



Statement by:

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Thank you Mr. Moderator for this opportunity. I represent Ageing Nepal, a national NGO of Nepal.

1. Ageing is one of the least researched subject areas of importance. At least so is the case of Nepal. Lack of reliable and sufficient data has seriously limited our efforts to start the process of evidence based planning. Whatever little information has been generated so far, show that a child brought-up in a three generation family is:
 - a. Less likely to suffer malnutrition
 - b. Less likely not to go to school or be a school dropout
 - c. Less likely to suffer child abuse and
 - d. Less likely to develop anti-social behavior

This tells us that giving a dignified life to older person in a family does good not only to the older person but also to the coming generation. Thus it is not only a subject of planning for the older people, but much more a subject of “family planning” or planning for all the generations to come.

2. 156 member states participated in the formulation of MIPAA in 2002. But a substantial number of those member states remained absent in the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd sessions of OEWG on Ageing. I strongly believe that better decision could be reached with participation of more member states. I wish we could increase number of member states and civil society organizations participating in the coming sessions of OEWG on Ageing.
3. Thanks to the work of International Network for Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA) and HelpAge International that now we are less shy to talk about elder abuse than a decade back. At least so is the case of Nepal. But if it took us so long a time to start talking about elder abuse, I wonder how long it would take to enable member states to take appropriate action for prevention of elder abuse. I think it is already too late to start the process of building national capacity of member states and civil society organizations to prevent elder abuse in their respective countries.
4. Much is said about the value of older person to a society for their knowledge and skills. But the process of opening new venues for the older persons to use their knowledge and skills are still not going fast enough to match the growth rate of elderly population. As a result, we are not using the

knowledge and skill available to the society, thus limiting the social development process of our own and that of our children.

5. We have mechanisms in place for countries to work together for common good through bilateral, multilateral and international investment projects. But we have yet to witness development projects with built-in component for the older person to participate in implementation as well as in benefit sharing. I think participation of development funding organizations such as Asian Development Bank, African Development Bank and the World Bank would have benefitted us, particularly for the developing countries.

Question by the Moderator (Dr. Israel (Issi) Doron): Give an example on how the lack of new convention has limited your work?

My answer: Government of my country came up with national work plan and strategy for older person as early as 2002, following MIPAA, but they are still not implemented because MIPAA is not legally binding. Had MIPAA been a legally binding document, much would have already been done for the benefit of older people in Nepal.
