Meeting notes of  
Virtual meeting between Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Ministry of Women Children and Senior Citizen

Date: 10\textsuperscript{th} April 2020

Agenda: Engagement of CSO's to support the government during COVID 19 pandemic in Nepal

Discussions:

The CSOs expressed that the Minister's presence in this meeting gives a message that Ministry guardianship towards the CSOs.

The CSOs requested a CSO mobilization and Coordination Guideline and an Action Plan for the same from the Ministry. The CSOs also requested a loose forum of the CSOs in lead of NGO federation of Nepal; they further requested for the secretariat of the network to be established at Social Welfare Council (SWC).

The representatives of CSOs committed that all the mechanisms of CSOs will be put to optimum use; further CSOs can also contribute to government's plan to mobilize volunteers; CSO workers can work as volunteers.

Sector based issues were raised by the CSOs during the meeting. Representatives of organization working for Dalit rights, women rights alerted that there should not be any discrimination with the suspected and infected people from their community and the relief package should also include response for pregnant women and sanitary napkins for women. Representative from FNJ informed that the journalists can contribute to disseminate information efficiently and promptly and urged the government to use the media in a better way.

A suggestion was put toward to the Ministry that when it has put focus towards responding to COVID 19 pandemic, it should also prepare for regular disasters that the rainy season will bring.

The CSOs demanded that the poor and daily wage workers should be provided with basic necessities such as food and shelter. They warned the Ministry about the misuse and disparity in distribution of such food relief packages.

The CSOs also informed the Minister on their contribution and efforts of support to the government such as cash, medical supplies, and buildings for quarantine etc.

Minister of Women Children and Senior Citizen thanked CSOs for their spontaneous contribution to fight against this pandemic; he committed that Ministry will take guardianship of the CSOs. He urged the CSOs to make short and long term programs to support the fight against COVID 19 and other social, economic impacts it may pose. He expressed Ministry's readiness to develop a
guideline for mobilization and coordination with CSO's and CSOs action plan. He also urged the CSOs to collect a basket fund and work as one program.

Conclusions:

A guideline will be developed by the government to mobilize and coordinate with CSOs. CSOs may contribute in the drafting of the guideline.

An Action Plan to coordinate and mobilize CSOs will be developed by the CSOs and shared with the Ministry; the demand from CSOs to form a loose network will be addressed in this action plan and NGO Federation of Nepal will lead this network. The secretariat of the network will be further finalized.

Participants

From NGO Federation of Nepal
Mr. Jit Ram Lama, NGO Federation of Nepal
Mr. Ram Pd. Subedi (SWC)
Ms. Sumitra Sharma
Mr. Arjun Bhattarai
Mr. Dillu Pd Ghimere
Dr. Netra Timalsina
Mr. BB Thapa, ED
Ms. Shradha Baskota, PM
Mr. Hum Bhandari, PM

From Ministry of Women Children and Senior Citizen
Hon. Parbat Gurung, Minister
Mr. Bishal Kumar Bhandari, Social Welfare Council

From Other CSO’s
Mr. Bhakta Bishwakarma
Mr. Anish Deulyal
Ms. Shanta Laxmi Shrestha, Beyond Beijing Committee
Dr. Padam Khatiwada, Nation Human Right Alliance
Mr. Bidur Subedi, Nation Human Right Alliance
Mr. Bishnu Timalsina
Mr. Ganesh B.K
Mr. Jog Raj Giri
Ms. Bharati Pathak
Mr. Sambhu Dulal
Ms. Shanta Laxmi Shrestha
Mr. Rajendra Aryal, FECOFUN
Mr. Khem B.K, federation of Nepali Journalist
Mr. Surya Bahadur Thapa
Mr. Shreeram Bajagai, INSEC