Statement:

Madam Chair, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Nauru wishes to thank the China Government for hosting this event. Nauru also wishes to thank UN ESCAP for organizing and preparing the event. Mwar tubwa (thank you)

Nauru ratified the Convention of the Right of Person with Disability in June 2012. Nauru is happy to state that the convention reflects its National Sustainable Development Strategy for Person with Disability.

In 2011, Nauru completed the 2011 Nauru Population and Housing Census. Soon after the census, the Disability Monograph was produced. Much of the UN ESCAP data was derived from the latter document.

Five percentage of the Nauru population is reported to be a person with disability. Most of the person with disability were born without disability but in their later life in especially when one reaches the age of forty years and above, one acquired one or more disability functions.

The Department of Education and the Health Department share the responsibilities in implementing Nauru’s commitment to the Person with Disability’s rights in the Incheon Strategy Goals and other relevant documents. Nauru would like to share with you its progress. There are five areas of updates in this review.

1. Public facilities

Air terminal- Our air terminal is now environmentally friendly for Person with Disability in areas such as car park, services, ramp, rest rooms and boarding of airlines.

Government Office- Our government office entrances are also environmentally friendly for Person with Disability in especially entrances to government offices.

Schools- Our schools are environmentally friendly for Person with disability. Some schools are equipped with ramps and restrooms for person with disability.

The new TVET buildings and Public library that are still being built are installed with Personal with Disability facilities. e.g a ramp to the library room, a discussion for a special section of the library will be allocated for the person with disability and accessibility to other sections of the building.

The hospital facilities also is environmentally friendly for the Person with Disability. Again it has ramps installed and restrooms specifically for Person with Disability needs.

2. Education

Nauru’s education has always have an inclusive policy. The Education Act 2011 reinforced Nauru’s believe in having an inclusive education system.
Education provides two major pathways for students and both are accessible to students with disabilities. In the normal school academic strand, students with disability who are able to cope in the mainstream are working just as hard as other students. Students with disability who are more into skill development like the other students are admitted in the TVET strand. TVET programs offer Fashion and Textile, Engineering (welder), Construction, Automotive and Hospitality.

There is an Able/Disable Centre for students wishing to be a part of it. Sustainable life training is provided for young and old students. E.g planting their own crops

Trained a person with disability to teach brail at the Able/Disable Centre

Recently created a position within the Department of Education specifically to coordinate programs that will be of benefits to the students with disabilities. That is to identify resources that will enhance students learning; identify training needs of teachers for better teaching of students with disabilities; identify school’s need for a more person with disability facilities and ensuring that all students with disability are accorded with the same rights as the next students

Education 5 years strategic plan (2017-2021)-Footpath IV includes a strategy for training teachers to be better tools for students with disabilities

3. Health Care

Recently acquired a local with degree in physiotherapy

Physiotherapy facility is basic but is functional for most individuals

Overseas referral policy for all including person with disability

Government allowance are afforded to person with disability with extreme disability and cannot work

4. Economic Opportunities

Person with disability are not excluded in job opportunities, they are working in government offices, private sectors, State Own Enterprises and the refugee camps

Staff development scheme is also inclusive for person with disability

5. Social Life

National Person with Disability Organization established

- NPDO Training Centre for person with disability recently opened
- Skills considered to be implemented in the center are basically maintenance of person with disability devices e.g
- The planning of water distribution on the training site to generate funds for the operation of the NPDO
An allowance is allocated to family’s with extreme disabilities care

Family’s house will be reconstructed to suit the person with disability needs. Eg. A private toilet and shower facilities to accommodate special needs

National Disaster Management for person with disability is in dialogue between NPDO and Government ministry.

In 2015, the Nauru National Policy on Person with Disability was drafted. All stake holders were invited to contribute to the drafting of the document. The document incorporates Nauru’s commitment to the SDGs goals, the Convention of the Right of Person with Disability, the Incheon Strategy Goals and the Pacific Regional Strategy on Disability. The document needs professional editing to ensure that coverage of the right of the person with disability is well stated.

**CHALLENGES**

Monitoring correct data

Having skilled staff

More public areas need to be reconstructed to suit the Person with Disability’s needs, eg central market area, rest rooms in all public areas need to be reconstructed to accommodate Person with disability needs

Fundings need to be sourced for the reconstruction of more public areas to be environmentally friendly to the person with disability.

There is a need to have young adult involved in the National Person with Disability Organization

There is a need to consolidate emergency management for person with disability

To conclude, Nauru will endeavor to ensure that all goals associated with Person with Disability are met accordingly. Nauru acknowledge Australia and New Zealand and other institutions for their continuous partnership with Nauru for the betterment of its people that is inclusive of person with disability. Nauru also acknowledge the need of the person with disability to be independent and to be a contributor to the development of the country’s economy.