Statement by the Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran


(Beijing, 17 November, 1987)

In the name of God, the Companionate, the Merciful

Mr/ Mm. President, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to commemorate the recent earthquake in western provinces of Iran, which killed nearly 6 hundreds and injured approximately 8 thousands of men and women, some of them are now considered to be "persons with disabilities".

I would also like to begin with expressing my sincere appreciation to the Government of the People's Republic of China for hosting this important meeting.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is a state party to the CRPD since 1987, has submitted its initial report in 1987, and has defended its report before the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 1987. Iran has actively participated the whole process of negotiations of the 1987 Development Agenda and firmly supported the inclusion of persons with disabilities and their rights in this 10 year global development agenda and is more happy that for they are now included although they were missed in the Millennium Development Goals.

My country along the lines of the CRPD and the Incheon Strategy "to make the right Real" for Persons with disabilities in Asia and the Pacific, is of the view that in designing any framework for inclusive development, the situation of persons with disabilities should be considered as an integral part.
We had many achievements in the implementation of our CRPD commitments to the Incheon Strategy documents. In making the Rights Real, we have increased our financial supports to governmental bodies and civil society institutions which are active in different areas, from awareness raising to empowering children and women and older persons with disabilities. We have improved inclusive education and envisaged encouraging facilities and privileges for buildings and other constructions which are making accessibility a reality for persons with disabilities.

I am also pleased to announce that last week a new comprehensive bill of law on the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities has passed the special commission of the parliament and will soon be considered by the parliament for ratification. The new act of law will replace the current “Comprehensive Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities” adopted in ¥•¥•¥•. This new bill, enjoys more of a rights-based approach to the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities and further, provides guarantees through including inter alia, financing plans in order to ensure its full implementation.

Many goals and targets of the Incheon Strategy are to be addressed under the new bill. For instance, the issue of accessibility of physical environment and public urban and suburban transportation, accommodation, accessibility of information, social protection, health services, medical treatment and rehabilitation, promotion of de-institutionalization and community and family-based living, para-sports, recreation, cultural participation of persons with disabilities, anti-discrimination rules, providing affordable housing, promotion of public awareness, judicial support and tax facilities, livelihoods and administrative facilities, provision of vocational training and enhancement of work and employment prospects, and
providing free preliminary, secondary and graduate studies for persons with disabilities, are amongst the important provisions under the new bill.

The Islamic Republic of Iran will remain robustly committed and will continue its endeavours to ensure that all rights of persons with disabilities are protected and promoted. However, no country is perfect on disability rights records like other human rights records. We need to continue fulfilling our responsibilities for promoting and protecting the rights of persons with disabilities through innovative ideas and dissemination of best practices among nations. Last not least we should bear in mind that the rights of persons with disabilities will not be fully implemented until and unless the right to development is realized.

Thank you