Ellen Spannagel

Hello, my name is Ellen Spannagel and this is Enabling Commons. Today we're very lucky to have Pratima Gurng as our guest. Pratima is the general secretary for the Indigenous Persons with Disabilities Global Network, and the President of the National Indigenous Disabled Women Association of Nepal. And she is joining us today from Kathmandu. So thank you so much for joining us Pratima.

Pratima Gurung

Thank you, thank you so much for inviting me to this event. And I'm very glad to be in this event and have further discussion on it. Thank you.

Ellen Spannagel

For the first question. I was just wondering if you could tell me a little bit about yourself and some of the work you do.

Pratima Gurung

So as you have already introduced me, I'm Pratima Gurung and I am an academic activist, I teach at one of the universities which is a university that provides women an education in Nepal, and it is only the single University. Apart from that also, I am an activist, and I work basically on gender, disability, Indigenous and marginalized issue in Nepal. And one of the very fundamental thing that I do work and I embrace in my work is about intersectionality. So I have been working with multiple groups with multiple identities. And that is why intersectionality has been a core of my heart. And apart from that, also, I'm I am the general secretary of the indigenous persons with disabilities global network and the ACF focal person for the global network. And I right now I represent the National Indigenous Disabled Women Association of Nepal.

Ellen Spannagel

Well thank you, thank you for sharing the communities that you were involved in and working. And I'm really excited to hear about the knowledge that you have learned from working in these communities. So the first question I would like to ask you is if you can tell me about how climate change is affecting the lives of Indigenous women with disabilities, from how you understand the situation in Nepal.

Pratima Gurung

Nepal lies in the tenth, what do you say position when it comes to the climate change impacts and hazards. And when it comes to the situation of Indigenous people and persons with disabilities, the situation is more adverse and risks, because from an Indigenous peoples perspective, also we are 35.8% of the total population in Nepal, the indigenous peoples and person with disabilities comprise of 1.94%. But if you look at the WHO data, it's about a 10 to 15% person with disabilities living in the developing countries like Nepal. So if you look at this higher population, we know that the there are a number of marginalized groups including Indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities and they are in the front line. And when it comes to Indigenous women with disabilities, which is a further marginalization due to the multiple identities they have being a woman, being an indigenous people and again, person with disabilities. So if you are an indigenous women with disabilities, you have multiple identities and those multiple identities further compound and exacerbate those critical and vulnerable situations. So in the context of Nepal, we could see that there are 1.3 million indigenous persons with disabilities in Nepal, and among the 1.3 million indigenous people with disabilities in Nepal, if you look at the overall situation of Nepal is most of the indigenous persons with disabilities are not even aware about their basic rights. So the basic rights includes health education, right to food right to leave, right to get livelihood, rehabilitations, assistive devices. These are the very fundamental things that is required for a person with disabilities and Indigenous people with disabilities. So even those things are not provided to them, they haven't received those kinds of services. And being a person with disabilities, one of the very fundamental thing that is required is the disability card. And even the disability card has not been not received by many indigenous people with disabilities in their path. And if you look at the context of climate change there is a huge gap of understanding the emerging issues like climate change, because the debate, the discussion of the climate change has not entered into the marginalized group section. If you look at the whole discourse of women, because even the women are in the front line, who is been impacted by the climate change, so the climate change, debate and discussion has not entered or has not been debated within the women movement. And when it comes to person with disabilities, and for the indigenous persons with disabilities, I would say that those discuss and have not yet he started but if you look at the 2015 earthquake, and after the 2015 earthquake, in Nepal, nasality seniors disabled women association was one of the organization who had directly did an intervention at the national level and at, the regional level and the global level, because we had the realities and experience of the earthquake. And we were also looking at what could be the situation when there is a emergencies disasters? And how does that emergency disasters again connected with the issue of climate change? And how does it affect the lives of person with disabilities. So, I was very much fortunate to have discussion when the Paris Agreement was been in the negotiation. So I was I was fortunate to bring my issues of persons with disabilities and indigenous people with disabilities during the earthquake. And apart from that Asia level, also, I was one of the delegations representing myself as a person with disabilities in the in the climate change negotiation that happened in 2015 in Paris, so, the Paris Agreement when the Paris Agreement was been negotiated by different member states, including the different other stakeholders at the time, I was very much fortunate to represent myself as indigenous woman and also as a person with disabilities and that was why there was a huge struggle and and negotiation that how do we include the word person with disabilities in the climate change discussion. So, that that is the kind of event that is happening at the global level, but if you look at the National level, the context of national level is again, quite different. Though Nepal has ratified different conventions like the the Convention on the biomarker a biological diversity CBD, and and also they have ratified the Paris Agreement and signed on the Paris Agreement, but if you look at the national policies and and province in the context of Nepal, all the marginalized groups are groups are kept into one category. So there is not a What do you say differences of the categorizations of persons with disabilities, including other marginalized groups, and that is one of the structural barriers that we have at the policy level. And that is why that those barriers, again, further exacerbated or so, when it comes to our advocacy, how do we as a person, we decide as an organization or person with disabilities, how do we frame our discussion? How do we advocate and in that sense, I see that as a con at the national level, there has been some kind of negotiation, there has been some kind of discussion, which is at the very broader level and in a very, what do you say, blanket approach it does not segregate the marginalized groups, issues and also the impacts that persons with disabilities including indigenous people, face in the context of Nepal. If you look at the global situation, we have the indigenous peoples major group, who is having a huge discussion and negotiation at the UNFCCC. So that is that is one component, but when it comes to the national level, things are in a very different situation. So this is what I would say. So when it comes to indigenous people with disabilities or Indigenous women with disabilities, most of them are I would say, even 95 or 99% of them do not know about how the climate change is impacting their daily lives and how they are made vulnerable. So they are only able to see and only able to internalize those issues which are being debated in their daily lives. So that the debate of climate change has not been debated at the societal level at the grassroot level, among the marginalized groups.

Ellen Spannagel

Thank you. Thank you very much for your answer. And also thank you for like providing an outline of like movement that's happening at the global, the National, and also the local level. That's very appreciated. I'm wondering if you could tell me a little bit more about the specific challenges that disabled people in Nepal are facing in the context of COVID, which we recognize as a direct impact of climate change.

Pratima Gurung

Thank you, thank you for your question. When it comes to the challenges and the impacts of COVID to persons with disabilities in Nepal, I would say that Nepal is one of the countries that has ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with disabilities in 2010. And Nepal has submitted the first report to the CRPD committee, the CRPD committee has provided the general recommendations to the country, Nepal in 2018, this is the first general recommendations provided to our country. So the our country has the mandate to to implement those concluding observation as well as the CRPD. So if you look at the article 11 of the CRPD, and Nepal has those mandate to apply and also to ensure the Rights of Persons with Disabilities during emergencies, risks and disasters including this kind of pandemic, which have recently happened. So when it comes to the covid 19 pandemic. Also, we know that persons with disabilities are directly and indirectly impacted by the COVID a, because the first thing that I see and I will just wanted to highlight very critical issues of persons with disabilities. The first issue that I wanted to highlight is about access to information, because most persons with disabilities, including the underrepresented groups within person with disabilities, so the underrepresented groups belongs to women with disabilities, people with intellectual disability people with deafblind indigenious persons with disabilities, women with disabilities, children with disability. So, these are the groups and apart from these groups also there are other groups who are left behind and if you look at the under represented groups, the The COVID has vulnerably and very much adversely affected to these groups, because these groups are the groups who are we did not receive any kind of information about COVID. So, how does that COVID look like? What are the safety majors of COVID what one need to do, what are the precursive measures what what should be done and what should not be done all these informations were not clearly dessiminated to the deaf people. So there was no sign language interpretation at the very initial stage. When the lockdown is started when it comes to indigenous persons with disabilities, we know that indigenous persons with disabilities use their own mother tongue language which is a local language. So, all the informations about the COVID was provided in the Nepali language. So, indigenous peoples they do not speak Nepali language. So there was there was a barrier for for indigenous persons with disabilities. And that was the first thing that I wanted to highlight and many, many intellectual disability also did not get informations because the information was not in a very, very, what do you say, in a very pictorial form with a very simple language. So that was also the challenge is related with people with intellectual disability. The first thing that I wanted to highlight was about the access to information. The second thing that I wanted to highlight is many, many people with disabilities were being socially and and economically and also culturally impacted by the COVID. So when I say culturally impacted by the COVID, there were many safety related health majors which person with disability need to be aware of which they could not get aware of, because they're rare, every people with disabilities and their impairments are different. So their needs are different. So, when it comes to providing informations and also providing a relief and recovery package, all those relief and recovery packages were being provided by in a blanket approach. So that was not Person to Person Centered, and it was not related on impairment basis. And, and that is why when people with a spinal cord injury when they needed, the catherdral, pipe, the urine bag, all these things which were very much crucial for their daily lives, those things were not been provided, we knew that we came to know that people with Haemophilia they required a regular medicines. So those medicines were not provided to them. When it comes to Indigenious and women with disabilities living in the rural areas, they were also not been provided the regular basic needs, and they required so people were suggested to wash their hands frequently. And I see that in the context of Nepal, there are so many villages where they do not have enough water even to cook their food. So how could people with disabilities was their hands regularly, and there is lack of sanitizers, shops, all these things, because not all the people who live in the village use all these things. And they are these things are not very much acquainted to them. So those were the very critical things that that we realized during the COVID, though, we know that foods and other things are also equally essential. But when it comes to person with disabilities, they have their own unique needs. And also those primary needs which are very much crucial like food. So those were not been considered a in a right based approach. Those are the second things that I wanted to highlight. And apart from that, also, I would like to highlight about the livelihood, that person with disabilities. And if you look at the report near about 60% of the people have lost their livelihood, people with disabilities, including underrepresented groups, and when it comes to women, girls with disabilities, and also indigenous women with disabilities, the issue of violence rate, abuse, discrimination has enormously increased during this pandemic. So and when we try to collect information from those groups, one of the challenges that we had because the the ministry media and even the state, they did not provide the disaggregated data and informations on it. And that is why we were compelled to do our own kind of advocacy on the grassroot level to know about those evidences and informations. But fortunately, we were able to collect some informations and we had submitted the report to the five special rapporteurs, the Special Rapporteur on health, the Special Rapporteur on person with disabilities, the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, the Special Rapporteur on minority groups and the Special Rapporteur on indigenous people. So, the five special rapporteurs were provided the initial report of the COVID which played a indirect role to pressurize our government and as a result, our government was able to provide sign language to the day people. So now, the COVID is going on. But however, when there is a public information and dissemination to the whole citizen of our country, then the sign language is being disseminated which is a very good and positive informations and also the, the work of the advocacy had so far worked at the grassroot level. So, those are the things that happened during the COVID. And apart from that, we also realized that there was an issue of mental health issues was very much crucial the suicide rates was increasing day by day and we see that now, many people have lost their job. So it has socially psychologically impacted person with disabilities. And even in this time, also, not all the person with disabilities are safe to to work on their regular work so they most of them are still confined within their house and when it comes to again in Indigenous persons with disabilities they are the one who have lost their traditional livelihood and also the livelihood that they were sustaining at the urban area. So this has brought a critical kind of situation among persons with disabilities and underrepresented groups. These are the impacts of the COVID. But we do have the other kind of impact like, like at the grassroot level, one of the challenges that person with disabilities are facing is stereotypes in stigma, because there was the, the protocol, the COVID protocol, informed and suggested us to maintain the social distancing. So the social distancing for the visually impaired person was not possible and there is a still a mindset, and the perceptions that person with disabilities are sick people. So that is why they this has really created a huge gap and isolation towards persons with disabilities. And we see these kind of things basically for women, girls and indigenous persons with disabilities. And this has also brought a different kind of context, when you look at the public quarantines that is being developed by the government. So all the public quarantines are not accessible for a person with disabilities, there is no any providence for PCR test and other things and the priority for now for the vaccine, which has recently come in our country. So persons with disabilities are still not a priority. The vaccine has been provided for the elderly people, but not for persons with disabilities. So we are still left behind in the precursive majors, in the response, and also in the recovery phase, because there has not been any kind of long term strategies for supporting persons with disabilities and their needs, in the in the policies and in the services provided by the government.

Ellen Spannagel

I just wanted to thank you so much for your answer that is very, very comprehensive. And I was also interested in glad to hear about the advocacy efforts in terms of pressuring the government when it comes to the dissemination of information, and the inclusion of sign language. I think that's really interesting. And I want to hear more about putting pressure on policymakers. But before, I would just like to ask because you were explaining first that like, you know, when we're talking about climate change, and climate discourse is not something that people are talking about, because there are so many everyday challenges just day to day in terms of knowing and having access to basic needs and rights. What are strategies that you and the organizations that you're working with have found to work in terms of helping people become more aware of their rights? And yeah, just empowering people with knowledge.

Pratima Gurung

 If you look at the whole context, how people with disabilities are doing their advocacy and how they are strategically working, I would say that in the context of Nepal, and and in the context of South Asia, Nepal is ahead. So people with disabilities, they are organized, they are aware about their rights, they have known about the CRPD they are known about their Disability Act, and according to that act, they are demanding their rights and and they are demanding and advocating their all the rights at different spheres. So if you look at the overall situation of person with disabilities, there has been a progressive realisation. However, if you look at the ground reality, there is still huge things things to be done, because not all the things that has been mentioned in the document like the CRPD, the Act and the Constitution of Nepal, the 2015 constitution of Nepal, also emshrines these rights for a person with disabilities. But when it comes to the implementation of those rights into reality, there is yet to be done, because we have not so far realized in person with disabilities have not realized changes in their lives. So if you look at the rural areas, still person with disabilities are struggling for their basic human rights. And that is why I would say that indigenous people, including under represented groups, like girls and women with disabilities, people with psychosocial disabilities, people with autism, and people with intellectual disability still have hard and difficult times, they are still limited within the four walls of their house, they have not realized what rights mean. So in that level, I would say that people with disabilities and their organizations of people with disabilities have to be very proactive. They have to define the narratives of disability not within themselves, but beyond it. Because disability is a social issue. It is a societal issue, rather than the issue of person with disabilities. So it has to be framed in a very comprehensive manner, sensitizing not only the person with disabilities, but sensitizing the overall people of the society. So if you look at the dichotomies, on the one hand, you see a person with disabilities with a small group, and the other hand you see are abled people, in a huge large group, so that sort of fight so the struggle the conflict is within the minority versus the majority. The understanding of disability has to be framed to the people who are in the society. And those are the abled groups. So it has to be framed in that manner. But if you look at the context of Nepal, the issue of disability has to be spoken only by a person with disabilities. So it is only the issue of person with disabilities. So, for me, I would say that there has been chang from 1990 to 2021. However, if you look at the progress, that those progress are not very much satisfactory, because still people with disabilities are not perceived from a rights based approach, their meaningful representation and participation at all levels are not secured. Their meaningful participation and representations are not clearly articulated, respected by the state. That is one of the challenges, and they're not in a decision making position, they have led the organizations of persons with disabilities, but they are not in the state mechanism where the policies are being amended, where the policies are being framed and defined for a person with disability. So we want more person with disabilities in the decision making process in the decision making table. So there is yet to be lot things that person with disabilities need to do, and we need to come collectively, and one of the very fundamental thing that I wanted to address is disability is a very sensitive, it's a it's a very sensitive issue. It's a very crucial issue and it has multiple layers of diversity, the diversity is not only in the terms of impairment, it is the diversity within the changer, it is the diversity because Nepal is such a diverse country, we are we have 123 languages, we have 123 ethnic communities, 59 of the indigenous people are a state, by recognized by legally recognized by the state, we have dry mountain and hills. So we have three geographical differences. And apart from that also, we have many other differences and diversity. So if you look at this diversity of Nepal, that is the beauty but those diversities are not reflected on the work on the society that we have in our society is diverse. But if we look at the whole disability, discourse and the disability movement, the disability movement has been defined only in terms of impairment. And that is not the holistic understanding of disability. Because disability, if you look at the if you look at the general understanding of the CRPD, also in the preamble, in the principle of the CRPD, it clearly acknowledges the diversity, the human diversity. So the human diversity is the diversity of all diversity that we have within our society. So that has to be contextualized. So the broader understanding of the CRPD the broader understanding of our society, and the broader understanding of the country that we live in has to be reflected in the work that we do. So that has not been internalized so far. So there there is a huge challenge of this structural, what do you say the structural barriers that is related with the policies, and also the the limited understanding of of the narratives of disability within person with disabilities and also beyond it.

Ellen Spannagel

Thank you very much for the answer. There has been movement within civil society organizations and like networking, creating national voices for people with disabilities, but sometimes that doesn't reflect the day to day lived realities of many people who still have trouble accessing and knowing their rights. I think the last question I would just want to ask you then is what are other topics that should be brought to the forefront and conversations around disability and climate action and this can be this can be just in Nepal, but if you would also like to speak to a global level feel free?

Pratima Gurung

When it comes to person with disabilities and marginalized group, one one of the realities and the ground experiences is that that most marginalized groups are not aware about the impact the issues about climate change, how that climate change is impacting their daily lives. So they even do not know that the their rights are being insured in all these global and national documents. And that is why one of the challenges they face at the grassroot level is about the attitudinal barriers. So often people with disabilities and indeed Indigenous people, they have those traditional beliefs, social practices, which are denied when it comes to right to food, education work, and also living in a very justifiable way, in a very respected way. And apart from that, also people with disabilities, including marginalized groups, like Indigenous peoples, they face environmental barriers, and that environmental barriers are also related with inaccessible communication system. institutional barriers, that institutional barriers include all the policies and provisions that discriminates against persons with disabilities and marginalized groups. And one of the challenges that groups with multiple identities have is about the identity barriers. So, all marginalized groups are not a homogeneous group, they are a heterogeneous group. So when they are from a heterogeneous communities, the risks and greater burden that they face due to the impact of climate change, and when the issues like poverty , disability caste, diversity is being interconnected, then their their lives are more vulnerable and risks. So that is why the these are the very crucial things that I would like to highlight in when it comes to programs and interventions That means there are many policies and provisions that are put in the in one place. But apart from that, also, there has not been any kind of programmatic intervention at the national level. So if you look at all these barriers, there are several barriers at the grassroot level. But with these barriers, also, there has not been any kind of effort that has clearly articulated for marginalized groups, including persons with disabilities and, and Indigenous people and at the national level. So one of the things that I would like to highlight, even as a national level, and at the global level is the first thing is about the information, the right to information about climate change. What is climate change? What does the climate change impact? How does it impact? And so those kinds of understanding has to be reflected, raised awareness, from the National to the grassroot level, that is the very fundamental things. The second thing that I wanted to highlight is, there has been impact on the climate change when you have a disability. And we had recently done research in one of our communities, which is nearby Kathmandu Valley, and we could see when we went to those people at the community level, and when we try to ask, what is the relation of climate change and disability? The question that we raised to them was very much what do you say hard, they could not understand. But when I went in, started having conversation with them, did you have your food this morning? Was the food enough for you? Was it a nutritious food? Where do you bring this food from, and I could see those connections of climate change, because the lady the the mother of the daughter, the daughter is a woman with the intellectual disability and the mother she is the one who is looking after her daughter. And she told me very clearly that they used to have good food production 10 years before, and those food which were produced to them, those food were enough for a year, but now, the food production has reduced. So the food production they used to receive 10 years before and the food they receive now, does not those food which is been produced at this moment does not fulfill their needs within even only in six month. So that is the kind of situation so we could realize that the food production has been decreased. And if you look at the production of the soil also the soil is not in a in a fertile way. So it has become barren because there is not enough water, there is not enough minerals. So you could you we could see those kind of layers of the impact of the climate change because due to the climate change the rain water is not happening in the time and is not not happening in the time. The farmers they are not able to grow the crops on time and also not able to harvest on time. So that has directly and indirectly impacted and if you look at the water resources, also the mother she was not able to fetch the water, which she used to fetch nearby her village. Now she has to walk near about 2 hours for fetching her fetching the waters that she requires for her family.  And when it comes to a, you know intellectual girl with a disability in a house, she might require more water for her health and for her wash and safety things.  So those are not required as soon as you need to go far distance to face the water.  So these are the kind of challenges and direct and indirect impact that we could see within a single family, so I could realize that people know people have experienced the impact of the climate change, but they are not aware about how to connect these issues with their daily lives, so the second thing that I wanted to discuss is about the meaningful participation, consultation of the marginalized groups in the climate change discussion, which is very much crucial.  No matter it is at the grassroot level or the national level or the global level because those people who are at the global level can make or they are the one who could bring those voiceless voices at the global level. They could bring the ground experience that Is fair that is been faced by the vulnerable groups including persons with disabilities and indigenous people.  So those are the two things that I wanted to highlight, but apart from those things also I would also wanted to highlight about the policy gap. Because the policy clearly does not articulate about the marginalized groups, and since it has not been mentioned in the policy, there are not enough programmatic intervention that is happening at the grassroot level, that is happening at the local level. We have the three layers of government, 3 tiers of government, the central level, the province level and the local level and people are even not aware about the central level and they are not even aware of in the local level, so there is no any kind of programmatic intervention. So those programmatic intervention has to reach persons with disabilities, and one of the thing that I also wanted to add on that point is we need to have disability inclusion, cultural inclusion and also the intersectional approach to reach the most marginalized group. If we only look person with disabilities in a blanket approach, so we will be again leaving behind girls and women with disabilities.  We will be leaving behind people with psychosocial disability.  So our concern is when we talk about the SDG leaving no one behind and reaching the furthest far, the climate change impact has to reach the furthest far because they are risk and vulnerable in the front line they are in the front line with risks and and and and and vulnerable.  So that is why I would say the intersectional approach has to be framed in that way, so that it will integrate the different social identities and the social categories that people and individuals, have and depending on those social categories, the intervention has to be made from the grassroot level to the global level.  This is what I would like to highlight, and when it comes to groups with multiple and intersecting identities, definitely those groups are to be brought into the discussion. They have to be brought into the central work.  The last thing that I wanted to add is also because we have we have the ground experiences we have the challenges and we know that we shouldn't be always projected as vulnerable.  We know that what our solution is.  We know what need, what needs to be done, but apart from that also what I would like to again highlight is there is a lack of evidence is there is lack of documentations that there is lack of research. My personal experiences may not reach to all the people at the global level.  So for us, what we require is, we have those challenges we have impacts, we also know what the solution is, so having all those things, this has to be very much clearly documented.  So we need to have ground experiences, realities, challenges, data, facts, figures and based on these facts figures we can do our own kind of evidence-based advocacy. It might be also an academic resource that might be that might be useful for different universities and academia, and also it might be useful for the activists.  So one of the very crucial things that I wanted to highlight within the climate change discourse and and discussion when it comes to marginalized groups is we have to invest for doing research on on these groups.  So until and unless we invest on doing research bringing those evidences, we are not able to say that: How does it impact? How do we bring the the the the ground experience is to the global advocacy? We know that the meaningful participation is equally important, but apart from that meaningful participation also one has to bring those experiences based concretely in a scientific manner.  The data has to be reliable.  It has to be in a truthful manner.  So in order to bring those things the resource is very much crucial for bringing those evidences and information from the grassroot level.  This is what I wanted to highlight at the end.

Ellen Spannagel

Thank you very much.

Thank you.

I I also think that is very crucial . That was that's it for all the questions that I had before before I stopped recording, I just wanted to thank you very much for taking the time for sitting down and sharing your knowledge about the situation in Nepal, your personal experience, and some of the knowledge you've gleaned over decades of working and as an activist and a scholar. So thank you.  And I also wanted to make sure that before we stop that, there were no other questions that you thought I should have asked or anything else that should have been brought up.  I know we've covered a lot of ground, but.

Pratima Gurung

No, I would say that this this is an emerging discourse and we have many ground experiences.  We have worked on the western part of our country. It was in 2019 and 2020 and now due to the Covid pandemic we have worked in the middle part of the country. So the experience we had earlier and the experience that we had recently in covid related with climate change, we had a different kind of experiences. The first one was so much related with the direct impact of the climate since the mountains, the snow is melting and and in in the impact of the snow melting.  When we did our research in this later part, which is very recently, we came to know about the impact of soil, the production, full production, water resources, natural things, environment, all those things were being integrated in that research.  What I would say is there are number of evidences and and we have been working on those issues in a very, very what do you say?  It's just like in peanut, so it's it's not a huge kind of work.  We have just started filling out the first layer of the skin of the orange.  So what I would say is there is a lot of discussion that need to be framed within the disability discourse and within the marginalized movement, and also at the other state level, and if and for that, discussion what we have realized, it is although we have other research evidence on it, the issue of climate change have not very much what they say, internalized from a disability perspective or from the marginalized groups perspective.  So that has to frame from the global level.  So we are also equally highlighting and advocating our issues at the global level.  How do we frame this human right based approach disability inclusion in the whole climate change discourse, and those negotiations and those global discussion has to be again reflected at the national level, so that has not been reflected at the national level.  So we would also like to suggest the development partners the different relevant stakeholders to take a some kind of immediate steps and measures for for supporting for funding and also having the national level discussion with the like minded organizations at the national level and these discussions would definitely open avenues to have more for the further policy intervention and programmatic intervention at the national level, which is very crucial at this moment.

Ellen Spannagel

Well, thank you. Thank you for clarifying that and providing more context into that.