**Joint Statement by Civil Society Organizations**

to Accelerate the Implementation of the Incheon Strategy

for the Second Five Years from 2018 to 2022

**Background**

We, representatives of the civil society organizations assembled at the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Midpoint Review of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities (2013 – 2022),

- Recall the principles and contents of major international frameworks for persons with disabilities, such as the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (the CRPD), the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework, the Marrakesh Treaty, the Incheon Strategy, and any other relevant treaty and framework;

- Recall the shared responsibility of civil society to accelerate the implementation and strengthen the monitoring of the Incheon Strategy;

- Appreciate the efforts of all the stakeholders including governments, civil society, and intergovernmental agencies to advance the goals set out by the Incheon Strategy; and

- Recognize the unique composition of the Working Group on the Asia and the Pacific Decade of Persons with disabilities, 2013-2022, having the equal presence of the governments and CSO participants working in collaboration to achieve the Incheon Strategy.


We, CSO representatives, have worked collaboratively, providing advice on, and monitoring each government’s implementation of the Incheon Strategy, promoting cooperation at the regional and sub-regional levels, and participating
actively in the sessions of the Working Group for the successful implementation of the Incheon Strategy.

This experience has shown that for the Working Group to be effective, substantial commitment in both time and resources are required of civil society.

Based on the midpoint review results of the Decade, we propose the following strategies for effective implementation of the Incheon Strategy for the second half of the Decade.


**CSO Commitment**

We, CSO representatives of the civil society organizations, propose the following suggestions to reaffirm CSO commitment to accelerate the implementation of the Incheon Strategy for the second five years of the Decade. The civil society organizations shall enhance the implementation of the Incheon Strategy on their own and in collaboration with their governments, and subsequently report on their such activities during the Working Group Meetings and other Incheon Strategy related meetings.

- First, CSO representatives shall strengthen continuity and consistency in their participation in the Working Group by enhancing the role of the participants who are encouraged to share the results of the sessions as widely as possible.

- Second, CSO representatives shall be more proactive and productive through their participation in the Working Group in carrying out the Incheon Strategy with an enhanced sense of responsibility.

- Third, CSO representatives, recognizing collective responsibility to contribute to the work of the Working Group, shall take turns in playing the role of a coordinator among the CSO members of the working group.
UN ESCAP

We, representatives of the civil society organizations also make the following suggestions to UN ESCAP:

- First, e-Task Force provided by UN ESCAP for the Working Group Members need to be more effective and accessible to persons with all types of disabilities including persons with high support needs as well as women with disabilities. It would be appreciated if UN ESCAP could also strengthen its consultation with civil society organizations with sufficient advance and more substantively, especially when developing agenda items.

- Second, UN ESCAP is urged to include CSO representatives in High-Level Intergovernmental Meetings to ensure their active participation including through the presentation of their reports.

- Third, UN ESCAP is encouraged to reflect the results of the Midpoint Review including the views of civil society in the future process of selecting and pursuing two priority goals to be implemented every year for the second half of the decade, with a view to effective and equal the implementation of the ten Goals of the Incheon Strategy.

Governments

We, CSO representatives, also make the following to suggestions to the governments:

- First, the governments shall launch in their country the national coordination mechanism on disability which will function as an action planning and monitoring system. The mechanism shall include civil society participants in all activities regarding the second half of decade of the Incheon Strategy.
- Second, we call on the governments of the Asia Pacific region to address communication and participation barriers, and renew their commitment to support the Working Group regarding the Incheon Strategy.

- Third, the governments shall be committed to eliminating barriers to civil society participation in the Working Group meetings including through providing financial support as well as the full inclusion with sign language.