Pakistan’s Country Statement on Agenda Item3: Review of progress in implementing the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific

Ladies & Gentlemen!

As a result of 18th Amendment in the Constitution in 2011, the subjects under the social sector including disability, were devolved to the Provinces to give the autonomy to the Provincial Governments. In this scenario, the Federal secretariat was reorganized and the subject of international commitments pertaining to disabilities was assigned to the Ministry of Human Rights. Keeping in view the international commitments under UNCRPD and Incheon Strategy, a national committee under the Chair of Minister for Human Rights including the representatives of the UN Agencies, DPOs and Parliamentarians has been constituted to facilitate the implementation of UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, ratified by the Government of Pakistan and other International Commitments pertaining to Disabilities (Incheon Strategies and UN Sustainable Goals). Besides, focal persons have been identified at the Federal and Provincial levels for coordination, required as a result of 18th Amendment in the Constitution provides decentralization of powers.

Since the Constitution of Pakistan 1973 guarantees the social and economic well-being of all citizens regardless of sex, caste, creed race, or any other discrimination. I would like to mention some significant initiatives, which have been taken in response to Constitutional guarantees and international commitments including Incheon Strategy, along with challenges ahead to mainstream the persons with disabilities in the society.
Goal 1: Reduce poverty & enhance work & employment prospects

Progress/achievements

- Initiatives have been introduced through Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal and Benazir Income Support Program (BISP). Bait-ul-mal is providing financial support, assistive aid and support for Medical treatment whereas, BISP is providing financial support, assistive aid and support for Medical treatment whereas, BISP is providing financial assistance.

- Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Program (PPAP) has also introduced a pilot project of Micro Credit. Through this program, the PWDs interested for Micro Credit are provided; (i) training to utilize loan (ii) assistive aids (iii) construction of ramps at home and work place.

- Quantitative survey for persons with disabilities was conducted in collaboration with Capital Administration and Development Division to assess needs for vocational rehabilitation in Islamabad Capital territory.

- National training centre for Special Person working under Directorate General of Special Education is effectively functioning on skill development to enhance employment prospects of Persons with Disabilities.

- A number of 14960 persons with disabilities are beneficiaries of under Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment of Disabled Persons programme, following CBR approach.

Lessons learnt

There is need to introduce marketable trades so that PWDs earn their livings by considering it as their right and not as charity. Because of this approach there is enormous
hopes that many alternative structures would consolidate the program and remove the
social, psychological and economic barriers.

**Goal 3: Enhance access to the physical environment, public transportation, knowledge, information & communication**

**Achievements**


- Design manual and building bye-laws for designers and implementing authorities to provide facilities in public building, parks and public places and issued instructions to all concerned Departments to ensure provision of facilities for person with disabilities in all new projects.

- Federal Capital and four Provincial Head quarters, have been declared as disable friendly cities.

- Metro bus service recently launched in Pakistan, designed to address the issue of accessibility of disabled persons.

- Important document i.e. World disability report, UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and CBR Guidelines are translated in to urdu format.

Moreover, UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Incheon Strategy are converted into Braille.
Lessons Learnt

- There is need to follow-up the action taken by the Provincial Governments and private sector. All these efforts may be coordinated in an organized and planned way by involving the PWDs as well.

Goal 9: Accelerate the ratification & implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities & the harmonization of national legislation with the Convention.

Achievements:

- The Government of Pakistan had ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on 5th July, 2011 and draft report has been prepared in consultation with relevant stakeholders.

- Arranged seminars/ workshops for sensitization and awareness about the Convention at the grass-root level with the participation of NGOs and Civil Society Organizations.

- Established Treaty Implementation Cells at the Federal and Provincial level for implementation of seven Core Human Rights Conventions ratified by the Government of Pakistan including CRPD.

- Constituted national committee and identified focal persons in the relevant Departments.

- Pakistan Disability Act, 2017 drafted for implementation of CRPD.

Lessons learnt

Additional measures are required to sensitize the masses/ Government Departments for taking legislative, policy and administrative measures in response to UNCRPD.
Challenges

- Capacity building of the stakeholders (Government officials dealing with the subject of disability in the international scenario).
- Statistical data, as presently it is difficult to indicate the exact percentage of disabled persons in the total population.
- Allocation of budget/financial resources while proposing legislation, policies and plans for persons with disabilities.
- Availability of early detection and intervention facilities in the communities.
- Education and training of the citizens to prevent disabilities in case of natural calamities and disasters.