



**UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN NEPAL**



Wednesday, 02 December 2009

OHCHR urges for ratification of the Convention on the Rights of
Persons with Disabilities

2 December, Kathmandu

On the occasion of International Day for the Persons with Disabilities (3 December), OHCHR-Nepal has joined hands with national civil society organizations for a series of events in support of the ratification of the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by Nepal.

The Office in collaboration with partner organizations has been organizing and supporting a series of activities in order to sensitize and advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities. The activities include amongst others, a painting competition for school children (30 November), an interaction program on the role of parliamentarians to ratify the Convention and strengthening human rights protections for disabled persons in the new constitution (2 December), and a marathon of the visually challenged persons (5 Dec). The Office, together with the Nepal Disabled Human Rights Centre (DHRC-Nepal) will also launch a publication, *"Disability: From Exclusion to Rights: A Handbook for Parliamentarians"*.

Estimates suggest that ten percent of the population globally suffers from disabilities and approximately 20 million women acquire disabilities as a result of complications during pregnancy or childbirth. In Nepal, persons suffering from disabilities are routinely denied economic, social and cultural rights such as lack of access to health services, public transport and buildings, education, information, employment as well as political and civil rights, including voting and making decisions about their own lives based on their free and informed consent.

"The ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol will be reflected in the country's national legal framework, development planning and budgeting, and in related policies. It will enable people with disabilities to lead their lives as full citizens contributing in valuable ways to their society and to the development of Nepal, as explicitly outlined in the Convention," said Richard Bennett, Representative, OHCHR-Nepal, "The endeavors of the civil society towards advancing the rights of persons with disabilities are strongly supported by my Office."