Madam Chair

Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

We acknowledge the commitment by ESCAP and the government of China in coordinating this forum as well as allowing Samoa to be part of this significant process.

Allow us to share Samoa’s key achievements as well as remaining challenges and priorities regarding the implementation of the Incheon strategy as well as other related mechanisms for the advancement of 15% of the world’s population, persons with disabilities.

Madam Chair, Persons with disabilities and disability inclusive developments is no longer a business as usual for Samoa. Samoa ratified the international convention on the rights of persons with disabilities in 2016. With this, 2 main activities have been accomplished.

1. Legislative compliance review
2. Integration of CRPD, Incheon strategy and 2030 agenda in all our national plans.
3. Samoa is committed to ensure full and effective participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities in all aspects of developments. Therefore, necessary adjustments have been made to our electro systems to realise persons with disabilities the right to vote on an equal basis with others.
4. Samoa is one the first country in the pacific to include the Washington questions on disabilities in its national census
5. Our national construction code has been revised together with ongoing accessibility access audits of facilities and public buildings to ensure access for persons with disabilities to the physical environment

Inadequate resources and budgetary allocations, cabasity of both government and persons with disabilities as well as disability continueing to be a competeing priority continue to be our on oing barriers in realising the rights of persons with disabilities.