

# NATIONAL SUMMIT RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT: TACKLING REGIONAL DISPARITIES

February 7-8, 2014  
Biredranagar, Surkhet



**Karnali Integrated Rural Development  
and Research Centre (KIRDARC) Nepal**



**Government of Nepal  
National planning Commission**

## **Table of Contents**

- 1 Rethinking Development Model Emerged**
- 2 Context Impel : Conversing Development Thoughts**
  - 2.1 International Context**
  - 2.2 National Context**
- 3 National Summit : Development Concepts Reframed**
  - 3.1 The Summit Launched**
  - 3.2 Plenary : Thoughts and Approaches Revisited**
  - 3.3 New Development Framework Envisioned**
- 4 Surkhet Declaration : Reflection of Summit**
- 5 Way Forward**
- 6 The Organizers and Partners**



## 1 Rethinking Development Model Emerged

The planners and development actors of Nepal have realized the need to remodel the Development Plans with inclusive growth concept. Rethinking the model of development is initiated with a view to harmonize the national, provincial and local development plans and expedite the initiatives at all levels to ensure equitable distributive justice to the people as a fruit of inclusive democratic political system in Nepal. It is realized that regional disparities in the development initiatives in previous days have bared maximum utilization of the potential resources naturally stored in uneven mountainous locations of Nepal, like Karnali. The planners and the development actors have realized need of development paradigm shift to ensure all citizens' equitable access to the resources and promote inclusive national growth.

The changing of national socio-political scenario and the international context of development thinking have made pressure for the development planner and actors to consider development approach. Although a new approach initiated in 1990 with a view making development more human centric had made some consideration for planning and implementing development interventions directly connecting with people's life for their prosperous development; it has been critically analyzed that the poor countries like Nepal has not been effectively benefiting by this approach to ensure the equitable voice of people as a right of development. Similarly, the modality of MDGs as a major priority of development notion has not offered greater changes in least-developed countries; and does not ensure the sustainable development of marginalized and vulnerable section of people living in the remote setting. This background impelled the development policy makers, promoters and actors to rethink approach of new developmental journey. A National Summit on "**RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT: TACKLING REGIONAL DISPARITIES**" held in Birendranagar Surkhet (regional headquarters of Mid-Western Development Region) during 7 and 8 February 2014 has drawn this conclusion. National Summit was to assess the strategies to tackle regional disparities to be set for the 13th national plan 2013-2015 and envision the future direction for successive national plans with a view to promote best utilization of the resources of the least developed regions to benefit from a national development perspective. The Summit not only aimed at projecting effective ways to accelerate the regional as well as local development initiatives in the districts that are still behind in human development progress compared with the other districts but also shifted paradigm of national development perspectives.

The Summit on addressing regional disparities in national development process is first event in Nepal in the history of development initiatives persuaded on Planned National Development effort since 1957. Karnali Integrated Rural Development And Research Centre (KIRDARC) Nepal, had taken initiatives to convene the National Summit in Midwest Region, in collaboration with National Planning Commission of Nepal and the Summit was successfully given the above results with joint efforts of both the organizers and their development partners.

Experts of the planning and development sector presented thematic concepts and proposal of the modality on the new approach required in the dimensions of regional development. The participating development actors in the plenary interacted and discussed the presentations to bring common conclusions. Plenary Sessions covered seven prominent dimensional themes:

- *Government Plan and Perspective on Regional Development;*
- *Future (Post 2015) Strategy for the regional development;*
- *Food Security, Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation;*
- *Aid effectiveness and Millennium Development Goals; Just Development and Inclusive Growth;*
- *Good Governance and Human Rights in the context of development;*
- *and Infrastructure Development and rural urban linkages for inclusive growth.*

The Summit concluded deriving a perspective that sustainable development as a fundamental right of the citizen and prescribed for a regionally balanced and locally adapted national development that is oriented to the benefit of the public at large. Reaffirming the notion of development as promotion of interests and amenities for the human being through utilization processing and upgrading of the natural resources, Summit confirmed that all Nepali Citizen have right to participate in, contribute to and benefit from the economic, social, cultural and political development of Nepal as human rights. Planners and development actors reiterated that the government of Nepal has accepted international obligations to guarantee right to development of every Nepalese and expressed new conviction that the coordinated endeavours of the Government, Civil Society and Private Sector accelerates speedily and achieves fruitfully the progress of the nation.

The Summit, based on above conviction, has expressed a five-point commitment and called upon the government and other stakeholders for interventions in effective way to stabilize development planning placing human rights and social justice in the centre of periodic plans balancing the infrastructure and human development initiatives. The Summit urged to:

### **The Summit Urges**

- ***Take economic viability of the provinces as basis of province determination in course of state restructure with strategy of maximum utilization of the local resources;***
- ***Determine national development programmes and projects to mitigate present regional disparities;***
- ***Create boosting environment for implementing development programmes and projects by replacing present slow and failed working patterns with a new speedy pattern to expedite***

- infrastructure development, industrialization of herbal resources and accessible public services in the regions like Karnali; and,*
- *Improve planning and monitoring process to translate the notion of regionally balanced national development into a reality.*

The Summit invited interventions of the development partners and actors to collaborate and cooperate organs and officials of the Government of Nepal at central, regional and districts levels and local bodies to forward national, regional/provincial and local planning processes for speedy economic development of the regions that are having great development potentialities like Karnali. The Summit highlighted the agenda of inclusion and gender equality for inclusive economic growth of communities aiding sustainable management of natural resources through research, processing and marketing as common assets of local communities. The Summit specially asked for preparation of appropriate risks reduction and adaptation policy and guidelines, and their applications in all planning and development processes and projects.

The Summit has become successful not in setting visionary directions for future development endeavours but also envisioned adjustment of the development planning process with human rights, gender and social inclusion. It boarded the Civil Society as a third pillar of national development continuum and advised the international community to rethink about existing interpretation of right to development and process for adoption of international instrument encompassing the notion of right to sustainable equitable development. National development planning process has shifted to a new visionary horizon as the government sector and civil society jointly started to revisiting the past, working at present for future joint efforts and supplements. The Summit established right to sustainable development encompasses the recognition, protection, promotion and fulfilment of the entire social, economic, cultural, political and civil rights of the citizens of a nation at every stage and levels of the governance.

## **2 Context Impel : Conversing Development Thoughts**

### **2.1 International Context**

In the 1970s and 1980s the right to development, as one of several rights consisted of solidarity rights belonging to peoples along with right to environment, humanitarian assistance, peace, communication, and common heritage. Before the mid-twentieth century, the beliefs prevailed that civil and political rights were separate from economic, social, and cultural rights. Formal articulation of the right to development in the form of texts using the human rights terminology is a late twentieth century phenomenon beginning in the early 1970s. United Nations General Assembly proclaimed development as a human right in 1986, the Declaration on the Right to Development.

In 1993, World Human Rights Conference held in Vienna, Austria. Concluding document of the Conference, Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action for the first time defined right to development as “a universal and inalienable right and an integral part of fundamental human rights.” United Nations General Assembly mandated the High Commissioner of Human Rights to establish a new branch whose primary responsibilities would include the promotion and protection of the right to development.

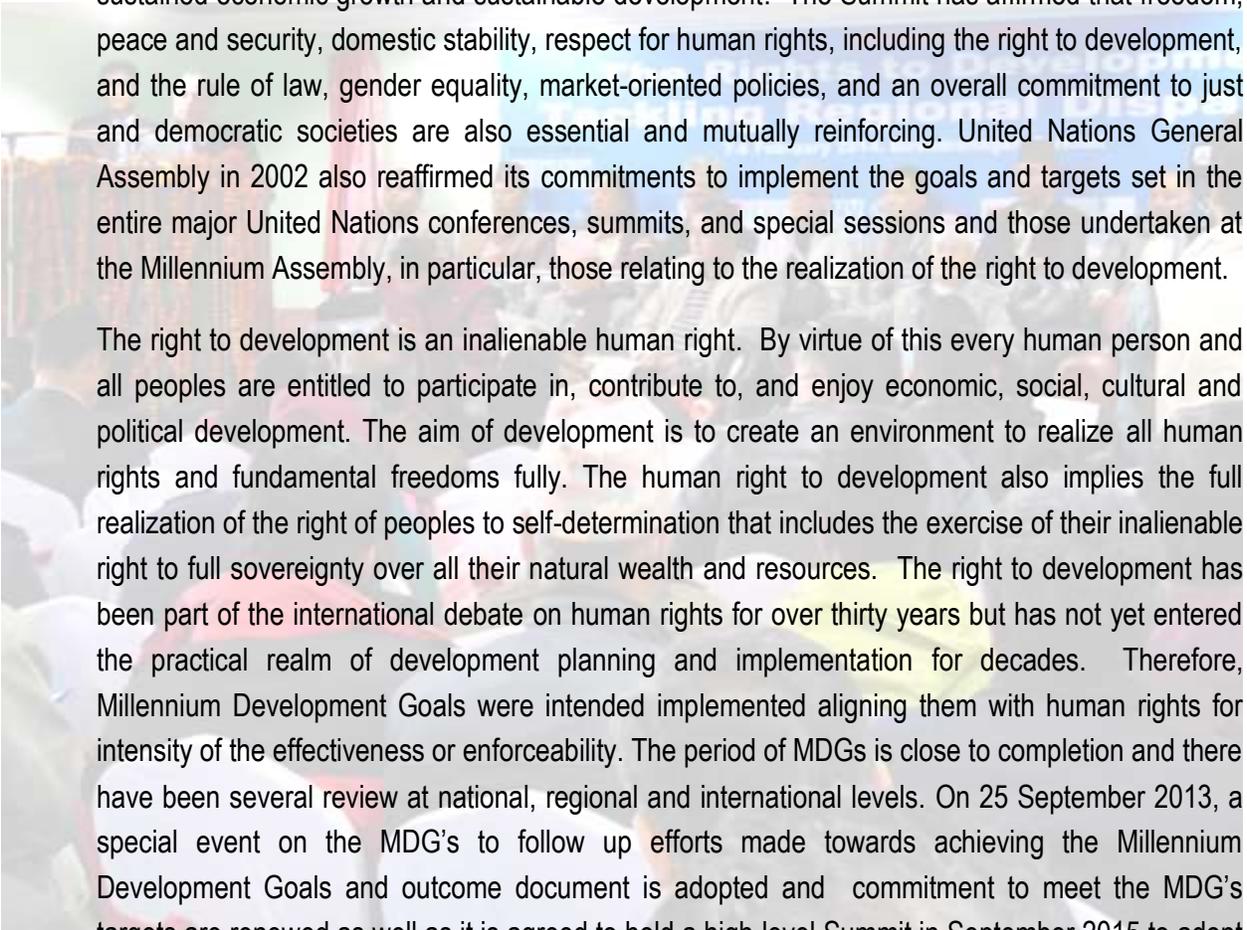
On April 22, 1998, United Nations Commission on Human Rights adopted by consensus a resolution on the right to development recommending to the Economic and Social Council the establishment of a follow-up mechanism consisting of an open-ended working group (OEWG) and an Independent Expert. The Commission decided in 2003 to request its Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights: to prepare a concept document establishing options for the implementation of the right to development and their feasibility of an international legal standard of a binding nature, guidelines on the implementation of the right to development and principles for development partnership.

In September 2000 at the United Nations Millennium Summit, world leaders agreed on a set of goals and targets for combating poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation and discrimination against women. United Nations General Assembly adopted The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which included the commitment “to making the right to development a reality for everyone and to freeing the entire human race from want.

#### ***Millennium Development Goals***

The Millennium Declaration of 2000 set out an ambitious international agenda to tackle peace and security, development, human rights, and the environment. Alongside development goals on poverty, water and education, commitments were also made to promoting democracy and respect for all human rights. This included the right to development and relevant economic, social and cultural rights, with a particular focus on the rights of minorities, women and migrants, and the right to access to information. In the following year, the development goals were slightly amended and published in a single list called the Millennium Development Goals:

- 1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger**
- 2. Achieve universal primary education**
- 3. Promote gender equality and empower women**
- 4. Reduce child mortality**
- 5. Improve maternal health**
- 6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases**
- 7. Ensure environmental sustainability**
- 8. Develop a global partnership for development**



World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, September 2–4, 2002, desired building a humane, equitable and caring global society, cognizant of the need for human dignity for all. In its Plan of Implementation, the Summit mentioned that peace, security, stability and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, as well as respect for cultural diversity are essential for achieving sustainable development and ensuring that sustainable development benefits all. The Plan of Implementation further viewed achieving sustainable development includes actions at all levels to create an enabling environment at the regional, sub-regional, national and local levels in order to achieve sustained economic growth and sustainable development. The Summit has affirmed that freedom, peace and security, domestic stability, respect for human rights, including the right to development, and the rule of law, gender equality, market-oriented policies, and an overall commitment to just and democratic societies are also essential and mutually reinforcing. United Nations General Assembly in 2002 also reaffirmed its commitments to implement the goals and targets set in the entire major United Nations conferences, summits, and special sessions and those undertaken at the Millennium Assembly, in particular, those relating to the realization of the right to development.

The right to development is an inalienable human right. By virtue of this every human person and all peoples are entitled to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development. The aim of development is to create an environment to realize all human rights and fundamental freedoms fully. The human right to development also implies the full realization of the right of peoples to self-determination that includes the exercise of their inalienable right to full sovereignty over all their natural wealth and resources. The right to development has been part of the international debate on human rights for over thirty years but has not yet entered the practical realm of development planning and implementation for decades. Therefore, Millennium Development Goals were intended implemented aligning them with human rights for intensity of the effectiveness or enforceability. The period of MDGs is close to completion and there have been several review at national, regional and international levels. On 25 September 2013, a special event on the MDG's to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and outcome document is adopted and commitment to meet the MDG's targets are renewed as well as it is agreed to hold a high level Summit in September 2015 to adopt a new set of Goals. The new Goals will balance the three elements of sustainable development – providing economic transformation and opportunity to lift people out of poverty, advancing social justice and protecting the environment.

The Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit has set out Post-2015 development agenda expressed determination to "craft a strong post-2015 development agenda" that complete the unfinished business and respond to new challenges. The agenda is to resolve post-2015 development agenda reinforce the international community's commitment to poverty eradication

and sustainable development. Coherent approach working towards a single framework and set of goals, universal in nature and applicable to all countries, while taking account of differing national circumstances and respecting national policies and priorities is envisioned to promote peace and security, democratic governance, the rule of law, gender equality and human rights for all. Arriving at an inclusive and people-centred post-2015 development agenda, a transparent intergovernmental process is desired that includes inputs from all stakeholders, including civil society, scientific and knowledge institutions, parliaments, local authorities and the private sector.

The International Community or the World's leaders have realized that right to development adds value by providing a comprehensive framework and approach to the policies and programmes of all relevant actors at the global, regional, sub-regional and national levels as this right is a composite and integrates aspects of both human rights and development theory and practice. It encompasses all human rights – civil, political, economic, social and cultural. It requires active, free and meaningful participation. It involves both national and international dimensions of State responsibilities including in the creation of an enabling environment for development and favourable conditions for all human rights. Right to development demands comprehensive and human-centred development policy, participatory development processes, social justice and equity. It embodies the human rights principles of equality, non-discrimination, participation, transparency, accountability as well as international cooperation in an integrated manner. Right to development implies the principles of self-determination and full sovereignty over natural wealth and resources. It facilitates a holistic approach to the issue of poverty by addressing its systemic and structural causes. It strengthens the basis for pro-poor growth with due attention to the rights of the most marginalized and fosters friendly relations between states, international solidarity, cooperation and assistance in areas of concern to developing countries, including technology transfer, access to essential medicines, debt sustainability, development aid, international trade and policy space in decision-making. Therefore, national planning process is to be furthered making right to development operative reality at all levels.

## **2.2 National Context**

Nepal began a national planning system by 1957 with a view to organize developmental initiatives in a planned manner to accelerate national development. Even the goals set in various national periodic plans intended to promote the coverage of the national development initiatives towards all sectors and the geographical regions and settings, some regions remain lagging behind the average development indexes. Following the democratic changes in Nepal, as a member of international community, Nepal began to respect human rights and to accept them as a part of state responsibilities. However, the developmental endeavours encouraged by the government remain insufficient to ensure every citizen is entitled to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy

economic, social, cultural and political development in which his/her all human rights and fundamental freedoms are realized. The failure to ensure and fulfil states obligations to the citizens right to development, particularly to those subjected to or living in socio-economically underdeveloped areas of the country.

Although the state applied some measures to protect human rights through development planning, a larger part of the high hills and mountains of the country including Karnali region (that covers almost 15 percent geographical area of the country), remained far from the grid of the mainstream national development. The end of cold war and acceptance of all human rights as inherent to every human being and are universal, indivisible and interdependent by the international community has ended the clash of political ideology of favouritism of either civil and political rights or social, economic and cultural rights' supremacy and command over the governance and the development. However, the political clashed favouritism continued in Nepal in terms of political agendas of the major political forces and that lead Nepal to a decade long internal armed conflict situation. The armed conflict situation not only hindered the open dialogue process of the mode and models of development campaigns but also obstructed the traditionally continued development approaches and schemes. As a result, the development process derailed for one and half decade.

Despite such adverse situation, civil society organizations of Nepal continued pushing for right-based governance and continuity of development initiatives. For example, KIRDARC Nepal initiated to organize local groups to expedite development initiatives and peace building and local groups were engaged in giving continuity to planned development projects. In 2003, the local groups empowered by KIRDARC Nepal re-open the construction of Karnali Highway despite obstructed by then rebellion force. Civil society engagement as facilitator and linkage builder went to more creatively to bring the conflicting political forces into a negation for protection of human rights of the all of the both sides and to have a common developmental conception. Civil society-initiated Regional Conference on Human Rights and Development held in Jumla during 24-25 June 2003 not only discussed the impediments of regional development, peace and human rights but also asserted strong joint civil society voice calling the conflicting parties to cease the war and outlet the crisis of human rights and development. The push of civil society continued and surpassed.

The enduring armed conflict in the country inclined to cease through a political negotiation of the influencing political forces and a popular non-violent movement in April 2006 aimed at replacing the Monarchy and establishing Nepal nation as federal republic with restructure of the state mechanisms. Then His Majesty's Government and then rebellion force, The Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) signed and entered A Comprehensive Peace Accord on 21 November 2006. The Comprehensive Peace Accord 2006, among others, agreed upon **implementing a minimum common programme for economic and social transformation** (Clause 3.6) and to **build a**

**common development concept for socio-economic transformation and justice as well as to make the country economically prosperous and advance it rapidly** (Clause 3.12).v

Further, the Interim Constitution of Nepal 2007 stipulates **to ensure progressive political, economic and social changes in the country** as well as **to formulate a common development strategy for socio-economic transformation and justice, as well as for rapid economic progress and prosperity of the country** as key responsibilities of the State [Article 33(b) and (k)]. Similarly, the Interim Constitution 2007 has stipulated **to build a prosperous and advanced Nepal by creating an environment enjoyable its benefits** a political objective. The Constitution set **to give priority and protection to making the national economy independent, self-reliant and progressive** as the fundamental economic objective of State(Article 14). Such objectives sought achievable by prevention of concentration of resources and means to limited section, by equitable distribution of economic gains based on social justice, by preventing exploitations and encouraging private and public enterprises. The Constitution has provided overarching persuasive state policies including **of raising the standard of living of the general public by fulfilling basic needs such as education, health, transportation, housing, and employment of the people of all regions, by equitably distributing investment of economic resources for balanced development of the country** (Article 35.1) to materialize and achieve the above objectives.

The successive periodic national plans then after attempted to address the first agenda, however, no specific and well organized programme of action of socio-economic transformation would have been implemented due to the transitional political circumstances and the pulling and pushing factors on the political equations appeared then after.

Article 159 (1) of the Interim Constitution 2007 further declared Nepal a Federal Democratic Republic State. The Constituent Assembly is expected to determine the nature, structure and institutions of federal and provincial government and governance. There is a great expectations from among the people and development encouragers that upcoming provincial and local structures will be competent in expediting provincial and local development including resource generation and allocation. However, it is equally important to have a corresponding framework at federal level to ensure that it allocates sufficient resources to provincial and local governments for fair and balanced development across Nepal. People at large expect that the Constituent Assembly also lays down a common development policy framework (development model agreement) among political parties present in the Assembly.

The Three-Year Interim National Plan (2013–2016) emphasizes the reduction of social and economic imbalances as a means of ensuring the socio-economic resilience of people. The Plan focuses on ensuring the delivery of non-discriminatory state services to marginalized groups by improving good governance, institutional strengthening and capacity building. By 2016, the Plan aims to achieve an annual average economic growth of 6% and to reduce the poverty rate to 18%.

However, social exclusion (characterized by caste, gender, and ethnic discrimination), vast regional economic inequalities, lack of employment and income opportunities, poor governance and failure to provide the required level of resources pose serious challenges to the achievement of development targets. Similarly, the regional imbalances created by unjust distribution of development resources from the centre and the absence of proper development agendas are also not promoting the sustainable and equitable development of those areas.

With considerations to above background, a national discourse among the planners, politicians, development actors and the development catalysts was need of the time. It was high time to examine the common development issues of the country and explore potential area-specific solutions. Therefore, taking support from its working partners and in collaboration with apex planning body of the government, the organizer, convened the National Summit to address the contextual requirement of the development agenda including how equitably inclusive growth would be achieved by the planned interventions onward.

### **3 National Summit : Development Concepts Reframed**

The summit brought together a cross-section of stakeholders from across the country: politicians, practitioners, policy makers, donors and businesspersons into a national platform to revisit the development thinking for a changed national context. Development stakeholders of the nation consulted on the ideas creating an inclusive development environment in Nepal, as well as deliberated set of agreed visions of further interventions needed to promote a just and sustainable development. The summit has deepened the understanding amongst all stakeholders of culturally attuned inclusive development that ensures participation and ownership of largest sections of the population. The Summit was divided into three parts: inaugural, plenary and closing.

#### **3.1 The Summit Launched**

Distinguished guests and personalities addressed the inaugural of the Summit. Honourable Mr. Bal Bahadur Mahat and Ms. Goma Kuwar (Members of Constituent Assembly from Jumla), Mr. Durga Bahadur Thapa (Chairperson of District Branch of Federation of Nepali Journalists), Mr. Mohan Chapagain (President of Association of Community Radio Broadcasters, Nepal), Ms. Sharmila Karki (Chairperson of NGO Federation), Mr. Anup Gautam (Representatives of CARE Nepal), Associate Professor Mr. Vijaya Kanta Karna (Former Ambassador to Denmark from Nepal), Mr. Ngaindra Upadhyaya (Regional Administrator of Government of Nepal for Midwest region) and Mr. Gauri Pradhan (Former Commissioner of National Human Rights Commission of Nepal) were the prominent who addressed the inaugural of the Summit. Dr. Jagadish Chandra Pokharel and Dr. Dinesh Chandra Devkota (Former Vice Presidents of National Planning Commission) also addressed the opening of the programme. Dr. Rabindra Shakya, Vice President of National Planning Commission of Nepal (NPC) had inaugurated the National Summit by lighting a lamp.

The speakers of the inaugural session highlighted the need of conservation, utilization, processing and marketing of natural resources and other opportunities that are existed in the remote districts. For this they added the need of developing and implementing regional and local planning with strategically as well as accelerating the infrastructure and other development initiatives of national levels. Speaking as Chief Guest of the programme, Dr. Rabindra Shakya, Vice President of National Planning Commission of Nepal (NPC) asked the presenters, participants and the organizer to come with specific recommendations for addressing regional balance for current and upcoming national planning. He assured that the recommendation of the National Summit would be employed in the planning process as priority agenda in current and future planning process at national level.

### **3.2 Plenary : Thoughts and Approaches Revisited**

Following to the inaugural session there were seven sessions as plenary presentations and discussions. The first Plenary Session was on **Government Plan and Perspective on Regional Development** from National Planning Commission (NPC). The Second was on **Future (Post 2015) Strategy for the regional development** by a development expert. The third was on **Food Security, Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation** by expert planner. The fourth was on **Aid effectiveness and Millennium Development Goals** by an economist. The fifth was on **Just Development and Inclusive Growth** by a planning economist; and the sixth was on **Good Governance and Human Rights** in the context of development by a prominent human rights campaigner. The presentations made by the resource persons are attached in Annex 2.

Following every presentations, presenter resource persons and participants interacted and discussed the subject matters correlating them in the orientation of impelling international and national contexts as articulated in above in 2.1 and 2.1 of this report. The plenary meetings of the Summit considered in a open and frank manner without any bias and prejudice to the values of governance with recognition of the roles of civil society, private sector and government in accelerating development.

The plenary on **Government Plan and Perspective on Regional Development from National Planning Commission (NPC)** outlined an account of the history of the Nepal's planned development, and realized that even it has been more than six decades and twelve periodic national plans have been completed and running for the thirteenth plan strategy for regional development would not be much effective. The Summit noted that establishment and operation of Karnali Development Commission, Far West Region Development Commission, Remote Zone Development Committee, and United Karnali Development Programmes are hopeful initiatives; however, are under undue influences of politicization. The participants and the delegates accepted that National Planning Commission has been drawing its attention to regionally balanced national development by setting priorities and appreciated the thirteenth plan's objective aimed at:

promoting concept of regionally balanced development by giving special emphasis to the regions lagging behind on the economic social and human development indexes and its strategies to promote investment based on priority by identifying fields of comparable benefits; and formulate and implement united regional development.

Based on presentation made by Mr. Jagannath Adhikari from National Planning commission the plenary noted absence of established close linkage between the plan, policy, programme and project and the beneficiary people; inability to manage sufficient resources to implement regional policy and programme; centralized planning system; lack of result-based planning and monitoring framework developed; and geographical barriers, lack of infrastructures, resources, institutional delivery capacity and effective governance are main hindrance of regionally balanced development.

The plenary viewed necessity of enforcing result based planning process; implementing regionally planned development by formulating, executing and evaluating them at regional level; increasing investments in development in the regions lagging behind; improving the role of National Planning Commission to promote regional development; developing cadre on economic planning under civil service considering the technicality of planning process; and initiating practice beneficiary owned development model in the regions to resolve the barriers of regionally balanced development. For these all the Summit thought that there is need of skill development even within the implementers.

The plenary on **Future Strategy (Post 2015) for Regional Development** with defining region as especially part of a country or the world definable characteristics such as watershed, transport, economic and social interlinks, covered some examples of development plans and schemes that are being implemented by neighbouring countries India and China. Presentation made clear that national vision with regional balance development as its neighbours are progressing. Nepal needs to make its regional balance development across country should take into the accounts of the corresponding benefits linking it with the regional developments of the neighbouring countries. For this, regional plans and projects to the strengths in domestic developmental regions and the exchanges of the potentialities are desirable.

Nepal needs to concentrate Post 2015: diplomatic efforts along with assertive and constructive engagement with India. How to tackle with India's "prior use" or "existing consumptive users" principle and negotiate power deal with "avoided cost" principle linking Nepal's development initiatives with Indian growth engines is an important issue. Wining confidence on Nepal's North South Roads encouraging India for Tripartite cooperation (Nepal, India and China) and linking Nepal with Tibetan development would be beneficial to Nepal's regional development. Inter-region national infrastructures are to expedited to facilitate regional development initiatives. Priorities and preferences are to be set on industrial balance, tourism and other dimensions of development are to be taken into account.

Plenary on **Food Security, Disaster Risk Reduction, and Climate Change Adaptation** articulated the current development issues linking with Climate change impacts in Nepal. Global mean surface temperature has risen 0.6oC+0.2oC over the last 120 years. Impact of the climate change has posed high risk on food security and there is need to introduce and safety net for agriculture. Tracking adaptation monitoring of the development initiatives linking them with climate science has been inevitable. Changes in climatic factors like temperature, precipitation, and solar radiation have immense influence on crop production. There is an estimation that by 2050 crop yields in South Asia can decrease by up to 30 percent infers the impact of climate change on agriculture is of a great concern at local, national, as well as global levels as food production is underscored from development perspective. Urgency of the day are: protect livelihoods and provide guaranteed transfers; reduce risks; help households build sustainable and resilient livelihoods; and protect the gains households make with insurance. For this, to linking research science interfacing the policy, conducting economic cost assessment to offer input to take decision of adaptation and finance it; supporting people to understand climate change economics and its pros and cons; mainstreaming climate change issues within development policies; strategically supporting to determine where investments might be needed in the short, medium and long-term to adaptation; and bringing awareness on the advantage of climate finance and technological support are essential.

Deliberation on **Millennium Development Goals, Foreign Aid & Development Effectiveness in Nepal** concerned the idea of development dimensions that people as denominator of development and rising living standard of lowest strata beyond socially acceptable level, the first criterion for attention. Development is not only concern of material needs but also of standardization of social life conditions. Development as economic growth with changes in social, cultural, and institutional sphere invites structural transformations.

The emerge of Millennium Development Goals with eight goals and 40 indicators that include: eradicate extreme poverty & hunger, fulfilment of universal primary education; promote gender equality & women empower; reduce child mortality; improve maternal health; combat HIV/AIDS, malaria etc.; ensure environmental sustainability, positive global partnership for development are partially achieved.

The belief of foreign aid as magic for development is failed and the belief is to be rebuilt with new visioning. The days making development issues as magic game of capital, technology and experts are over. Foreign aid increment to Nepal in decreasing rates requires revision and priority area and zones are to be re-set. To accelerate regionally balanced development and equitably inclusive growth needs to abolish a composite version unequal power structure and domination that system of centre- periphery dominant relations that promotes expropriation of excessive profit squeezing wider masses of people by former imperialist powers. The rhetoric of market fundamentalism is

outdated and balance approach innovated with strategy is to begin with socialization of monopoly profit, mass participation in production and social justice based distribution; usurpation of social agenda (gender, unemployment, poverty, inequality, discrimination, indigenous people, land reform etc) & CSO encounters, resource based development: agriculture, Industry and Trade (home + foreign), balance between labour, capital and technology, good governance, social justice and maximization of economic mobilization of available resources. Foreign Aid utilization policy is to be in place.

The plenary on **Infrastructure Development and Rural Urban Linkage for Inclusive and Balanced Growth** highlighted that speed of development is linked with speed of regional transport networks, i.e. surface roads, railway's, airways. These interlink dry ports, special economic zones, and economic centres. Belief of regional growth is thinking locally and acting regionally. However, inclusive and balanced regional development may only be properly accelerated by defining and locating regions within the larger geographic, economic, political space; and, manage and use infrastructure understanding the change in the settlement locations, sizes, and economic activities and planning for settlement growth.

Realistic and useful vision and direction for balanced regional development is essential that encourages bottom up approach of development. Partnership among local governments, private sector and civil society is essential element to promote regional development. This should be strengthened by coordinating mechanism. Present infrastructures particularly the road constructions are currently haphazard and congested. Infrastructural developmental initiatives require to be resettled with strategy of flourishing growth centres along the corridors and nodal points. Regionally balanced and inclusive growth development model is to be devised with full consideration of the distinct ecological advantage in the hills, mountains and Terai. Nepal's hills and mountains have potential of livestock, agriculture (seasonal vegetables), tourism, natural herbs, non-timber forest products, hydro power and in some cases mining and Terai has good potential for processing industries and commercial farming. Upcoming development planning shall note on these issues.

Equitably inclusive growth would not be possible only by the attempts made by the government. The other actors need to supplement government's initiatives Until provincial governance structures become functional, District Development Committee has role as leaders/coordinators for development of the district. Present particular district's geographical boundary based District Development Committees' vision and initiatives for development needs revised. Political culture at local level is to improved that it respond development agenda from broader perspectives beyond partisan interests. Civil society is to be brought to mainstream of development discourses. Mitigation measures for difficult geo-physical condition and difficult terrain in the mountains and hills present challenges for greater connectivity for development need devised. Social, economic,

political exclusion and various forms of discriminations are to be mitigated through right-based social campaigning.

Plenary discussed envisioning a dynamic prosperous economic corridor that increases the well-being of the people, while ensuring that its development is inclusive and sustainable. Setting goals to create jobs, increase income, reduce poverty, and improve the living conditions of the excluded and marginalised population in the region is inevitable to promote inclusive growth with regionally balance development. Objectives are to be set for strengthen infrastructure and connectivity; promote market, trade and investment; address social concern; enhance private sector participation; and capacity development of public and private sectors as well as civil society actors. For inclusive growth some selected economic sectors need to be preferred sectors that include agriculture and industry to upgrade production, productivity, linkage with market; improve irrigation system; and promote organic farming and training on integrated pest management techniques; increase finance in the communities. Local level initiatives on agriculture, tourism and industry are essentially to be linked with large-scale industries including hydropower production.

Plenary deliberation on **Socially Just Development and Equitable Growth** articulated ideas, as progressive improvement of lives of human being is desirable change. Development is combination of infrastructures and social justice. Human rights, social justice and accountability serves as binding force against development. Level of accessibility of the people in essential social services and securities including education and health facilities are major indicators of development and measured accordingly. Strategies are essential to ensure absence of the poverty, injustices and inequalities.

**Social justice** refers to a concept of equality on material distribution as well as income distribution. Distribution of the income depends on how and who holds the status in power and power exercise. Social justice comes in terms of relationship between a person and state and universally on resource, opportunity and capacity. Social justice is a crucial element in dealing production, consumption, division of labour, fixing minimum wages, ownership over the factors and resources of the production, decision-making process, participation and exercise of rights. Considerations are essential in these aspects while planning and conjecturing development schemes.

Strategy is essential propel equal participation and opportunities all classes, sects and communities constitute **inclusive growth**. For this encouragement to the people to come in the processes of capital formation, saving and distribution is necessary. Since 2008, second great depression appeared. There is need of reallocation of the resources that have gone in the hands of limited people to invest the resources for the larger benefits. Participatory mixed economy suffers with problems and is a matter of discussion. A common visioning on form and values of society, reallocation of assets, self-reliant management with diversity, quality and sustainability and social justice based development framework is visualized in upcoming plan.

Plenary on **Human Rights and Good Governance: In the Context of Right to Sustainable Development** interlinked development issues with the present international acceptance of human rights norms. Human rights interface development as rights of the people. As human rights are universal, indivisible and interdependent, right to development particularly right to sustainable development is inalienable right of the citizens. As the concept of development as welfare has been obsolete and right based approach prevailed, new development plans and schemes must be formulated under human rights framework. Disparities on the allocation of the development budget in developmental regions may lead to an unintended situation, therefore, strategies for causing ownership of the local people over development initiatives are desirable that ensure benefits goes to the larger section of the society. Sustainable development with regional balance is possible only keeping human rights as centre by entire sectors.

### **3.3 New Development Framework Envisioned**

The prominent experts' presentations were provocative to participants to reveal respective views and observations and to offer feedback. The participants from among the wide range experienced as implementations of planning and development initiatives, sincerely considered the issues raised by the expert presenters. Because of participants' interventions on the presented issues, the meetings of the plenary drew landmark conclusions as follows:

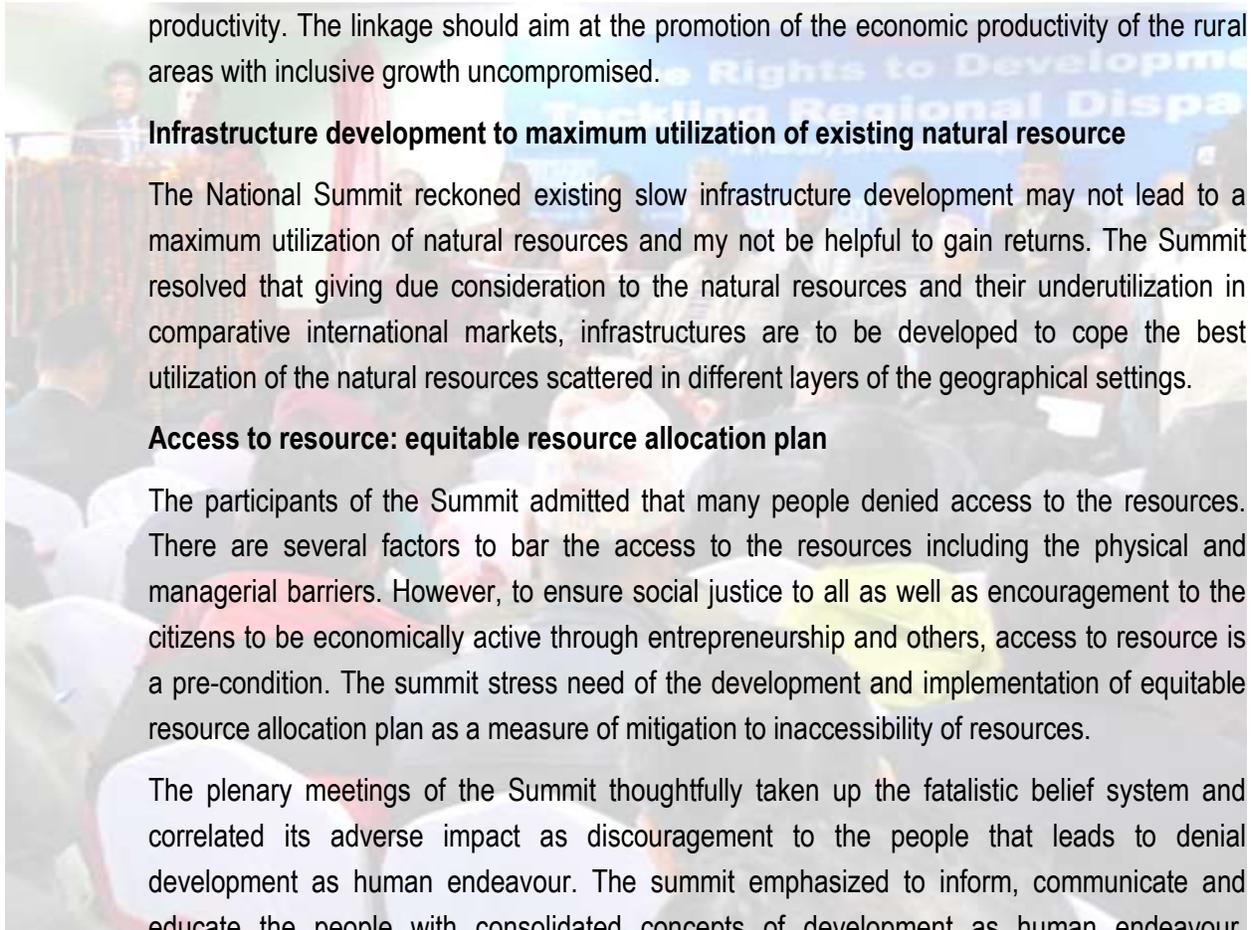
#### **Rethinking development plan**

National Summit expressly came to conclusion that it has been time to rethink, update and revise the conceptual framework of the long run national development visioning as well as periodic planning at national level. The Summit resolved that such reframing of national planning process to give full considerations and due regard to the prospective thoughts developed and agreed by the international community under the initiation of United Nations, particularly in relation to Millennium Development Goals and vision attached to it onward 2015.

The national Summit thoughtfully proposed reframing of national development framework giving due consideration and value to interface of development, human rights and social justice issues that have been resolved through legal and political consensus and accords in the country including the negotiated agenda of state restructure. The Summit resolved that national development vision and the plan should harmonize the national provincial and local development initiatives and processes.

#### **Inclusive growth**

The Summit had a unanimous agreement over the notion of inclusive growth. The summit resolved that notion of inclusive growth requires to be well defined in overarching policy document of the government and indicators should gauge the progress of the upcoming



implementations of the national and local level periodic plans. To facilitate the process of promoting inclusive growth Indicators and programmes are essential. In developing and designing the programmes and indicators, actors need to take into account cautiously the existing natural, geographical, and topographical as well as ethnicities and other social stratified diversities.

### **Rural urban linkage**

The Summit realized the need of the promotion of the rural-urban linkage not only in terms of exchange of civil and political power but also for a strong bond of organized economic productivity. The linkage should aim at the promotion of the economic productivity of the rural areas with inclusive growth uncompromised.

### **Infrastructure development to maximum utilization of existing natural resource**

The National Summit reckoned existing slow infrastructure development may not lead to a maximum utilization of natural resources and may not be helpful to gain returns. The Summit resolved that giving due consideration to the natural resources and their underutilization in comparative international markets, infrastructures are to be developed to cope the best utilization of the natural resources scattered in different layers of the geographical settings.

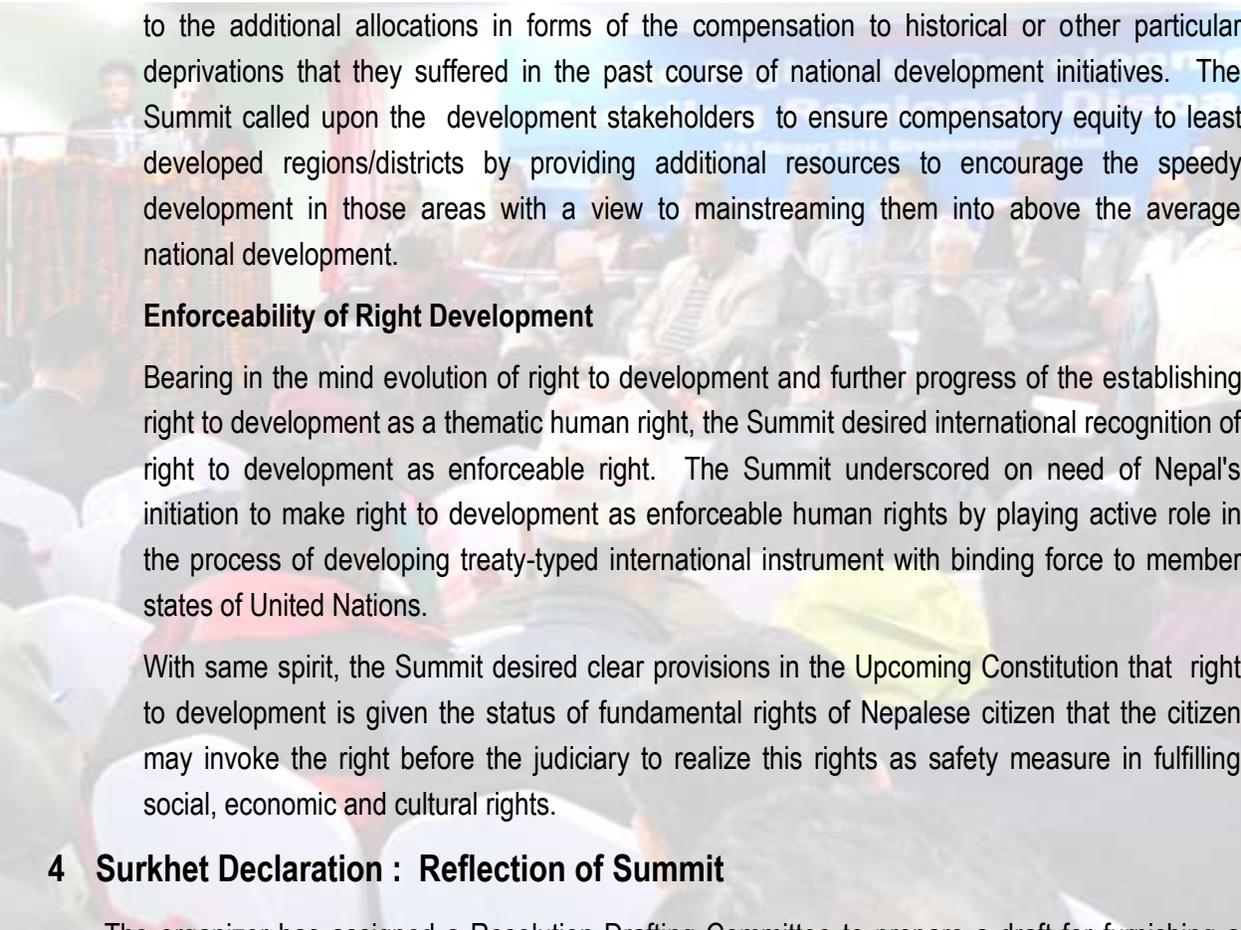
### **Access to resource: equitable resource allocation plan**

The participants of the Summit admitted that many people denied access to the resources. There are several factors to bar the access to the resources including the physical and managerial barriers. However, to ensure social justice to all as well as encouragement to the citizens to be economically active through entrepreneurship and others, access to resource is a pre-condition. The summit stress need of the development and implementation of equitable resource allocation plan as a measure of mitigation to inaccessibility of resources.

The plenary meetings of the Summit thoughtfully taken up the fatalistic belief system and correlated its adverse impact as discouragement to the people that leads to denial development as human endeavour. The summit emphasized to inform, communicate and educate the people with consolidated concepts of development as human endeavour, particularly for the realization of fundamental rights of people at large.

### **Use of foreign aid for priority zones**

The summit assumed that the harmony between national, regional, and local planning have been diluted in the context of present democratization, decentralization and power devolution and restructuring debate and expressed worry over the overlooking of the government at policy level the importance of the triggering effects of enforcement of plans in harmony at national, regional and local levels. Similarly, the Summit worried on low achievements of the utilization



of foreign aid. The Summit called upon the development fund agencies to employ the funds in the interest of local potential promotion rather than consumption in the name of expertise and technicalities. The summit strongly noted that the foreign aid should be targeted to the least developed regions/districts specifying them as priority zones in the country support strategies of the development funding agencies.

### **Compensatory Development Equity**

The summit noted that equity to the all citizens can be materialized through development initiatives and historically deprived or least developed regions or districts need to have access to the additional allocations in forms of the compensation to historical or other particular deprivations that they suffered in the past course of national development initiatives. The Summit called upon the development stakeholders to ensure compensatory equity to least developed regions/districts by providing additional resources to encourage the speedy development in those areas with a view to mainstreaming them into above the average national development.

### **Enforceability of Right Development**

Bearing in the mind evolution of right to development and further progress of the establishing right to development as a thematic human right, the Summit desired international recognition of right to development as enforceable right. The Summit underscored on need of Nepal's initiation to make right to development as enforceable human rights by playing active role in the process of developing treaty-typed international instrument with binding force to member states of United Nations.

With same spirit, the Summit desired clear provisions in the Upcoming Constitution that right to development is given the status of fundamental rights of Nepalese citizen that the citizen may invoke the right before the judiciary to realize this rights as safety measure in fulfilling social, economic and cultural rights.

## **4 Surkhet Declaration : Reflection of Summit**

The organizer has assigned a Resolution Drafting Committee to prepare a draft for furnishing a concluding observational document as declaration of the Summit. The committee, based on the presentations, deliberations and interventions of the delegates and participants in the plenary sessions prepared a draft of concluding resolution adoptable by Summit.

As the plenary presentations and discussions were over by the second day, a final session was organized as closing session. The organizer invited Resolution Drafting Committee to present before the floor for consideration. Mr. Krishna Prashad Jaishi (Ex-president of District Development Committee of Accham District), as a convenor of the Drafting Committee, presented a draft of the

declarations and resolutions to be adopted by the National Summit. Following the presentation of the Draft Declaration, the delegates from the floor discussed every provision and made necessary interventions to improve the content and the language of the document. Corrections were made based on the consensus reached by the floor and the provisions of the declaration were finalized. The Summit has adopted Surkhet Declaration that contents five-point commitment of the delegate participants and seven-point recommendations.

The delegate and the participants in the Surkhet Declaration expressed their commitments to formulate, to implement and to evaluate the plans at various level, prompting the onward planning processes by human rights and social justice perspectives; to be engaged in the development process keeping our sincere faiths to them in realizing the fundamentals of democratic norms, rule of law, human rights and social accountability; to encourage the Nongovernmental Organizations and Civil Society for their active and meaningful cooperation, partnership and collaborations with the Central, Regional and District level Offices and Organs of the Government of Nepal as well as Local Bodies; to implement the plans at various levels incorporating the notions inclusive democracy, human rights, gender equity and equality and social justice in upcoming planning cycles; and to be active in taking initiatives and endeavouring risk reduction of the climate change and adaptation resilience at all levels.

Through the Declaration, the Summit has recommended to take economic viability of the provinces as basis of province determination in course of state restructure with strategy of utilizing promoting of the local resources maximum; hold local elections; determine national development projects to mitigate present regional disparities; create environment for implementing development projects by replacing present slow and failed working patterns with a new speedy pattern to expedite infrastructure development, industrialization of herbal resources and accessible public services in the regions like Karnali; and, improve planning and monitoring process to translate the notion of regionally balanced national development into a reality.

The National Summit further invited interventions of the development partners and actors to collaborate and cooperate organs and officials of the Government of Nepal at central, regional and districts levels and local bodies to forward national, regional/provincial and local planning processes for speedy economic development of the regions with greater development potentialities like Karnali. The Summit highlighted the agenda of inclusion and gender equality for inclusive economic growth of communities aiding sustainable management of natural resources through research, processing and marketing as common assets of local communities. The Summit specially asked for preparation of appropriate risks reduction and adaptation policy and guidelines, and their applications in all planning and development processes and projects. Full text of the Declaration is as Annex 3.

## 5 Way forward

National Planning Commission takes the issues raised by the Summit as constructive inputs to its planning process for current Interim Plan and future planning schemes. The Vice Chairperson of the Commission has already invited recommendation and suggestions from the Summit in its inaugural.

Karnali Integrated Rural Development and Research Centre (KIRDARC) will undertake its role as facilitator and bridging agency for the development works. All the resolutions, commitments and recommendations made by the Summit shall be persuaded in the future institutional strategy plan of KIRDARC and the issues confirmed by the Summit in terms of concepts and approaches for future development initiatives will be continuously followed up by it in terms of policy advocacy and development facilitation initiatives.

## 6 The Organizers and Partners

**KIRDARC Nepal**, established in 1999, is a right based development organization and pioneer to civil society movement in the Karnali region which is committed to advocate and facilitate equity in national development process and has been working to advocate for inclusive growth and fair development since its inception. This summit is being held under the aegis of a programme addressing the need for inclusive development and of augmenting the capacity of national, regional and local actors.

**National Planning Commission (NPC)** is the advisory body for formulating development plans and policies of the country under the directives of the National Development Council (NDC). It explores and allocates resources for economic development and works as a central agency for monitoring and evaluation of development plans, policies and programmes. Besides, it facilitates the implementation of development policies and programmes. Moreover, it provides a platform for exchange of ideas, discussion and consultation pertaining to economic development of the country. It also serves as an institution for analyzing and finding solutions to the problems of civil societies, non-governmental organizations and the private sector in the country.

**Development Partners and Participants** :The National Summit was possible as development partners DanidaHUGOU, CARE Nepal, Stromme Foundation , Action Aid ,Save The Children, Mission East and SNV Nepal had generously assisted it with financial assistance. The National Summit was attended by the officials of National Planning Commission, Former Commissioners, Planners, representatives of development institutions and development promoting individuals across country and the representatives of partners.

Annex 1 The participants

Annex 2 The presentations

Plenary 1: **Government Plan and Perspective on Regional Development**

**Session Chair/Moderator:** Mr. Krishna Prashad Jaishi, Ex-president District Development Committee, Accham and spokesperson Federation of District Development Committee, Nepal

**Presenter:** Mr. Jagannath Adhikatri, National Planning Commission

Giving an account of the history of the Nepal's planned development, Mr. Jagannath Adhikari, Programme Director, National Planning Commission Secretariat, highlighted that it has been more than six decades and twelve periodic national plans have been completed and running for the thirteenth. Directly or indirectly, the concept of regional balance was somehow reflected. The East West Highway, Middle Hill highway and various integrated projects, the political division of the districts, zones and regions and decentralization initiatives are examples of such attempts.

The establishment and operation of Karnali Development Commission, Far West Region Development Commission, Remote Zone Development Committee, and United Karnali Development Programmes are clear examples of national plans that they have given priority in regionally balanced development. National Planning Commission has been drawing its attention to regionally balanced national development since its fourth plan and has placed its priority at present to formulate plans and policies and allocate resources for the regions seen lagged behind in development on the basis human development, poverty and infrastructure and social development indicators.

Mr. Adhikari giving a brief note to the priorities set by different plans in the past and highlighted that the thirteenth plan is aimed at: promoting concept of regionally balanced development by giving special emphasis to the regions lagging behind on the economic social and human development indexes. The strategy to achieve this objective, according to Mr. Adhikari, is to:

- Promote investment based on priority by identifying fields of comparable benefits; and
- Formulate and implement united regional development

Mr. Adhikari presented the problems that are hindering to maintain regional balance as:

- Absence of established close linkage between the plan, policy, programme and project and the beneficiary people;

- Inability to manage sufficient resources to implement regional policy and programme;
- Centralized planning system;
- Lack of result-based planning and monitoring framework developed;
- Geographical barriers, lack of infrastructures, resources, institutional delivery capacity and effective governance.

Mr. Adhikari proposed measures to resolve the problems to be considered by the Summit as:

- 
- Enforcing result based planning process;
  - Implementing regionally planned development by formulating, executing and evaluating them at regional level;
  - Increase investments in development in the regions lagging behind;
  - Improve the role of National Planning Commission to promote regional development;
  - Given the technicality of planning process, develop a cadre on economic planning under civil service; and
  - Initiate practicing beneficiary owned development model.

Mr. Adhikari concluded his presentation giving focus of united provincial plans based on participation of the people and asking for enforcing development discipline strictly. Knowledge and skills are to be developed among the development actors to mobilize resources for maximizing local resources and accelerate the need-based development programmes.

#### Plenary 2: **Future Strategy (Post 2015) for Regional Development**

**Moderator:** Ms Sharmila Karki, President, NGO Federation Nepal

**Presenter:** Prof. Dr. Chandra Bahadur Shrestha, Consultant, World Bank

Development Expert, Prof. Dr. Chandra Shrestha, gave presentation on **Future Strategy (Post 2015) for Regional Development**. Prof. Shrestha began with defining region as an area, especially part of a country or the world having definable characteristics but not always fixed boundaries. According to him regions are determined on the basis of watershed, transport, economic and social interlinks.

Prof. Shrestha provided the participants a wide range view on regional development by providing some examples of development plans and schemes that are being implemented by neighbouring

countries India and China. His examples included infrastructures of India linking the regions such as Delhi – Kolkata – 1453 km; Chennai – Mumbai – 1290 km; Kolkata – Chennai – 1684 km; Mumbai – Delhi – 1419 km, Delhi – Mumbai Industrial Corridor 1483 km. Similarly he shared the examples of Tibet as railways Lasha – Xigaze, Guiyang and Guangzhou, Lanzhou – Chongqing Kashgar – Hotan and highways as 58,000 km of road of Wanyuan – Dazhou and Shuikou – Duyun.

Prof. Shrestha asked to have a national vision to create a strong economic base with a globally competitive environment and state-of-the-art infrastructure; activate local commerce, enhance foreign investment and attain sustainable development double employment potential in five years triple industrial output in five years and quadruple exports from the region in five years if Nepal has to progress in regionally balanced development as its neighbours are progressing. According to Prof. Shrestha, Nepal needs to make its regional balanced development across the country should take into the accounts of the corresponding benefits linking it with the regional developments of the neighbouring countries. He prescribed an approach of regional plans and projects according to the strengths rest in the existing five regions and the exchanges of the potentialities.

He assumed that the regionally balanced speedy development process requires that the federal structure follows economic reality; strong government with commitment to devolution; all political forces recognise the significance of good governance; and clear demarcation of the responsibility between the Federal Government and Provincial Governments.

He concluded his presentation suggesting for Post 2015: Diplomatic efforts that: Nepal's assertive and constructive engagement with India. How to tackle with India's "prior use" or "existing consumptive users" principle and negotiate power deal with "avoided cost" principle linking Nepal's development initiatives with Indian growth engines is an important issue. He added that accessing Mumbai and Vishakapattanam port for importing and exporting our commodities is important for cost minimization. Winning confidence on Nepal's North South Roads encouraging India for Tripartite cooperation (Nepal, India and China) and linking Nepal with Tibetan development would be beneficial to Nepal's regional development. Create environment for tripartite cooperation (Nepal, India and China), seek cooperation for North South Highways, link Nepal with Tibetan Tourism Industry are other approaches to be applied as to his suggestions.

Prof. Shrestha also shared proposition of Post 2015: Transport suggesting to link Nepal with Indian and Chinese growth engines as:

- Birgunj –(Fast Track) Kathmandu– Miterisangu
- Birgunj – (Fast Track) Kathmandu – Rasuwaghadhi
- Sunauli – Mirmi – Falewas – Jomsom - Korala
- Rani – Chatara – Khandbari - Kimathanka

- Rani - Mulghat - Nayaghat - Arubari - Olangchung Gola
- Janakpur – Lamabagar– Border (China)
- Nepalgunj – Surkhet – Jumla – Simikot - Hilsa
- Brahmadev Mandi – Jogbudha – Satbanj – Darchula – Tinker Pass

He further added to straighten Mid Hill Highway and upgrade to 2 lane standard for 60 kmph; link Karnali Zone with Pokhara for tourism and overall development and offered options as Kakarigaon of Rukum (Mid Hill Highway) via Jangla Bhanjyang (4523 m) - Dunai - Jumla - Gamgadi – Simikot along Uttarganga River Tunnel.

Prof. Shrestha's Post 2015: Land Use recommendations include to create intensive economic base around Mahendra Highway – selective conversion of forest land for urban, industrial and public utilities - mainly specialise on industrial and commercial purpose and develop city centres: Charali, Itahari, Banigama - Lahan, Maheshpur, Dhalkewar, Bardibas, Hariban, Judibela, Pathalaiya, Hetauda, Narayanghat, Kawasoti - Pragatinagar, Butwal, Gorusinghe, Chanauta, Lamahi, Amiliya, Kohalpur, Atariya, Daiji – Mahendranagar. His strong recommendation rests on the strict preservation of forest in Boulder and Churia Range – resettle people in that area around Mahendra Highway; identify potential urban centers in the intersection of NS and EW Highways: mainly specialise on health, education and administrative centres: Phidim, Hile - Dhankuta, Khurkot, Dhulikhel - Bhaktapur - Kathmandu, Sishuwa - Pokhara; Kushma - Baglung - Beni; Dailekh, Sanfebagar, Dadeldhura

Similarly, Prof. Shrestha's Post 2015: Tourism proposition suggests to develop Lumbini as open museum including land use plan and building codes; open up Karnali from Pokhara side - to open up Karnali region for tourism - initiate air route between Pokhara to Talcha Airport or any other location in Karnali, preserve Historical heritage trails such as Surkhet - Dailekh - Jumla - Humla for tourism promotion - no parallel motor-able road, conserve historical monuments, culture and natural attractions for promoting tourism; and avoid clash between trekking trail with motor-able road.

### Plenary 3: Food Security, Disaster Risk Reduction, and Climate Change Adaptation

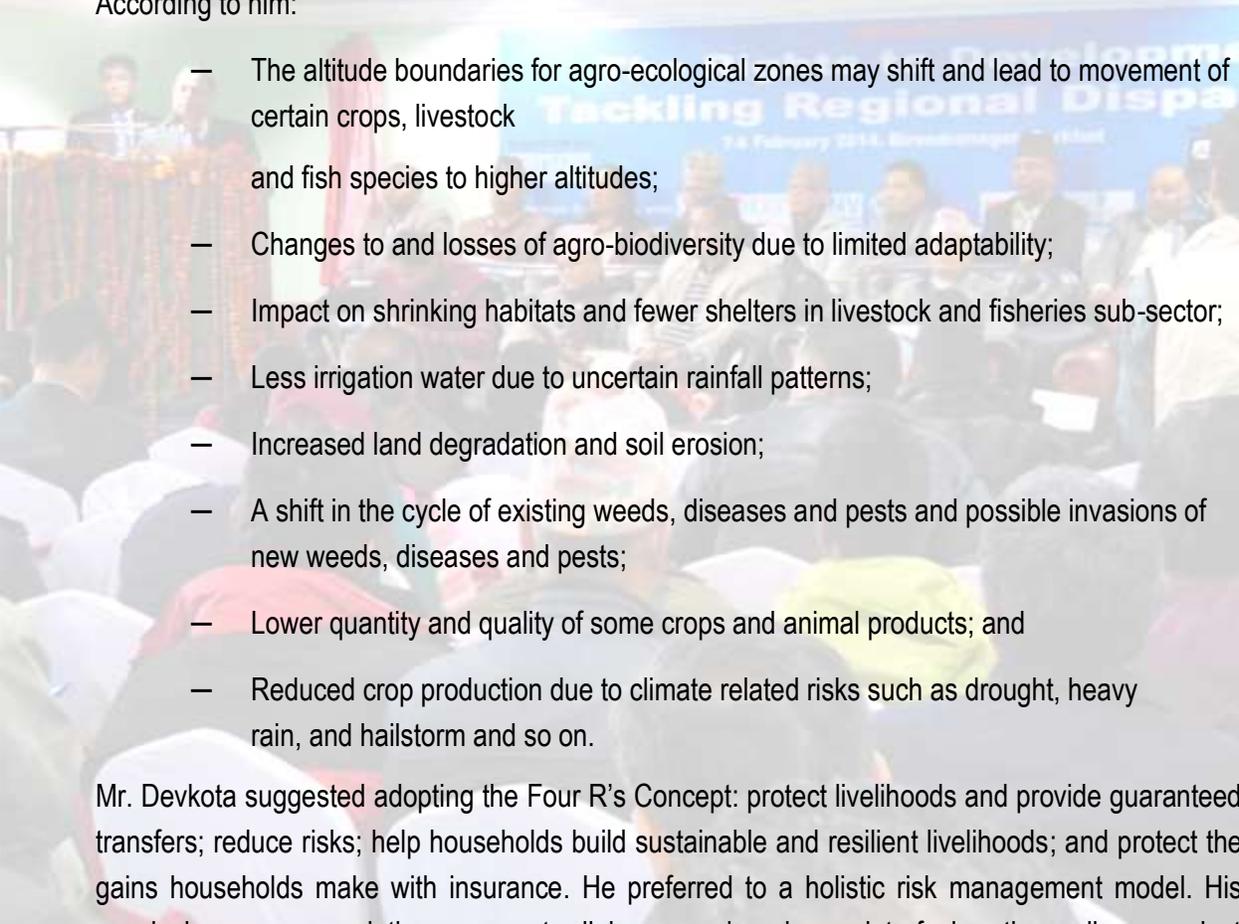
**Moderator:** Prof. Padma Raj Devkota, Vice Chancellor, Mid-Western University

**Presenter:** Mr Dinesh Chandra Devkota, Ph D,

Mr Dinesh Chandra Devkota, Ph D, Visiting Professor, Center Department of Environment Science, TU, Kathmandu, gave his thought provoking presentation on "Food Security, Disaster Risk Reduction, and Climate Change Adaptation". Beginning with defining Climate Science and its major impacts in Nepal, Mr. Devkota shared the information that the global mean surface temperature has risen 0.6oC+0.2oC over the last 120 years. He highlighted that impact of the

climate change has posed high risk on food security and there is need to introduce and safety net for agriculture. He presented his assessment on the ways for tracking adaptation monitoring of the development initiatives and offered policy recommendations linking them with climate science. According to him changes in climatic factors like temperature, precipitation, and solar radiation have immense influence on crop production. He shared that Fourth Assessment Report submitted to IPCC estimates that by 2050 crop yields in South Asia can decrease by up to 30 percent. Therefore, the impact of climate change on agriculture is of a great concern on local, national, as well as global levels because food production is the very basis of human survival, he underscored.

According to him:

- 
- The altitude boundaries for agro-ecological zones may shift and lead to movement of certain crops, livestock and fish species to higher altitudes;
  - Changes to and losses of agro-biodiversity due to limited adaptability;
  - Impact on shrinking habitats and fewer shelters in livestock and fisheries sub-sector;
  - Less irrigation water due to uncertain rainfall patterns;
  - Increased land degradation and soil erosion;
  - A shift in the cycle of existing weeds, diseases and pests and possible invasions of new weeds, diseases and pests;
  - Lower quantity and quality of some crops and animal products; and
  - Reduced crop production due to climate related risks such as drought, heavy rain, and hailstorm and so on.

Mr. Devkota suggested adopting the Four R's Concept: protect livelihoods and provide guaranteed transfers; reduce risks; help households build sustainable and resilient livelihoods; and protect the gains households make with insurance. He preferred to a holistic risk management model. His conclusive recommendations were: to link research science interfacing the policy, conduct economic cost assessment to offer input to take decision of adaptation and finance it; support people to understand climate change economics and its pros and cons; mainstream climate change issues within development policies; strategically support to determine where investments might be needed in the short, medium and long-term to adaptation; and bring awareness on the advantage of climate finance and technological support.

Plenary 4: **Millennium Development Goals, Foreign Aid & Development Effectiveness in Nepal**

**Moderator:** Mr. Ghanashyam Pandey, Activist, Community Forestry Nepal and National Coordinator, South Asian Alliance for Poverty Eradication

**Presenter:** Prof. Keshab Khadka, Ph D,

Another plenary deliberation was on **Millennium Development Goals, Foreign Aid & Development Effectiveness in Nepal**. Prof. Keshab Khadka, Ph D, Chairperson of Alliance for Aid Monitor Nepal, made a presentation on this theme. Professor Khadka began his presentation by sharing the idea of development dimensions that people as denominator of development and rising living standard of lowest strata beyond socially acceptable level, the first criterion. He viewed citing the UNO that development not only concerns human being's material needs but also the improvement of social conditions of His life. Dev, is therefore, economic growth plus change–change in social, cultural, and institutional as well as economic sphere and added that development includes process of structural transformations of a poor country/region into developed one. Overall progressive changes in the socio-economic structures and their resultant attributes in the value system acceptable to politico-cultural setting is perceivable definition of development.

Referring to the 21st Century Paradigm Shift, he briefed the development of Millennium Development Goals set internationally. He said that MDGs had eight goals and 40 indicators that include: eradicate extreme poverty & hunger(-50%/15), fulfilment of universal primary education; remote gender equality & women empower; reduce child mortality; improve maternal health; combat HIV/AIDS, malaria etc.; ensure environmental sustainability, positive global partnership for development and said in theoretical speaking that MDGs Almost achieved.

Prof. Khadka caused revisit of the participants to Nepal's progress towards the MDGs: Status in 2013: poverty –16%/ '16 (Oxford reconfirms 67%), low hunger (38 districts food insecure) 96% child enrolment (24% child labour abuse), child mortality and Maternal health achieved (11% delivery at hospitals) and cautioned the development actors and planners that the data in the parenthesis indicates that though we say officially MDGs achieved, not achieved in reality and from that point the development actors need to review.

Drawing attention of the participants to the foreign aid effectiveness, Prof. Khadka stated that the belief of foreign aid as magic for development is failed. Referring the introduction of the foreign aid since the establishment of IBRD and Post War Recovery (1946-56) he said that development – the magic game of capital, technology and experts- has failed to give the results as speculated. Discussing the ideas of development theories, Prof. Khadka reminded the participants that UN called 1960s as 1st Dev Decade and 6% GNP growth and aid flow, higher hopes for rapid changes continued to be advocated. He admitted that **target** achieved and made a claim that but not **development**. His diagnosis of Karnali vs foreign aid effectiveness was that economic forces, resources and gaps, power relations and structures, population, income shares, poor resource management and poverty led Karnali to Low income => low saving=> low capital formation => low

investment and low competitiveness=> low export =>low level of foreign exchange earnings resulted in low development in Karnali.

Showing a foreign aid increment to Nepal in decreasing rates, Prof. Khadka indicated an alarming situation as Nepal in getting increased loans instead of grants. According to him Nepal began getting foreign aid from first US grant in 1952/53 (\$22,000.00) increased in receiving after being member of the United Nations in 1955. Foreign aid has been a regular feature since Colombo Plan and 1st Dev Plan 1956, to 10th five year Plan and three year Interim Plans I, II & now III. The increasing trend of loans has is placing debt of US\$ 200 per Nepali & same is the fate of the Karnali people.

He strongly argued that the development could not be effective continuing the present trend and he suggested way forward 2014 onward that ascertaining present status and trends to remold them to desired sustainable and steady rapid development. He recital of the 6 percent growth rate is to be given up and inclusive growth rate concept is to be pursued with emphasis hydro and other energy development, agriculture productivity, diversification and commercialization, road and other physical infrastructures, basic education, health, drinking water and sanitation, tourism, industry and trade. Good governance could be a key issue to expedite development through using foreign aid according to Prof. Khadka.

Prescribing new approach, to accelerate regionally balanced development and equitably inclusive growth Prof. Khadka prescribed to abolish a composite version unequal power structure and domination that system of centre- periphery dominant relations that promotes expropriation of excessive profit squeezing wider masses of people by former imperialist powers. He alleged expansion of market fundamentalism has direct impact on increased social unrest, class struggle and finally crises. Therefore, suggested strategy is to begin with socialization of monopoly profit; mass participation in production and social justice based distribution; usurpation of social agenda (gender, unemployment, poverty, inequality, discrimination, indigenous people, land reform etc) & CSO encounters, resource based development: griculture, Industry and Trade (home + foreign), balance between labour, capital and technology, good governance, social justice and maximization of conomic mobilization of available resources. Foreign Aid utilization policy is to be in place.

#### Plenary 5: **Infrastructure Development and Rural Urban Linkage for Inclusive and Balanced Growth**

**Moderator:** Mr. Krishna Prasad Sapkota, Former Member of Constituent Assembly and Chairperson of DDC Kavre

**Presenter:** Mr. Jagadish chandra Pokharel, Ph. D.

Another issue of the discussion in the National Summit was **Infrastructure Development and Rural Urban Linkage for Inclusive and Balanced Growth**. Mr. Jagadish Chandra. Pokharel,

Ph.D., Former Vice Chairman, National Planning Commission provided his provocative presentation in this issue. Mr Pokharel began that development speed is linked with speed of regional transport networks, i.e. surface roads, railway's, airways. These interlink dry ports, special economic zones, and economic centres. Present trend of regional growth is based on belief of thinking locally and acting regionally, however, to accelerate inclusive and balanced regional development. He pointed out that we need to define and locate our region within the above larger geographic, economic, political space; and, manage and use infrastructure understanding the change in the settlement locations, sizes, and economic activities and planning for settlement growth.

Open discourse to come up with realistic and useful vision and direction for balanced regional development is essential for encouraging bottom up approach of development. Strategize partnership among local governments, private sector and civil society is essential element to promote regional development. Surkhet-Jumla road corridor and Mid Hill Highway and other link-roads present new opportunities and potentials for economic development of the regions, bridges over Karnali River is a major breakthrough to connect the Mid with Far. Connects with Chisapani-Mangalsen. Surkhet is emerging as a truly regional administrative and economic (provincial in restructured state) hub. Nepalganj- Surkhet road is a bottleneck--Chhinchhu emerging as important centre. Likewise, some settlements along the Karnali Highway have high potential for growth -- Baddichaur, Tallo Dungeshor, Paltada, Tunibagar and Rakam. They are currently they are haphazard and congested and to be planned resettled.

Corridor development concept flourishes growth centres along the corridors and nodal points are developing. These centres should be conceptually and functionally linked for growth. Banke: Nepalganj, Kohalpur, Surkhet: Chhinchhu, Birendra Nagar, Baddichaur, Dailekh: Tallo Duneshor, Chupra, Dailekh Bajar, Rakam Kalikot:- Manma further to Jumla: Khalanga require extended to upper region as the network expands

Discussing the development potential, opportunities and challenges attached to the regionally balanced and inclusive growth, Mr. Pokherel highlight distinct ecological advantage in the hills, mountains and Terai indicates high potentiality. He observed hills and mountains have potential of livestock, agriculture (seasonal vegetables), tourism, natural herbs, non-timber forest products, hydro power and in some cases mining and Terai has good potential for processing industries and commercial farming.

Equitably inclusive growth would not be possible only by the attempts made by the government. There is role of government, however, that must be supplemented by the other actors he added emphasis in his presentation. Until provincial governance structures become functional, DDC has role as leaders/coordinators for development of the district. Present DDC's vision and initiatives for development are confined with the geographical boundary of particular district and this need to be

changed. Political culture at local level is to improved that it respond development agenda from broader perspectives beyond partisan interests. Development cadre from civil society are to be utilized in this course. Partnership between private sector and local government is emerging and their utilization is to be maximized.

Difficult geo-physical condition and difficult terrain in the mountains and hills present the challenges for greater connectivity for development, however, mitigation may be modelled in home stay tourism, herbal production. High prevalence of social, economic, political exclusion and various forms of discriminations are other forms of challenges that require to be mitigated through right-based social campaigning.

Envisioning a dynamic prosperous economic corridor that increases the well being of the people, while ensuring that its development is inclusive and sustainable is essentially to be performed. Setting goals to create jobs, increase income, reduce poverty, and improve the living conditions of the excluded and marginalised population in the region is inevitable to promote inclusive growth with regionally balance development. Objectives are to be set for strengthen infrastructure and connectivity; promote market, trade and investment; address social concern; enhance private sector participation; and capacity development of public and private sectors as well as civil society actors. For inclusive growth some selected economic sectors need to be preferred sectors that include agriculture and industry to upgrade production, productivity, linkage with market; improve irrigation system; and promote organic farming and training on integrated pest management techniques; increase finance in the communities. Local level initiatives on agriculture, tourism and industry must be linked with large scale industries including hydro power production.

Regions should be given national importance in specific areas and improve and develop key tourist facilities in key tourist spots of the regions. It requires promotion of services at parks, cultural sites, natural attractions, archaeological and historical sites, trekking, rafting, fishing, adventure tourism across regions to attract domestic tourists. For this investment in road, hotels, water, power is essential. Making it easy to the private sector to invest by foster dialogue between local government, private sector and other actors followed by policy changes may increase attractions to the regions.

For all these coordinated support of services are necessary. That may lead to environment for enhanced access to financial services, reform the government's tax system, relocation of services, increase investment and enhance growth process. Stronger networking between private sector org. and local government (DDC & Mun.) to come up with common understanding of issues and develop common development agenda. Support to DDCs to plan and manage emerging market centres and settlements by using responsible government offices and academic institutions and improve governance system regarding the contracting out local resources-minerals, water, NTFP, herbs etc and make taxation and collateral system friendly to the remote areas is essential.

Therefore, to come up with need-based support to the budding entrepreneurs, establishing and functionalizing a Forum or Body for dialogue among DDCs to coordinate local and regional planning would be beneficial and that may ensure economic activities are integral part of local planning process, help in conducting business investment climate surveys, facilitates implementation of economic activities etc.

#### Plenary 6: **Socially Just Development and Equitable Growth**

**Moderator:** Mr. Krishna Prasad Sapkota, Former Member of Constituent Assembly and Chairperson of DDC Kavre

**Presenter:** Mr. Hari Rokka

Another topic of the discussion and deliberation of the plenary of the Summit was **Socially Just Development and Equitable Growth**. Mr. Hari Rokka, a socio-political analyst, shed lights on the subject. He took **development** as progressive improvement of lives of human being and development is good change. He pointed out that we refer development as infrastructures like electricity, water supply, air service, transportation, schools and hospitals and forget social justice. Quoting Professor A Sayers, he referred moral bindings of the development that it should confirm rights, facilities, responsibilities and values. His stand on understanding development was equitable distribution of the assets of the society from the gender and fair and equal accessibility of services. Whether the society is developed or not can be measured by the level of accessibility of the people in essential social services and securities including education and health facilities. Development also indicates absence of the poverty, injustices and inequalities. The meaning of development changes over a time along with economic, ideological and political changes. As promotion of industrial capitalism in the Europe intended to give the meaning of development and human rights that could address human needs of the day. Euro-centric development models focused on addressing social turmoils, tensions and conflicts, urbanization and reduction of poverty and unemployment. Development was perceived as to the search of knowledge, information and quality of knowledge to progress without contradicting the freedom and the morality. Therefore, meaning of development has been evolved as a controversial and affected by the ideology and time relativity. However, development rises with in the controversies to resolve the controversies.

**Social justice** refers to a concept of equality on material distribution as well as income distribution. The social scientists have felt that inequality creates unjust social relations. Distribution of the income depends on how and who holds the status in power and power exercise. Social justice comes in terms of relationship between a person and state and also universally on resource, opportunity and capacity. As globalized capitalism is in rise social justice is compromised resulting rebellion, movements and wars.

All people expect economic growth. While in achieving the growth or its returns, if all classes, sects and communities have equal participation and opportunities that may constitute **inclusive growth**. Actually, If all people are included in the processes of capital formation, saving and distribution that sort of growth is inclusive one. However, there is challenges to make economy as such inclusive as the questions are to be addressed how the factors are to be managed in making employment to all and promote the living standards of general people, how to make industrialization inclusive and to transfer technology inclusively.

Since 2008, second great depression is observed. US went for aging to a private bank to recover it from the crisis. China and Germany have been commenting that this American approach is against the neo-liberalism. However, US is not hearing. Most of the European countries are facing the depression. The causes of the crisis are:

1. Profit being collected in the hands of limited people and pervasive inequalities, for example, since 1970 there is only one percent of increment in real wage whereas the increment of profit deducting the tax has reached 225 percent.
2. Unbridled or unmonitored banking and financial institutions
3. Intake of baubles by excessive valuation of assets

**Discourse on development** covers the stages of state-led development 1950-80 that market was monitored systematically by the state, restructured market and modernisation, shift to stable growth through secularization and urbanization and top to bottom approach; market-led development 1980 that market is self regulated, open market and economic liberalization. Universal human rights has posed a critical questions on development as it requires to incorporate right to equitable distribution of the resources.

There are problems in participatory mixed economy. Polish economist Michel Kalecki has indicated the fundamental problems of third world countries' economic development are: 1. national economy should not invite the condition that poor people contribute to the economy and development growth should not cause inflation. 2. Even if the growth is non-inflationary that must be distributive or supply oriented. 3. Consumption of luxurious goods should be taxed. 4. Reduction in import of the luxurious goods causes positive impact in balance of payment and offers foreign currency to import raw materials for industrial production. 5. Foreign loans requires to be return in the long run and 6. Direct foreign investment may affect the independence of the country. The thoughts of Kalecki are valid for today and are more relevant to the landlocked countries like Nepal.

Mixed economy is still referred and participatory economy is a matter of discussion. Economic thinkers have suggested some ways for the political economy of participatory democracy. According to them for this new values are to be developed. It can be implemented the policy when that are build by the greater participation of people that may answer questions on the framework or

model of economy. Social justice is a crucial element in dealing production, consumption, division of labour, fixing minimum wages, ownership over the factors and resources of the production, decision making process, participation and exercise of rights. Social justice raises questions that what we produce and reproduce for whose benefit.

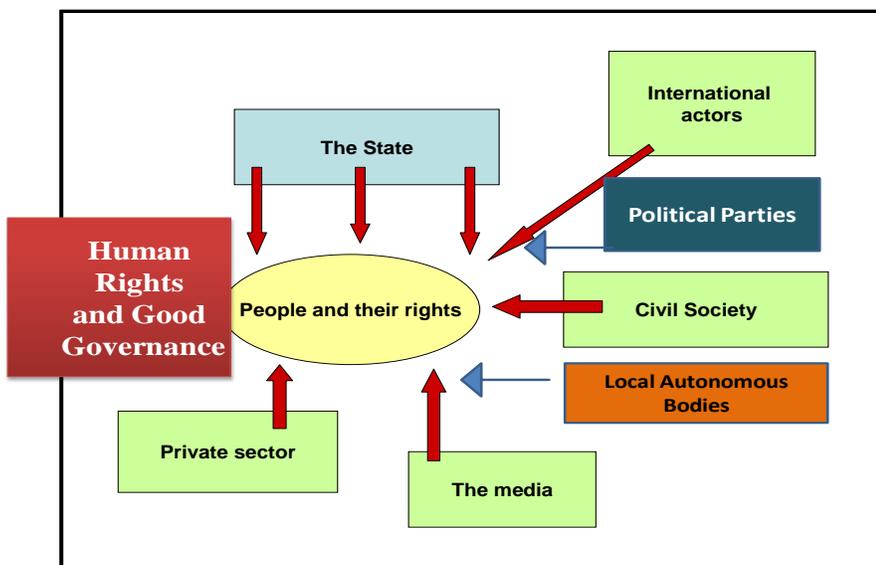
Therefore, we have to think what sort of society are we going to form, what are the values to be followed, how we can reallocate assets, what can be self-reliant management, how diversity, quality and sustainability can be adjusted within the development framework to secure social justice. Therefore, there is need of search for new values of the economy.

Plenary 7: **Human Rights and Good Governance: In the Context of Right to Sustainable Development**

**Moderator:** Mr. Ganesh BK, President of Human Rights Alliance Nepal

**Presenter:** Mr. Gauri Pradhan, Ex commissioner, National Human Rights Commission and senior Human Rights Activist

Final session of discourse on development was on **Human Rights and Good Governance: In the Context of Right to Sustainable Development**. Mr. Gauri Pradhan Human Rights Defender and Former Commissioner National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) gave a presentation showing interfaces of development and rights of the people. He stressed that human rights are universal, indivisible and interdependent, therefore right to development particularly right to sustainable development is inalienable right of the citizens.



He urged all the participants to take development issues from right based prospective. Presenting disparities on the allocation of the development budget in developmental regions, he said that for the just society to prevail peace, development initiatives are to be owned by the people at large that

means the benefits goes to the larger section of the society. His central idea of sustainable development with regional balance would be reached if the entire sector would keep the people and their rights in centre.



## **Sustainable Development as Right: Regionally Balanced and Locally Adapted Pro-public National Development National Summit 2014 Surkhet Declaration**

### **Preamble**

We, the development planners, experts, representatives of people, delegates of development partners, development promoting institutions and districts and development actor individuals, gathered in the National Summit on "RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT: TACKLING REGIONAL DISPARITIES" organized by Karnali Integrated Rural Development and Research Centre (KIRDARC) Nepal in collaboration with National Planning Commission of Nepal;

Bearing in the mind that development promotion of interests and amenities for the human being through utilization processing and upgrading of the natural resources;

Realizing that all Nepali Citizen have right to participate in, contribute to and benefit from the economic, social, cultural and political development of Nepal as human rights;

Taking note to the fact that the enforcement of right to development is even being monitored at international level by United Nations and the government of Nepal has accepted before international community its obligations to guarantee right to development of every Nepalese; and

Being convinced that the development process of the nation might be speedily accelerated and fruitful enough by the coordinated endeavours of the Government, Civil Society and Private Sector;

Express our commitments and call upon as follows:

### **Our Commitment**

1. Despite the six decade long course of the planned development initiated, there has been yet to be created balance between physical infrastructure and human development in terms of formulating and executing plans and rights and social justice are being considered as secondary matters. We the participants of the Summit are fully committed to formulate, to implement and to evaluate the plans at various level, prompting the onward planning processes by human rights and social justice perspectives.
2. We, the experts, promoters and the actors active in the development sector, are fully committed to be engaged in the development process keeping our sincere faiths to them in realizing the fundamentals of democratic norms, rule of law, human rights and social accountability.
3. In course of the implementation of 13th National Plan, we fully assure that we encourage the Nongovernmental Organizations and Civil Society for their active and meaningful cooperation, partnership and collaborations with the Central, Regional and District level Offices and Organs

of the Government of Nepal as well as Local Bodies.

4. We are committed to implement the plans at various levels incorporating the notions inclusive democracy, human rights, gender equity and equality and social justice in upcoming planning cycles.
5. We, the participants of the Summit, being aware of the potential adverse effects and the situations may be created by the climate change in development processes and their achievements, shall be active in taking initiatives and endeavouring risk reduction and adaptation at all levels.

#### **We Call Upon:**

1. The National Summit urges the Government of Nepal and the National Planning Commission to stabilize development planning cycle (formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation) by giving reasonable placement to the aspects and indicators of human rights and social justice in periodic plan maintaining fair balance between infrastructure and human development.
2. Planned environmental friendly exploitation, processing and distribution of the resources of the regions of prosperous natural resources and heritages like Karnali, contributes to the overall development of Nepal from a sustainable perspective. Therefore, National Summit calls upon the Members of the Constituent Assembly and the Political Parties to take economic viability of the provinces as basis of province determination in course of state restructure of the country with strategy of not utilizing alone but also promoting of the local resources.
3. Local bodies have significant role to satisfy the citizens from the fruits of the development by making meaningful and productive the development initiatives at grassroots level. The long delay of holding periodic elections of the local bodies has not only obstructed the rights of the citizens to participate in the local government but also local governance and accountability is completely affected. Therefore, the National Summit strongly demands with the Government of Nepal and the Election Commission to ensure people's representation in the local bodies by holding elections immediately.
4. Having considered the regional imbalances is an adverse result of the development process of the country; the National Summit makes a special request to the government of Nepal to determine development projects at national level keeping with the view of promoting regional parities. The National Summit further asks the Government of Nepal to create environment for implementing development projects in new framework by changing present slow working pattern which failed give expected outcomes to a speedy pattern that ensures expedited infrastructure development, industrialization of herbal resources and accessible public services in the region like Karnali, reviewing the development projects of Midwest Development Region.
5. The National Summit asks with National Planning Commission to strengthen its division or unit

that deals with planning and monitoring of the provincial level development projects for facilitating the translation of concept of regionally balanced national development into reality.

6. The National Summit heartily urges the organs and officials of the Government of Nepal at central, regional and districts levels and local bodies to forward national, regional/provincial and local planning processes for speedy economic development of the regions like Karnali; specially taking into consideration of the agenda of inclusion and gender equality and aiming at economic growth of communities; by the means of sustainable management of natural resources with defining natural resources(water, forest and land) as common assets of local communities and providing support for their research, processing and marketing.
7. The National Summits takes note that the climate change is affecting the development process and their achievements and identified as risk as well as opportunity. Therefore, The National Summit places a special request to the Government of Nepal and the National Planning Commission asking preparation of appropriate risks reduction and adaptation policy and guidelines, and their applications in projection, preparation and implementation of national, provincial and local planning processes and development projects.

February 8, 2014

Birendranagar Surkhet