

Chairperson of National Human Rights Commission Nepal

The declining birth rate and increasing life expectancy is bringing unprecedented growth in the number of ageing population (60+) across the globe. The ageing population accounts for 13 % of global population and it is estimated that the number will be 22 % by 2050. Similarly, in the context of Nepal, 9 % of total population accounts for 60+ population and the number will be more than 20 % by 2050. This 21st Century is also termed as the Century of Older People because the number of 60+ populations is projected to be more than the number of children below 5 yrs. of age, and this is happening for the first time in human history.

This unprecedented demographic transition also means, increase in dependent population, decrease in economically active population and availability of a larger pool of knowledge and experience to the society. These changes have created new opportunities and also posed new challenges. A new set of policies and programmes are necessary to make use of the new opportunities created and new challenges presented. Most of these changes will hit the developing countries the hardest because they are the least prepared for it, in lack of awareness. Continuing the traditions set when population of elderly used to be about 5% of the total population, older persons are still viewed as recipient of charity by the state and the society in general. This is grossly unacceptable to the present world that is taking steps to call a new UN Conventions to establish the rights of older persons across the globe.

UN initiated International Day of Older Persons (IDOP) to honor the efforts of elderly and the value they bring into our society. As UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon visualized on the occasion of IDOP, 2016, “We have a clear roadmap to transformation: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Therefore, we urge you to formulate visionary plan emphasizing inclusive participation of older persons as both agents and beneficiaries of change in each aspect of society.

Thank you consideration
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
Best Wishes

