

Swarnim Waglé



Swarnim Waglé is an economist who served as the 24th Vice-Chair of the National Planning Commission (NPC) in the Government of Nepal (with a rank equivalent to a minister). He was a Member and Vice-Chair of NPC for three years between 2014 and 2018.

As Head of the Government's apex policy advisory body, Dr. Waglé guided the formulation of national development strategies, coordinated policy across the public sector, monitored large projects, led ministerial delegations on the international stage, and steered organizational change. In the aftermath of the Great Nepal Earthquake of 2015 and the Flood of 2017, he co-led the Post Disaster Needs Assessments (PDNA) and helped garner substantial external assistance.

Dr. Waglé worked as an international development professional for more than 15 years on policy assignments in over 20 countries, including as Senior Economist at The World Bank in Washington, DC. At the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), he co-authored the global 2013 Human Development Report titled "The Rise of the South." From 2002 to 2007, he co-led the UN's Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Initiative.

Dr. Waglé serves on the Senate of Kathmandu University. He chairs and advises several non-profit organizations, including Baliyo Nepal, a nutrition initiative of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. He has undertaken short-term assignments at the Asian Development Bank (Manila) and the International Trade Center (Geneva). He is a past South Asia editor of Harvard Asia Quarterly (1999-2000).

Swarnim Waglé holds a PhD in Economics from the Australian National University, an MPA in International Development (MPA/ID) from Harvard University, and a BSc (Econ) from the London School of Economics.

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