

Press Release

Hon'ble Minister for Health and Population addresses the 64th World Health Assembly



Addressing the plenary of the Assembly attended by the Ministers of Health of WHO member and observer states, Hon'ble Minister underlined that Nepal considers the right to health, with equitable access to quality health care, more so by vulnerable and marginalized people, as an integral part of socio-economic transformation that the nation is undergoing at present. He also highlighted that Nepal has lately registered significant improvements in equality of access to health services and has received international awards for achievements in some of the health related indicators despite a number of challenges and constraints.

Minister Basnet invited attention of the international community to the fact that Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs) are rising more seriously in the places where the human deprivations are widely prevalent. NCDs are thriving because response has been poor, both at national and international levels and the funding gap is extremely worrying for the future of the global health protection, he added.

He also brought to note that Nepal is experiencing an alarming rise of NCDs and this has further been aggravated by the impacts of interconnected crises including food and fuel crises, climate change and increased risks of vector borne diseases. He highlighted various measures the Government of Nepal has adopted to combat NCDs including advocacy for behavioral change and healthy lifestyles, including yoga and physical exercise.

Referring to the recently concluded the fourth UN conference on Least Developed Countries and agreed Program of Action for the Decade 2011-2020, he appealed to the international community for scaled up, strong and sustained level of international assistance to meet LCDs' development needs, including the need of preventing and controlling NCDs. He stressed that only through our collective, concerted and cooperative efforts, the magnitude and rapid spread of NCDs can be prevented.

Be it recalled that 'prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases (NCDs) was decided earlier as the theme of this year's WHA

The text of Hon'ble Minister's speech is attached herewith.

Permanent Mission of Nepal

Geneva

May 17, 2010.