Item 4

Thank you Madam Moderator

The Korean government has been able to build a relatively large amount of data on the Incheon Strategy indicators because our government has been conducting various fact-finding surveys of persons with disabilities in order to obtain basic data required to formulate welfare policies for persons with disabilities in Korea. And of course we have legal grounds for those disability-specific surveys.

The most representative disability-specific survey in Korea is the ‘Disability-fact finding Survey’ which is conducted every three years on the basis of article 31 of the Act on Welfare of Persons with Disabilities. It provides basic data for establishing welfare policies, such as disability prevalence rates, living conditions, service desires and availability. In the field of education, ‘the survey on actual status of special education’ pursuant to the article 13 of the Act on Special Education for Persons with Disabilities etc. is conducted every three years to collect data which helps identify the number of students with special needs and teachers for special education etc. When it comes to the survey dealing with disability data on employment, the Ministry of Employment and Labor regularly conducts surveys to produce statistics with regard to the employment of disabled workers. The foremost of these is the annual fact-finding survey on the economic activities of persons with disabilities, which provides statistics on employment and unemployment among persons with disabilities.

However, aforementioned surveys are still based on the medical model, so they do not fully reflect the various needs of persons with disabilities. In addition, in spite of various kinds of disability-specific surveys, it is very sorry to say that disability-specific data obtained from those surveys are not fully reflected in all national statistics. I thank you.
Part 2 of Item 4

The official definition of ‘disability’ and ‘persons with disabilities’ are being included in the Act on Welfare of Persons with Disabilities in Korea. According to its article 2 of the Act, ‘person with disabilities’ is defined as ‘a persons whose daily life or social activity is substantially hampered by physical or mental disability over a long period of time.’ Also, this article clarifies that the term ‘physical disability’ meaning that a disability of principal external bodily functions and of internal organs, etc.; and the term ‘mental disability’ meaning that a disability caused by psychological development disorder or mental disease.

However, aforementioned disability-specific surveys in Korea applies, to some extent, different definitions and categories of disability or persons with disabilities based on the purposes or main targets of the each survey. Although there is a positive aspect that each survey needs to reflect special needs of persons with disabilities in the target area. However, it is also needed to adopt unified regulations on disability in national statistical system to collect more reliable and comparable data.

The Korean government has been working hard in partnership with relevant stakeholders including organizations of and for persons with disabilities for extensive reform on disability-related regulations. We are looking for a new diagnostic and identifying system that fits the needs of persons with disabilities based on the social model of disability.

In order to obtain valuable information helping to understand the needs of persons with disabilities, a variety of measures should be taken. However, it also needs to be considered to conduct a unified survey, considering the questions and tools that are being discussed in the Washington Group and WHO.

I thank you.