b. ■ the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* completed by the trip sponsor ***prior*** to the trip, ***including all*** attachments ***and*** the *Additional Sponsor Form(s)*;
   c. ■ page 2 of the completed *Traveler Form* submitted by the Member or officer; ***and***
   d. ■ the letter from the Committee on Ethics approving my participation on this trip.
8. a. ■ I represent that I participated in each of the activities reflected in the attached sponsor's agenda. *Signify statement is true by checking the box.*
   b. If not, explain: _____

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge. I have determined that all of the expenses on the attached *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form* were necessary and that the travel was in connection with my duties as a Member or officer of the U.S. House of Representatives and would not create the appearance that I am using public office for private gain.

Member / Officer Signature: _____

Date: April 24, 2026

last updated 7/2023

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

SPONSOR POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM

☒ *Original* ☐ *Amendment*

This form must be completed by an officer of any organization that served as the primary trip sponsor in providing travel expenses or reimbursement for travel expenses to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. **A completed copy of the form must be provided to each House Member, officer, or employee who participated in the trip *within 10 days of their return.*** You must answer all questions, and check all boxes, on this form for your submission to comply with House Rules and the Committee's Travel Regulations. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the denial of future requests to sponsor trips and/or subject the current traveler to disciplinary action or a requirement to repay the trip expenses.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

1. Sponsor(s) who paid or provided in-kind support for the trip: United Nations Foundation
2. Travel Destination(s): Kathmandu, Nepal; Lumbini, Nepal; and Thimphu, Bhutan
3. Date of Departure: Monday, April 6 Date of Return: Tuesday, April 14
4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): Emilia Sykes and Kevin Boyce

   Note: You may list more than one traveler on a form only if ***all*** information is ***identical*** for each person listed.
5. **Actual amount** of expenses paid on behalf of, or reimbursed to, each individual named in Question 4:

	Total **Transportation** Expenses	Total **Lodging** Expenses	Total **Meal** Expenses	Total **Other** Expenses (dollar amount per item and description)
Traveler	$18,882.85	$1,518.66	$466.32	$30.00 (Nepal visa) $16.24 (Nepal tour guide and entrance fees) $57.56 (Bhutan tour guide and entrance fees)
Accompanying Family Member	$18,882.85	$0	$466.32	$30.00 (Nepal visa) $16.24 (Nepal tour guide and entrance fees) $57.56 (Bhutan tour guide and entrance fees)

6. ☒ All expenses connected to the trip were for actual costs incurred and not a *per diem* or lump sum payment. *Signify statement is true by checking box.*

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: [signature] **Date:** April 23, 2026

Name: Peter Yeo **Title:** Senior Vice President

Organization: United Nations Foundation

☒ ***I am an officer of the above-named organization. Signify statement is true by checking box.***

Address: 1750 Pennsylvania Ave NW Suite 300 Washington, DC 20006

Telephone: 202-887-9040 **Email:** pyeo@unfoundation.org

Committee staff may contact the above-named individual if additional information is required.

If you have questions regarding your completion of this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103.

last updated 7/2023

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Emilia Sykes

2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip: United Nations Foundation

3. City and State **OR** Foreign Country of Travel: Kathmandu, Nepal; Lumbini, Nepal; Thimphu, Bhutan

4. a. Date of Departure: April 6, 2026 Date of Return: April 14, 2026

   b. Yes ☐ No ■ Will you be extending the trip at your personal expense?

   If yes, list dates at personal expense: _____

5. a. Yes ■ No ☐ Will you be accompanied by a family member at the sponsor's expense? **If yes:**

   (1) Name of Accompanying Family Member: Kevin Boyce

   (2) Relationship to Traveler: ■ Spouse ☐ Child ☐ Other (specify): _____

   (3) Yes ■ No ☐ Accompanying Family Member is at least 18 years of age?

6. a. Yes ☐ No ■ Did the trip sponsor answer "Yes" to Question 8(c) on the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* (i.e., travel is sponsored by an entity that employs a registered federal lobbyist or a foreign agent)?

   b. **If yes**, and you are requesting lodging for two nights, explain why the second night is warranted:

7. Yes ■ No ☐ *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* is attached, including agenda, invitation, invitee list, and any other attachments and Additional Sponsor Forms.

   NOTE: The agenda should show the traveler's individual schedule, including departure and arrival times and identify the specific events in which the traveler will be participating.

8. Explain why participation in the trip is connected to the traveler's individual official or representational duties. **Staff should include their job title and how the activities on the itinerary relate to their duties.**

   This trip will allow Rep. Sykes to learn from Nepalese and Bhutanese leaders to strengthen US-Nepal and US-Bhutan relationships. This will also connect to her policy work on Science, Space, and Technology Committee looking at weather and natural disaster response, public health, and food security. Rep. Sykes also has a significant Nepalese and Bhutanese population in her district.

9. **Yes ☐ No ■ Is the traveler aware of any registered federal lobbyists or foreign agents involved in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip?**

10. For staff travelers, to be completed by your employing Member:

ADVANCED AUTHORIZATION OF EMPLOYEE TRAVEL

I hereby authorize the individual named above, an employee of the U.S. House of Representatives who works under my direct supervision, to accept expenses for the trip described in this request. I have determined that the above-described travel is in connection with my employee's official duties and that acceptance of these expenses will not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Signature of Employing Member: _____ **Date:** 03/09/26

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

PRIMARY TRIP SPONSOR FORM

This form should be completed by private entities offering to provide travel or reimbursement for travel to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. A completed copy of the form (and any attachments) should be provided to each invited House Member, officer, or employee, who will then forward it to the Committee together with a *Traveler Form* **at least 30 days before the start date of the trip**. The trip sponsor should *NOT* submit the form directly to the Committee. The Committee's website (ethics.house.gov) provides detailed instructions for filling out the form. The Committee will notify the House invitees directly of its decision and will not notify the trip sponsors.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Failure to comply with the Committee's Travel Regulations may also lead to the denial of permission to sponsor future trips. Signatures must comply with section 104(bb) of the Travel Regulations.

1. Sponsor who will be paying for the trip:

   United Nations Foundation

2. ☒ I represent that the trip will not be financed, in whole or in part, by a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent. *Signify that the statement is true by checking box.*

3. ***Check only one.*** I represent that:
   a. ☐ The primary trip sponsor has not accepted from any other source, funds intended directly or indirectly to finance any aspect of the trip; **OR**
   b. ☐ The trip is arranged without regard to congressional participation and the primary trip sponsor has accepted funds only from entities that will receive a tangible benefit in exchange for those funds; **OR**
   c. ☒ The primary trip sponsor has accepted funds, services, or in-kind assistance from other source(s) intended directly or indirectly to finance all or part of this trip and has enclosed disclosure forms from each of those entities.
   If "c" is checked, list the names of the additional sponsors: Eleanor Crook Foundation

4. Provide names and titles of **ALL** House Members *and* employees you are inviting. **For each House invitee, provide an explanation of why the individual was invited** (include additional pages if necessary): Please see attached.

5. Yes ☒ No ☐ Is travel being offered to an accompanying family member of the House invitee(s)?

6. Date of Departure: April 6, 2026 Date of Return: April 14, 2026

7. a. City of departure: Washington, DC (or members' districts)
   b. Destination(s): Kathmandu, Nepal; Lumbini, Nepal; Thimphu, Bhutan
   c. City of return: Washington, DC

8. ***Check only one.*** I represent that
   a. ☐ The sponsor of the trip is an institution of higher education within the meaning of section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965; **OR**
   b. ☒ The sponsor of the trip does not retain or employ a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent; **OR**
   c. ☐ The sponsor employs or retains a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but the trip is for attendance at a one-day event *and* lobbyist / foreign agent involvement in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the Committee's travel regulations.

9. ***Check only one of the following.***
   a. ☒ I checked 8(a) or (b) above; **OR**
   b. ☐ I checked 8(c) above but am not offering any lodging; **OR**
   c. ☐ I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for one night; **OR**
   d. ☐ I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for two nights. If you checked this box, explain why the second night of lodging is warranted. _____

10. ☒ Attached is a detailed agenda of the activities House invitees will be participating in during the travel (i.e., an hourly description of planned activities for trip invitees). *Indicate agenda is attached by checking box.*
11. ***Check only one of the following.***
   a. ☒ I represent that a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent will not accompany House Members or employees on any segment of the trip. *Signify the statement is true by clicking the box;* **OR**
   b. ☐ *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is a U.S. institution of higher education.
12. For ***each*** sponsor required to submit a sponsor form, describe the sponsor's interest in the subject matter of the trip ***and*** its role in organizing and/or conducting the trip:
   Please see attached.
13. ***Answer parts a and b. Answer part c if necessary***:
   a. Mode of travel: Air ☒ Rail ☐ Bus ☒ Car ☒ Other ☐ (specify:_____)
   b. Class of travel: Coach ☒ Business ☒ First ☐ Charter ☐ Other ☐ (specify:_____)
   c. If travel will be first class, or by chartered or private aircraft, explain why such travel is warranted:
14. ☒ I represent that the expenditures related to local area travel during the trip will be unrelated to personal or recreational activities of the invitee(s). *Signify that the statement is true by checking box.*
15. ***Check only one.*** I represent that either:
   a. ☐ The trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation and that meals provided to congressional participants are similar to those provided to or purchased by other event attendees; **OR**
   b. ☒ The trip involves events that are arranged specifically *with regard* to congressional participation. If "b" is checked:
      1) Detail the cost *per day* of meals (approximate cost may be provided): $102
      2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: Please see attached.
16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:
   Hotel Name: Kathmandu Marriott City: Kathmandu, Nepal Cost Per Night: $204
   Reason(s) for Selecting: Favorable rate and location.
   Hotel Name: Pemako Thimphu City: Thimphu, Bhutan Cost Per Night: $280
   Reason(s) for Selecting: Favorable rate and location.
   Hotel Name: _____ City: _____ Cost Per Night: _____
   Reason(s) for Selecting: _____

17. ☒ I represent that all expenses connected to the trip will be for actual costs incurred and not a per diem or lump sum payment. *Signify that the statement is true by checking the box.*

18. **Total Expenses for each Participant:**

☐ Actual Amounts ☒ Good Faith Estimates	Total **Transportation** Expenses per Participant	Total **Lodging** Expenses per Participant	Total **Meal** Expenses per Participant
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	$14,000	$1,452	$561
For each Accompanying Family Member	$14,000	$0	$561

	Other Expenses (dollar amount per item)	Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	$30; $50	Nepal visa; Museum entrance fees/guide costs
For each Accompanying Family Member		

19. ***Check only one:***
    a. ☒ I certify that I am an officer of the organization listed below; **OR**
    b. ☐ *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is an individual or a U.S. institution of higher education.

20. **I certify by my signature that**
    a. **I read and understand the Committee's Travel Regulations;**
    b. **I am not a registered federal lobbyist or registered foreign agent; and**
    c. **The information on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.**

Signature: _____ Date: March 6, 2026

Name: Peter Yeo Title: Senior Vice President

Organization: United Nations Foundation

Address: 1750 Pennsylvania Ave NW Suite 300 Washington, DC 20006

Email: pyeo@unfoundation.org Telephone: 202-887-9040

If there are questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or travel.requests@mail.house.gov.

UN Foundation Congressional Learning Trip to Nepal and Bhutan
Answers to Primary Trip Sponsor Form Questions 4, 12, and 15b2

4. Names and titles of all House invitees and explanation of why the individual was invited:

The following individuals have been invited to participate in this learning trip to Nepal and Bhutan because they work on issues related to U.S. foreign policy, U.S.-Asia relations, international development, agriculture, nutrition, global health, international organizations, and/or associated subjects.

Rep. Bill Huizenga
Rep. Jefferson Shreve
Rep. Michael Baumgartner
Rep. Maria Salazar
Rep. Laurel Lee
Rep. Brad Knott
Rep. Darin LaHood
Rep. Ben Cline
Rep. Warren Davidson
Rep. Thomas Kean
Rep. Stephanie Bice
Rep. Celeste Maloy
Rep. Sheri Biggs
Rep. Zach Nunn
Rep. Mark Harris
Rep. Rob Bresnahan Jr.
Rep. James Moylan
Rep. Dale Strong
Rep. Dave Taylor
Rep. Mark Messmer
Rep. Tony Wied
Rep. Monica De La Cruz
Rep. Brad Finstad
Rep. Tom Barrett
Rep. Gabe Evans
Rep. Jeff Hurd
Rep. Riley Moore
Rep. Austin Scott
Rep. Ann Wagner
Rep. French Hill
Rep. Claudia Tenney
Rep. Rick Crawford
Rep. Mike Carey
Rep. Jay Obernolte
Rep. Katherine Clark
Rep. Grace Meng

Rep. Joaquin Castro
Rep. Sarah McBride
Rep. Glenn Ivey
Rep. Frank Mrvan
Rep. Joe Morelle
Rep. Sydney Kamlager-Dove
Rep. Adam Smith
Rep. Eugene Vindman
Rep. Chellie Pingree
Rep. Yassamin Ansari
Rep. Lucy McBath
Rep. Jill Tokuda
Rep. Shontel Brown
Rep. Kweisi Mfume
Rep. Emilia Sykes
Rep. Joe Neguse
Rep. April McClain Delaney
Rep. John Mannion
Rep. Rosa DeLauro
Rep. Kristen McDonald Rivet
Rep. Herb Conaway
Rep. Derek Tran
Rep. Jim McGovern
Rep. Jim Himes
Rep. Josh Gottheimer
Rep. Gabe Vasquez
Rep. Jason Crow
Rep. Nikki Budzinski
Rep. Salud Carbajal
Rep. Hank Johnson
Anna McDonald, Policy Advisor, Rep. Sydney Kamlager Dove

12. Description of the sponsor's interest in the subject matter of the trip and its role in organizing and/or conducting the trip:

The UN Foundation (UNF) works to educate all Americans, including the U.S. Congress, on the importance of a strong U.S.-UN relationship, with a focus on interconnected issues such as global health, nutrition, sustainable development, and peace and security. This learning trip provides an opportunity for policymakers to better understand bilateral and multilateral efforts to strengthen health systems, respond to food insecurity and nutrition challenges, protect cultural and religious heritage, enhance disaster preparedness, advance economic growth, and promote good governance in Nepal and Bhutan.

The Eleanor Crook Foundation (ECF) was founded in 1997 with a single goal: to eradicate global malnutrition. ECF invests in research that proves what methods work, policy analysis to drive systems reform, and advocacy that makes the case for urgent action to address this global

crisis. In 2017, the Foundation pledged $100 million towards the elimination of global malnutrition.

UNF is organizing all aspects of the program/logistics. UNF handles all outreach to congressional offices and is the contact for planning purposes. UNF received a grant from ECF to partially support this trip. ECF has not played any role in organizing this trip and has not been involved in the selection or invitation of the trip participants.

15b2. Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip:

Bhutan and Nepal have made meaningful progress in development over the past two decades, but both countries continue to face structural challenges linked to geography, inequality, and economic transition. Nepal, still recovering from the long-term effects of the 2015 earthquake and periodic political instability, struggles with limited infrastructure in its mountainous and rural regions, high rates of labor migration, and uneven access to services. Bhutan, while praised for its Gross National Happiness philosophy and relatively strong social indicators, faces constraints due to its small economy, youth unemployment, reliance on hydropower exports, and vulnerability to extreme weather.

In both countries, remote terrain makes road access, service delivery, and market connectivity difficult, slowing inclusive development and increasing disparities between urban centers and rural communities. Health and nutrition challenges remain significant, particularly in rural and marginalized populations. Nepal has reduced maternal and child mortality, yet malnutrition persists, with stunting and anemia affecting many children and women, especially in poorer provinces. Access to quality healthcare can be limited by distance, staffing shortages, and out-of-pocket costs. Bhutan provides free basic healthcare, but non-communicable diseases such as hypertension and diabetes are rising, while some remote communities still face gaps in specialized care. Both countries also confront the double burden of malnutrition—continued undernutrition alongside growing rates of overweight and diet-related diseases—compounded by climate-related food insecurity and limited dietary diversity in high-altitude or isolated areas.

Over the course of six days, the delegation will engage with the UN Country Teams in Nepal and Bhutan, U.S. Embassy Kathmandu, and senior officials from the Government of Nepal and the Kingdom of Bhutan to discuss these challenges in-depth and observe how the UN is working with local stakeholders to respond to needs on the ground, including efforts to expand economic empowerment, promote good governance, enhance disaster preparedness, protect cultural and religious heritage, and expand access to quality healthcare—especially in maternal and child health, immunization coverage, and nutrition.

Lastly, strategically sandwiched between China and India, this trip will be an opportunity to assess some of the larger geopolitical developments at play in the region, including evolving great power dynamics and their implications for continued U.S. leadership in the region.

UNITED NATIONS FOUNDATION

UNF Congressional Learning Trip to Nepal and Bhutan

April 6 - 14, 2026

All Times Local

+9h 45m hours (Kathmandu) and +9h 30m (Thimphu) from Washington, DC

Monday, April 6 --- Travel

Attire: Casual.

6:00am	Rep. Kamlager-Dove departs Los Angeles (LAX) via Alaska Air 722 *Flight time 2h 59m*
6:00am	Rep. LaHood departs Chicago (ORD) via United 2295 *Flight time 2h 10m*
6:15am	Rep. Tenney departs Syracuse via United 4460 *Flight time 1h 20m*
6:21am	Rep. Sykes departs Cleveland (CLE) via Jet Blue 2769 *Flight time 1h 36m*
7:35am	Rep. Tenney arrives Newark Liberty International Airport (EWR) for connection *Layover 4h 5 m*
7:53am	Rep. Sykes arrives EWR for connection *Layover 2h 37m*
8:59am	Rep. Kamlager-Dove arrives Seattle (SEA) for connection *Layover 2h 46m*
9:10am	Rep. LaHood arrives EWR for connection *Layover 2h 20m*
11:30am	Rep. LaHood, Rep. Sykes, Rep. Tenney, and Anna McDonald depart EWR on Air India 106 *Flight time 15h 50m*
11:45am	Rep. Kamlager-Dove departs SEA via Cathay Pacific 853 *Flight time 14h*

Tuesday, April 7 --- Travel

Attire: Casual

12:50pm	Rep. LaHood, Rep. Sykes, Rep. Tenney, and Anna McDonald arrive New Delhi (DEL) for connections *Layover 1h 35m / 5h 25m*
2:25pm	Rep. LaHood, Rep. Sykes, and Rep. Tenney depart DEL via Air India 219 *Flight time 1h 50m*
4:30pm	Rep. LaHood, Rep. Sykes, and Rep. Tenney arrive Kathmandu International Airport (KTM)
4:45pm	Rep. Kamlager-Dove arrives HKG for connection *Layover 2h 10m*
6:15pm	Anna McDonald departs DEL via Air India 211 *Flight time 1h 40m*
6:55pm	Rep. Kamlager-Dove departs HKG via Cathay Pacific 603 *Flight time 5h 5m*
8:10pm	Anna McDonald arrives KTM
9:45pm	Rep. Kamlager-Dove arrives KTM
6:55pm – 8:00pm	Transit via hired car to Kathmandu Marriott Hotel
8:30pm – 9:30pm	**Dinner on Your Own**
Overnight	Kathmandu Marriott Hotel Manakamana Marg, Kathmandu 44600, Nepal +977 1-5970300

Wednesday, April 8 --- Kathmandu

Attire: Business

7:00am – 7:45am	Breakfast at the hotel
7:45am – 8:30am	Transit via hired car to UN House
8:30am – 9:00am	**Courtesy Visit with Lila Pieters Yahia, UN Resident Coordinator in Nepal** The delegation will have a courtesy meeting with Lila Pieters Yahia, UN Resident Coordinator in Nepal ahead of the full UNCT briefing.

9:00am – 10:00am **Meeting with UN Country Team, led by Lila Pieters Yahia, UN Resident Coordinator in Nepal**

The delegation will meet with the UN Country Team to contextualize the major development, economic, health, and related challenges in Nepal and provide a general overview of how the UN works together, and actively partners with the Government of Nepal and the U.S., to achieve shared goals and priorities.

Note: BRING YOUR PASSPORTS

Location: UN House, UNICEF Conference Room, Ground Floor, Harihar Bhawan Marg 104, Lalitpur 44600, Nepal

10:00am – 10:30am Transit to U.S. Embassy Kathmandu

10:30am – 11:30am **Modified U.S. Country Team Meeting, led by Scott Urbom, Chargé d'Affaires a.i., U.S. Embassy Kathmandu**

The delegation will meet with the U.S. Country Team to discuss U.S.-Nepal relations, 2026 Nepalese general election results, and issues related to humanitarian assistance, food security, cultural preservation, and economic development.

Note: BRING PASSPORTS

Location: U.S. Embassy Kathmandu

11:30am – 12:00pm Transit via hired car to Patan Durbar Square

12:00pm – 2:00pm **Expert Guided Visit to Patan Durbar Square and Working Lunch with Jaco du Toit, Head of Office and Representative to Nepal, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**

The delegation will visit Patan Durbar Square and meet with Jaco du Toit Head of Office and UNESCO Representative to Nepal, to learn how UNESCO, in addition to helping Nepal protect and leverage its rich cultural heritage, is working collaboratively to advance the Sustainable Development Goals, including by integrating living heritage into school teachings; promoting media and information literacy; and enhancing Nepal's creative industries by empowering youth, women, and indigenous marginalized communities.

Situated 5km southeast of Kathmandu valley, Patan is considered the

oldest among the three cities of Kathmandu valley and enclosed by four stupas erected by Emperor Ashoka in 3rd century BC. Durbar Square (which translates to “palace” or “a court held by a prince”) is an important site for Buddhist and Hindu rituals, holy ceremonies, royal events, and kingly coronations. Designated a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1979, Patan is well known for its artistic culture and home to what many consider one of the best museums in Asia.

Heavily impacted by the devastating 2015 earthquakes, Patan Durbar Square has been largely rebuilt. In 2019, U.S. Embassy Kathmandu awarded a $150,000 grant to the Kathmandu Valley Preservation Trust (KVPT) to support the conservation and seismic strengthening of 18th-Century Octagonal Krishna Temple in at Patan Durbar Square, which was built in 1723 A.D The project stabilized, seismically strengthened, and supported urgent restoration work needed to conserve the temple. As part of the Kathmandu Valley Preservation Trust’s (KVPT) five-year earthquake response campaign, the project employed local artisans to restore this historic stone structure using the highest international standards.

Location: Patan Durbar Square

2:00pm – 2:30pm Transit to NDRRMA

2:30pm – 3:15pm **Meeting with Er. Dinesh Prasad Bhatta, Chief Executive, National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority**

The delegation will meet with Er. Dinesh Prasad Bhatta, Chief Executive of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority to learn how the NDRRMA plays a pivotal role in addressing the country's vulnerability to various natural and human-made disasters. It is responsible for coordinating disaster risk reduction and management efforts across the nation. Nepal, situated in a seismically active region with a diverse topography, faces a range of hazards, including earthquakes, floods, landslides, and avalanches. As such, the NDRRMA's role is of utmost importance in safeguarding the lives and property of the people of Nepal.

The NDRRMA was established to consolidate and strengthen the country's disaster management efforts. Its formation was prompted by the devastating earthquake that struck Nepal in April 2015, which highlighted the need for a more coordinated and robust approach to disaster preparedness and response. Prior to the establishment of the NDRRMA, disaster management in Nepal was fragmented, with various government agencies and organizations working independently.

Location: M8XF+P68, Hemanta Marg, Kathmandu 44600, Nepal

3:15pm – 4:00pm Transit to KTM

4:00pm – 5:00pm **Visit to UN Humanitarian Staging Area Kathmandu, Supported by World Food Programme (WFP)**

Established in 2015, the UN Humanitarian Staging Area (HSA) at Tribhuvan International Airport (KTM) is the first of its kind, established as a part of the efforts from the government and concerned development partners and UN agencies to facilitate strategic response in the event of any mega-scale disaster emergency, such as in earthquake, floods and landslide.

The Ministry of Home Affairs, Civil Aviation Authority Nepal, and World Food Programme (WFP) set up the area inside the TIA premises with support from UK Aid and Department for International Development (DFID). The HSA safely stores food, emergency logistics, first aid, medicines along with telecommunication and electrical materials to be used in an event of a major disaster.

Location: Tribhuvan International Airport, Ring Rd, Kathmandu 44600, Nepal

5:00pm –5:45pm Transit to Kathmandu Marriott Hotel

5:45pm – 6:45pm Executive Time

6:45pm – 7:00pm Transit to Dwarika's Hotel

7:00pm – 8:30pm **Working Dinner with UN Agency Heads**

The delegation will have a working dinner with various UN Agency Heads to discuss the UN and U.S. work in Nepal around major nutrition, health, and development work. In addition, to discuss the partnership between the U.S. and UN systems in providing health and nutrition services in Nepal.

Location: Dwarika's Hotel

8:30pm –8:45pm Transit via hired cat to Kathmandu Marriott Hotel

Overnight Kathmandu Marriott Hotel
Manakamana Marg, Kathmandu 44600, Nepal
+977 1-5970300

Thursday, April 9 --- Kathmandu/Travel/Lumbini/Travel/Kathmandu

Attire: Business.

7:15am	Depart KTM via Buddha Air 851
7:45am	Arrive Gautam Buddha International Airport – Bhairahawa (BWA)
8:00am – 8:30am	Transit to the Province Health Logistics Management Centre
8:30am – 9:00am	**Courtesy Visit with the Director of the Province Health Logistics Management Centre** The delegation will meet with the Director of the Province Health Logistics Management Centre (PHLMC), a government body under the Lumbini Provincial Government's Ministry of Health responsible for managing the supply and distribution of health-related materials across all 12 districts of Lumbini Province. Established in April 2019, its core roles include forecasting, procuring, storing and distributing medicines, vaccines, medical equipment, diagnostic kits and other supplies needed by provincial hospitals and local health facilities. It also supports cold chain management for vaccines, maintenance of biomedical equipment, strengthening of the logistics information system (LMIS/e-LMIS), and the planning and implementation of public procurement processes in line with government rules. By building a network of medical stores at federal, provincial, district and local levels, the centre helps ensure that essential health commodities are available where they are needed and enables evidence-based decision-making through supply chain data analysis. *Location: Province Health Logistics Management Centre*
9:00am – 9:05am	Transit via car to the Visit to Inpatient Nutrition Rehabilitation Center and Inpatient Therapeutic Centre (Lumbini Provincial Hospital)
9:05am – 9:35am	**Visit to Inpatient Nutrition Rehabilitation Center and Inpatient Therapeutic Centre** The delegation will visit the Nutrition Rehabilitation Center (NRC) at Lumbini Provincial Hospital—a specialized inpatient unit that treats young children suffering from severe acute malnutrition. The center provides round-the-clock medical supervision, therapeutic feeding with nutrient-dense formulas such as F-75 and F-100, treatment for related infections or complications, and structured nutrition plans to help children safely regain weight and strength. Caregivers stay with their children during admission and receive counseling on breastfeeding, complementary feeding, hygiene, and home-based nutrition practices to prevent relapse after discharge. Once stabilized, children are referred for outpatient follow-up closer to home to ensure continued recovery and monitoring.

Malnutrition remains a serious public health challenge in Lumbini Province, especially among children under five. According to recent health data, around 16% of young children in the province suffer from wasting—a form of acute malnutrition where a child is too thin for their height—which is the highest concentration of malnutrition in the country and significantly higher than Nepal's national average of about 8%. This means that a large proportion of children in Lumbini are not receiving adequate nutrition, making them more vulnerable to illness and increased risk of mortality if not treated promptly. Other surveys show that overall malnutrition rates—measured through indicators such as underweight and stunting—have also been stubbornly high and, in some districts, have increased in recent years, reflecting ongoing food insecurity, limited access to nutrient-rich diets, and gaps in public health and nutrition education.

Location: Lumbini Provincial Hospital

9:35am – 10:05am **Visit to Lumbini Provincial Hospital and Tour of Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) Center, Maternity Ward, and Pediatric Ward**

After visiting the Nutrition Rehabilitation Center, the delegation will briefly tour other important sections of Lumbini Provincial Hospital, which is a major government-run provincial hospital that serves as a crucial healthcare hub for people across Lumbini Province and surrounding regions, providing medical services to hundreds of thousands of patients each year. Originally established as a smaller zonal facility, it has grown into one of the largest public hospitals in the country, offering a wide range of outpatient, inpatient, emergency and specialized care to patients regardless of their ability to pay.

Location: Lumbini Provincial Hospital

10:05am – 10:20am Transit via hired car to Outpatient Therapeutic Center at Shanknagar Health Post

10:20am – 11:00am **Visit to Outpatient Therapeutic Center at Shanknagar Health Post**

The delegation will visit the Outpatient Therapeutic Center, which offers services for children aged 6–59 months with moderate and severe acute malnutrition without medical complications. OTC provides children with ready-to-use therapeutic foods (RUTF), Super Cereal Plus, basic medicines, regular monitoring, and counselling for caregivers on nutrition and feeding practices, without needing hospital admission.

The OTC is part of Nepal's Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) programme and accounts for the majority of malnutrition treatment delivered across the province's decentralized health system. In recent years, according to national health reports, thousands of children in Lumbini Province have accessed OTC services at local facilities as part of these community-based nutrition interventions.

Location: Outpatient Therapeutic Center

11:00am – 11:30am Transit via hired car to Bodhi Villa Café & Restaurant

11:30am – 12:30pm **Working Lunch with Helen Keller International, FHI 360, and UNICEF Staff based in Lumbini Province**

The delegation will have a working lunch with staff from two key UN and U.S. implementing partners in Lumbini, HKI and FHI 360, as well as UNICEF, to discuss the technical and capacity building nutrition support they are delivering to the provincial government.

Helen Keller International (HKI) is a global nonprofit founded in 1915 that combats the root causes of blindness, malnutrition, and poverty in 20 countries across Africa, Asia, and the U.S. Key programs include delivering vitamin A supplementation, treating neglected tropical diseases, and providing vision screenings/eyeglasses to children.

FHI 360 is a Durham, NC-based nonprofit organization founded in 1971 that works in over 60 countries to improve health, education, and economic development through research-driven, locally led solutions. With over 4,000 experts, they focus on HIV/AIDS, reproductive health, nutrition, and education. The organization aims to create equitable, healthy lives by building capacity and partnering with local, national, and international organizations.

Location: Bodhi Villa Café & Restaurant

12:30pm – 1:00pm Transit via hired car to Maya Devi Temple

1:00pm – 2:00pm **Expert Guided Visit to Maya Devi Temple – UNESCO World Heritage Site**

The delegation will visit Maya Devi Temple, the birthplace of the Buddha, and a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1997. Lumbini is revered as the place where Siddhartha Gautama was born in the 6th century BCE. The sacred site centers on the Maya Devi Temple, which marks the exact spot of his birth and contains archaeological remains, including a stone marker and ancient brick structures dating back more than two millennia.

	Nearby stands the Ashoka Pillar, erected in 249 BCE by Emperor Ashoka of India to commemorate his pilgrimage to the site, providing one of the earliest historical confirmations of Lumbini's significance. Today, the area forms part of a larger monastic zone with temples and monasteries built by Buddhist communities from around the world, making it both a major pilgrimage destination and a symbol of peace and shared spiritual heritage. This visit will provide critical historical and religious context as well as background on how the UN works with the Government of Nepal to protect cherished cultural heritage. *Location: Maya Devi Temple*
2:00pm – 2:30pm	Transit via hired car to BWA
3:10pm	Depart BWA via Buddha Air 860
3:40pm	Arrive KTM
3:40pm – 4:00pm	Transit to Swayambhu Mahachaitya
4:00pm – 5:00pm	**Expert Guided Visit to Swayambhu Mahachaitya – UNESCO World Heritage Site** Swayambhunath is one of Nepal's most sacred and iconic Buddhist sites, perched atop a hill overlooking the Kathmandu Valley. Dating back more than 1,500 years, the complex center is revered by both Buddhists and Hindus, Swayambhunath blends religious traditions, with shrines, prayer wheels, and monasteries scattered across the hilltop. As part of the Kathmandu Valley UNESCO World Heritage Site, it serves as a major pilgrimage destination and cultural landmark, offering sweeping views of the city and standing as a powerful symbol of Nepal's spiritual heritage. This visit will provide critical historical and religious context as well as background on how the UN works with the Government of Nepal to protect cherished cultural heritage. *Location: Swayambhu Mahachaitya*
5:00pm – 5:30pm	Transit via hired car to Kathmandu Marriott Hotel
5:30pm – 6:00pm	Executive Time
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Transit via hired car to Residence of the U.S. Ambassador to Nepal
7:00pm – 8:30pm	**Farewell Reception, hosted by Scott Urbom, Chargé d'Affaires a.i.**

U.S. Embassy Kathmandu

The delegation will attend a farewell reception at the U.S. Ambassador's Residence, led by Scott Urbom, Chargé d'Affaires a.i. and the U.S. Country Team, during which they will discuss U.S.-Nepal relations and share lessons learned from the visit.

Location: Residence of the U.S. Ambassador to Nepal

8:30pm – 9:00pm Transit via hired car to Kathmandu Marriott Hotel

Overnight Kathmandu Marriott Hotel
Manakamana Marg, Kathmandu 44600, Nepal
+977 1-5970300

Friday, April 10 --- Kathmandu/Travel/Thimphu

Attire: Business Casual

6:45am – 7:30am Breakfast and check out of hotel

7:30am – 7:45am Transit via hired car to airport

7:45am Arrive airport and check in for flight

9:00am Depart KTM via Drukair 5456
Flight time 1h 20m

10:20am Arrive Paro International Airport (PBH)

11:00am – 11:25am Transit via hired car to Jigme Singye Wangchuck School of Law

11:25am – 12:00pm **Visit to Jigme Singye Wangchuck School of Law, Supported by UNDP**

The delegation will visit the Jigme Singye Wangchuck School of Law, Bhutan's first and only dedicated institution for legal education, established by Royal Charter in February 2015 as part of the Kingdom's vision to strengthen the rule of law and build a just, harmonious society. Named in honor of His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo, the school opened its doors to its inaugural class in 2017 and offers a rigorous legal curriculum grounded in both international legal standards and Bhutanese values, including the country's philosophy of Gross National Happiness.

The delegation will learn how the Jigme Singye Wangchuck School of Law emphasizes critical thinking, practical skills and experiential learning through legal clinics and externships while engaging in research,

community outreach and regional collaborations to prepare future leaders committed to justice and service.

Location: Jigme Singye Wangchuck School of Law

12:00pm – 1:00pm **Working Lunch with Her Royal Highness Princess Sonam Dechan Wangchuck**

The delegation will have a working lunch with HRH Princess Sonam Dechan Wangchuck, the Founder and President of JSW Law and the President of the Bar Council of Bhutan, to discuss ongoing efforts to enhance and strengthen legal training in Bhutan.

HRH Princess Sonam Dechan Wangchuck is a prominent member of the Bhutanese Royal Family and a leading figure in the nation's legal development. As the daughter of the Fourth King, Jigme Singye Wangchuck, and the half-sister of the current King, Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, she has dedicated her career to institutional reform and justice.

Location: Jigme Singye Wangchuck School of Law

1:00pm – 2:30pm Transit via hired car to UN House and **One Hour Policy Briefing Enroute on Recent Developments in Bhutan, Led by UN Foundation**

2:30pm – 3:45pm **Meeting with UN Country Team, led by Gaurav Ray, UN Resident Coordinator in Bhutan**

The delegation will meet with the UN Country Team to contextualize the major development, economic, health, and related challenges in Bhutan and provide a general overview of how the UN works together, and actively partners with the Government of Bhutan to achieve shared goals and priorities.

Location: UN House Thimphu

3:45pm – 4:00pm Transit via hired car to Royal Textile Academy

4:00pm – 4:30pm **Visit to Royal Textile Academy and Briefing on Cultural and Historical Importance of Bhutanese National Dress**

The delegation will visit the Royal Textile Academy of Bhutan, a prestigious cultural and educational institution dedicated to preserving, promoting, and teaching the traditional art of Bhutanese weaving and textiles. Founded in May 2005 under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Mother Gyalyum Sangay Choden Wangchuck as a non-governmental,

non-profit organization, the Academy serves as both a museum and a training centre focused on safeguarding one of Bhutan's most important cultural arts and crafts.

The delegation will be briefed on the central importance of traditional dress in Bhutan—the gho for men and kira for women—which feature complex patterns and symbols that often represent specific communities, occasions, or social roles. The delegation will learn how the Royal Textile Academy protects these ancient Bhutanese textile making practices, conducts professional training and education programs in traditional weaving, dyeing, design, and business skills, and supports conservation and research aimed at documenting and preserving valuable textile artifacts.

Location: Royal Textile Academy

4:30pm – 4:45pm Transit via hired car to Great Buddha Dordenma

4:45pm – 5:15pm **Expert Guided Visit to the Great Buddha Dordenma**

The delegation will visit one of Bhutan's most striking landmarks, towering 169 feet above the Thimphu Valley. Completed in 2015 to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the fourth king, Jigme Singye Wangchuck, the massive bronze statue is gilded in gold and sits atop a hill in Kuenselphodrang Nature Park. The delegation will learn how the Great Buddha Dordenma holds profound religious and cultural significance for Bhutan, a country where Vajrayana Buddhism shapes national identity and daily life. The statue represents Shakyamuni Buddha, whose teachings form the spiritual foundation of Bhutanese society, and its presence overlooking Thimphu symbolizes wisdom, compassion, and protection for the nation.

For many Bhutanese, the monument is not simply a landmark but a sacred space for prayer, pilgrimage, and reflection, reinforcing the country's deep commitment to spiritual values. Culturally, the Great Buddha Dordenma embodies Bhutan's effort to preserve tradition while navigating modernization. The delegation will be briefed on how the monument connects the monarchy, religion, and national unity—three pillars of Bhutanese identity and how the thousands of smaller Buddha statues housed within it further symbolize abundance, merit, and devotion.

Location: Great Buddha Dordenma

5:15pm – 5:30pm Transit via hired car to Pemako

5:30pm – 7:00pm Executive Time

7:00pm – 9:00pm	**Working Reception with H.E. Lyonpo D.N. Dhungyel, Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade; Gaurav Ray, UN Resident Coordinator in Bhutan; and UN Country Team** The delegation will attend a welcome reception with the UN Country Team during which they will discuss how the UN is a critical partner for the kingdom, working in areas such as education, healthcare, sustainable economic growth, and good governance. *Location: Pemako Thimphu*
Overnight	Pemako Thimphu

Saturday, April 11 --- Thimphu

Attire: Casual

6:00am – 6:30am	Breakfast at the hotel
6:30am – 7:30am	Transit to PBH
8:00am – 8:30am	Druk Air 210 to Gelephu Airport (GLU) *Flight time 30m*
8:30am – 8:45am	Transit to the Office of His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, The King of Bhutan
9:00am – 10:00am	**Meeting with His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, The King of Bhutan** The delegation will meet with His Majesty to discuss issues of mutual interest, including the ongoing construction of Gelephu Mindfulness City. The delegation will learn how the Gelephu Mindfulness City (GMC) is an ambitious, future-oriented development project in southern Bhutan that seeks to blend economic growth with Bhutan's guiding philosophy of Gross National Happiness. Announced by Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, the project envisions transforming the Gelephu region into a sustainable urban hub that prioritizes well-being, environmental stewardship, and mindful living alongside innovation and investment. Strategically located near the border with India, GMC is designed to attract international business, technology, and education sectors while maintaining Bhutan's strong environmental commitments, including carbon neutrality. The city's concept integrates green infrastructure, cultural preservation, and wellness-centered urban planning, positioning it

as a unique model for development that challenges traditional growth paradigms by placing human happiness and ecological balance at its core.

Location: Office of His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, The King of Bhutan

10:00am – 10:15am Transit via hired car to GLU

11:00am – 11:30am Druk Air 211 to PBH
Flight time 30m

11:30am – 12:30pm Transit via hired car to Royal Bhutan Police Station Thimphu, Women and Children Protection Desk

12:30pm – 1:00pm **Meeting with Superintendent of Royal Bhutan Police Station and Briefing on Women and Children Protection Desk (WCPD), Supported by UNICEF**

The delegation will learn how UNICEF works with the Royal Bhutan Police and the Royal Government of Bhutan to support the Women and Children Protection Desk (WCPD) program in police stations across Bhutan. This program was established to provide a safe and supportive environment for women and children who experience violence, abuse, or exploitation. The desks are staffed by specially trained police officers who handle sensitive cases, offer counseling support, and coordinate with social services and healthcare providers. Through training, technical assistance, and advocacy, UNICEF helps strengthen these protection services, improve reporting mechanisms, and ensure that victims receive proper care, legal support, and protection.

Location: Royal Bhutan Police Station

1:00pm – 1:15pm Transit to Folk Heritage Museum Restaurant

1:15pm – 2:15pm **Working Lunch with Peter Rodrigues, WFP Country Director and Representative in Bhutan and Visit to Folk Heritage Museum**

The delegation will have a working lunch with the head of WFP in Bhutan and discuss the evolving development and health landscape of the kingdom, including recent successes and challenges.

Following lunch, the delegation will briefly visit the Folk Heritage Museum, which offers visitors a glimpse into Bhutan's traditional rural life and cultural heritage. Established in 2001, the museum is housed in a restored 19th-century farmhouse more than 150 years old and displays everyday household items, farming tools, and traditional clothing that

reflect how Bhutanese families lived in the past. The delegation will be instructed by museum staff on the Royal Government of Bhutan's ongoing emphasis on cultural preservation as the kingdom sees its traditions, language, religion, and customs as essential to national identity and social cohesion. Bhutan's development philosophy of Gross National Happiness emphasizes cultural preservation alongside economic growth, recognizing that protecting traditional practices—from dress and architecture to festivals and Buddhist institutions—helps maintain community values, spiritual well-being, and a strong sense of shared heritage in a rapidly modernizing world.

Location: Folk Heritage Museum

2:15pm – 2:45pm Transit via hired car to the National Center for Organic Agriculture

2:45pm – 3:30pm **Visit to the National Center for Organic Agriculture, Supported by FAO**

The National Center for Organic Agriculture (often called the Yusipang Research Centre) is a major agricultural and environmental research facility located in Yusipang. It operates under the Ministry responsible for agriculture and renewable natural resources and is one of the country's key research centres supporting farming, forestry, food security, and rural development.

The delegation will learn how the centre conducts scientific studies on organic agriculture, high-altitude crops, vegetables, and sustainable farming practices suited to Bhutan's mountainous environment and how researchers at Yusipang also test new crop varieties, develop improved farming techniques, and provide training and technical support to farmers and agricultural extension officers across western Bhutan.

Location: National Center for Organic Agriculture

3:30pm – 4:00pm Transit via hired car to National Memorial Chorten

4:00pm – 4:45pm **Visit to National Memorial Chorten**

The delegation will visit the National Memorial Chorten, one of the most prominent religious landmarks in Bhutan and a central place of worship in the capital city of Thimphu. Built in 1974, the whitewashed Buddhist stupa was constructed in memory of Jigme Dorji Wangchuck, who is widely regarded as the "Father of Modern Bhutan." Commissioned by his mother, Queen Ashi Phuntsho Choden Wangchuck, the delegation will learn how the chorten symbolizes peace and serves as a living center of daily spiritual life. Throughout the day, Bhutanese devotees—especially

elderly residents—can be seen circumambulating the chorten clockwise, spinning prayer wheels, and offering prayers, making it both a cultural icon and an active site of Buddhist practice.

Location: National Memorial Chorten

4:45pm – 5:00pm Transit to Pemako Thimphu

5:00pm – 7:00pm Executive Time

7:00pm – 9:00pm **Working Dinner with Mohammad Younus, UNDP Resident Representative in Bhutan**

The delegation will have a working dinner with Mohammad Younus, UNDP Resident Representative in Bhutan to discuss how UNDP works with the Royal Government of Bhutan to support sustainable development, strengthen institutions, and help the country balance modernization with environmental and cultural preservation. UNDP programs in Bhutan focus on areas such as climate resilience, disaster risk reduction, democratic governance, and economic diversification, while also helping build technical capacity within government agencies. Through these partnerships, UNDP assists Bhutan in advancing its national development priorities—aligned with the country's philosophy of Gross National Happiness—by promoting inclusive growth, protecting natural resources, and supporting long-term development planning.

Location: Pemako Thimpu

Overnight Pemako Thimpu

Sunday, April 12 --- Thimphu/Punakha/Wangue/Thimphu

Attire: Casual

8:00am – 8:30am Breakfast at the hotel

8:30am – 9:00am Transit via hired car to Druk Wangyal Chortens

9:00am – 9:30am **Expert Guided Visit to Druk Wangyal Chortens**

The delegation will briefly stop at the Druk Wangyal Chortens, which is enroute to the Royal Botanical Park. The Druk Wangyal Chortens are a striking cluster of 108 memorial stupas located at Dochula Pass. Built in 2004 by Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck, the chortens honor Bhutanese soldiers who lost their lives during a military operation to remove insurgent camps from southern Bhutan in 2003. Arranged in three

concentric circles on a hilltop, the whitewashed stupas symbolize peace, protection, and spiritual merit in Bhutanese Buddhist tradition.

Visiting the Druk Wangyal Chortens offers a rich window into Bhutan's history, identity, and worldview. The delegation will learn how modern history and monarchy shape Bhutanese identity. The 108 chortens were built to honor Bhutanese soldiers who died in a 2003 military operation and to celebrate the leadership of the Fourth King, Jigme Singye Wangchuck. This shows how Bhutan connects memory, spirituality, and national pride in a single place. The chortens are simultaneously a war memorial, a religious site, and a cultural landmark—illustrating how Bhutan does not separate these spheres the way many Western societies do. In short, a visit teaches you that in Bhutan, history, religion, nature, and governance are not separate domains—they're intentionally intertwined.

Location: Druk Wangyal Chortens

9:30am – 10:30am Transit via hired car to the Living Learning Hub at Dochula–Lamperi Royal Botanical Park

10:30am – 11:30am **Visit to Living Learning Hub at Royal Botanical Park and Tree Planting Ceremony, Supported by UNDP and UNESCO**

The delegation will visit the Living Learning Hub at Dochula–Lamperi Royal Botanical Park in Bhutan, which is an environmental education and research center designed to promote awareness of Bhutan's rich biodiversity and natural ecosystems. Developed with support from UNDP, UNESCO, and national partners, the hub provides training, educational programs, and interactive exhibits that teach students, visitors, and local communities about conservation, climate change, and sustainable land management. By combining classroom-style learning with the surrounding forest environment, the center encourages hands-on understanding of Bhutan's commitment to environmental protection and its goal of maintaining a strong balance between development and nature. While visiting the park, the delegation will participate in the park's "Plant for Tomorrow" initiative, which focuses on enhancing Bhutan's greenery through professional, sustainable plantation projects.

Location: Dochula–Lamperi Royal Botanical Park

11:30am – 12:15pm Transit via car to Phochu Dumra Monastic School

12:15pm – 1:15pm **Visit to Phochu Dumra Monastic School and Working Lunch with School Principal, Supported by UNICEF and WFP**

The delegation will visit the Phochu Dumra Monastic School in Punakha, Bhutan to learn how UNICEF and WFP are supporting the school through programs that improve the wellbeing, education, and living conditions of young monks. The school is part of UNICEF's Integrated Child-Friendly Intervention (ICFI) pilot program, which provides services in health, nutrition, water and sanitation, education, and child protection to create a safe and supportive learning environment. UNICEF has helped renovate toilets and bathing facilities, provide clean water and hygiene support, and develop sports grounds and recreational spaces for the children. WFP is also supporting the school with the introduction of a model kitchen to improve food safety, nutrition, and meal preparation for young monks. By modernizing cooking facilities and training staff in hygienic practices, the program helps ensure students receive healthier meals while promoting better nutrition standards within monastic education institutions across Bhutan.

Location: Phochu Dumra Monastic School

1:15pm – 1:20pm Transit via hired car to Pungthang Dewa Chhenbi Phodrang

1:20pm – 1:40pm **Expert Guided Visit to Pungthang Dewa Chhenbi Phodrang**

The delegation will briefly visit the Pungthang Dewa Chhenbi Phodrang ("Palace of Great Happiness"), one of Bhutan's most impressive and historically important monasteries and fortresses. Built in 1637 by Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyal, the dzong sits at the scenic confluence of the Pho Chhu and Mo Chhu rivers in the valley of Punakha. It served as the administrative center and capital of Bhutan until the mid-20th century and remains the winter residence of the central monastic body led by the Je Khenpo. The delegation will learn how the Punakha Dzong has played a central role in Bhutan's political and cultural life, including hosting the coronation of His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck in 2008, and stands as a powerful symbol of Bhutan's spiritual heritage and architectural tradition.

Location: Punthang Dechen Phodrang

1:40pm – 2:15pm Transit to Wangdue Flood Warning Station

2:15pm – 2:45pm **Visit to Wangdue Flood Warning Station, Supported by UNDP**

The delegation will visit a flood warning station, which plays a vital role in monitoring river levels and providing early warnings to communities living in flood-prone areas. A service of the National Center for Hydrology and Meteorology (NCHM) in Bhutan, NCHM operates a network of hydrological and meteorological monitoring stations across the

country that continuously collect data on rainfall, river discharge, and water levels. These stations transmit real-time information to the National Weather and Flood Warning Center (NWFWC) in Thimphu, where experts analyze the data and issue alerts when there is a risk of flooding or glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs). During the monsoon season, the flood warning system is monitored 24 hours a day to ensure timely dissemination of warnings to government agencies and vulnerable communities downstream. This system helps reduce disaster risks by enabling early evacuation, improving preparedness, and supporting effective flood disaster management in Bhutan.

Location: Wangdue Flood Warning Station

2:45pm – 3:30pm Transit to Climate-Resilient Irrigation Project: Reviving Farmlands and Livelihoods at Phangyul Wangdue Phodrang District

3:30pm – 4:15pm **Visit to Climate-Resilient Irrigation Project: Reviving Farmlands and Livelihoods at Phangyul Wangdue Phodrang District, Supported by UNDP**

The delegation will visit the Phangyul Irrigation Project in Wangdue Phodrang District, which stands as one of Bhutan's most transformative climate-resilience initiatives, bringing an end to decades of extreme water scarcity in Phangyul and Kazhi Gewogs. The Royal Government of Bhutan, with major support from the UNDP and funding from the Green Climate Fund (GCF), installed a 38-kilometer pressurized piped irrigation system—27 km in Phangyul and 11 km in Kazhi— revitalizing long-abandoned farmlands and restoring livelihoods. The delegation will learn how the scheme, which cost $6 million USD, now supplies reliable water for agriculture to 285 households, irrigating 1,241 acres and enabling communities to return to rice cultivation after 20–50 years of forced abandonment. The community describes the change as "transformational," marking a shift from chronic scarcity to renewed prosperity as families resume farming, increase production, and reclaim food security.

4:15pm – 6:00pm Transit via hired car to Pemako Thimphu

6:00pm – 7:30pm Executive Time

7:30pm – 9:30pm **Working Dinner and Debrief with UN Country Team**

The delegation will have a working dinner debrief with the UN Country Team to share lessons learned and discuss potential future collaboration and information sharing.

Location: Pemako Thimphu

Overnight	Pemako Thimpu

Monday, April 13 --- Thimphu/Travel

Attire: Casual.

7:30am – 8:00am	Breakfast and check out of hotel
8:00am – 9:00am	Transit via hired car to Paro International Airport
9:00am	Arrive and check in for flight
11:00am	Rep. LaHood and Rep. Sykes depart PBH via Druk Air KB 152 *Flight time 3h 10m*
11:55am	Rep. Kamlager-Dove, Rep. Tenney, and Anna McDonald depart PBH via Druk Air 5445 *Flight time 2h 20m*
1:45pm	Rep. Kamlager-Dove, Rep. Tenney, Anna McDonald arrive New Delhi (DEL) for connection *Layover 9h 5m*
3:10pm	Rep. LaHood and Rep. Sykes Bangkok (BKK) for connection *Layover 7h 45m / 6h 30m*
9:40pm	Rep. Sykes departs BKK on Korean Air 658 *Flight time 5h 25m*
10:50pm	Rep. Kamlager-Dove, Rep. Tenney, and Anna McDonald depart DEL via Air Canada 43 *Flight time 16h 15m*
10:55pm	Rep. LaHood departs BKK via Lufthansa 773 *Flight time 11h 20m*

Tuesday, April 14 --- Travel/Washington

Attire: Casual.

5:05am	Rep. Sykes arrives Seoul (ICN) for connection *Layover 5h 20m*
5:15am	Rep. LaHood arrives Munich (MUC) for connection

	Layover 6h 45m
5:35am	Rep. Kamlager-Dove, Rep. Tenney, and Anna McDonald arrive Toronto (YYZ) for connection *Layover 4h*
9:35am	Rep. Kamlager-Dove, Rep. Tenny, and Anna McDonald depart YYZ via United 3636
10:25am	Rep. Sykes departs ICN via Delta 7857
11:14am	Rep. Kamlager-Dove, Rep. Tenny, and Anna McDonald arrive IAD
11:15am	Rep. Sykes arrives IAD
12:00pm	Rep. LaHood departs MUC via United 109 *Flight time 9h*
3:00pm	Rep. LaHood arrives IAD

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Brad Knott, North Carolina

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ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

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Staff Director and Chief Counsel

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David Arrojo
Counsel to the Ranking Member

1015 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515–6328
Telephone: (202) 225–7103
https://Ethics.House.gov

April 2, 2026

The Honorable Emilia Strong Sykes
U.S. House of Representatives
1217 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Colleague:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your and your spouse's proposed trip to Nepal and Bhutan,[1] scheduled for April 6 to 14, 2026, sponsored by United Nations Foundation and Eleanor Crook Foundation.

You must complete a Member/Officer Post-Travel Disclosure Form and file it, together with a Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form completed by the trip sponsor, with the Clerk of the House within 15 days after your return from travel. As part of that filing, you are also required to attach a copy of this letter and both the Traveler and Primary Trip Sponsor Forms (including attachments) you previously submitted to the Committee in seeking pre-approval for this trip. You must also report all travel expenses totaling more than $525 from a single source on the "Travel" schedule of your annual Financial Disclosure Statement covering this calendar year. Finally, Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting information provided to the Committee for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

Because the trip may involve meetings with foreign government representatives, we note that House Members may accept, under the Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act (FGDA), gifts "of minimal value [currently $525] tendered as a souvenir or mark of courtesy" by a foreign government. Any tangible gifts valued in excess of minimal value received from a foreign government must, within 60 days of acceptance, be disclosed on a Form for Disclosing Gifts from Foreign Governments and either turned over to the Clerk of the House, or, with the written approval of the Committee, retained for official use.

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[1] Please be aware that the Committee's review of the proposed trip does not extend to either the security situation in the destination country or security related to foreign travel in general. We recommend you contact the Office of House Security (OHS) for a safety and security briefing prior to your departure. OHS may be reached at (202) 226-2044 or ohsstaff@mail.house.gov. House travelers should also register for the U.S. State Department's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program at https://step.state.gov.

If you have any further questions, please contact the Committee's Office of Advice and Education at extension 5-7103.

Sincerely,

Michael Guest
Chairman

Mark DeSaulnier
Ranking Member

MG/MD:amr