Statement of the Islamic Republic of Iran (including reservation) on the Adoption of the Beijing Declaration and its plan of action 30 Nov. 2017

Madam Chair, Honorable Ministers, Distinguished Delegates, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, allow me to extend my gratitude to the Government of China for hosting this important regional event at this beautiful accessible sport venue.

The Islamic Republic of Iran as committed state party to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has been actively participated the intergovernmental process of negotiation of the Beijing Declaration and its plan of action 2017 and is pleased to see that the Asia and the Pacific countries have been able to complete the High Level mid-point review of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities 2013 to 2022.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is also pleased to see that the text of the Beijing Declaration and its plan of action is finalized after two days of negotiations among delegations under the valuable leadership of Her excellency Madame Merresini Vuniwaqa Minister of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation of Fiji and would like to express its gratitude to all delegations and civil society representatives who have participated the midpoint review meetings and also have run important and effective side events.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has acceded the CRPD since 2009 and has provided its initial report with the CRPD Committee in 2013 and defended its report in 2017 before the Committee of the CRPD. Since according to article 46 of the CRPD, Iran has made a reservation to the Convention I’m obliged hereby to put on the official
record of this meeting that nothing in the Beijing Declaration and its plan of action shall and will infringe or change the reservation of the Islamic of Republic of Iran to the CRPD and it is of the same effect on the Beijing Declaration and its plan of action. However, Iran continues to remain robustly committed to its treaty commitments and will stand up for the rights of persons with disabilities. We hope that by the parliamentary adoption and enforcement of the new Comprehensive Disability Act of the Islamic Republic of Iran which has passed the specialized commission of the Parliament recently, we can further promote and advance Making the Right Real from a dream to a reality which should be realized in our daily lives. We are also prioritizing our mental health policies in order to improve the balance between physical and mental health situation for persons with disabilities as well as for other persons.

Since Iran is the host to almost the biggest community of victims of chemical attacks by Saddam’s Regime against my country, the rights of persons with disability is close to the heart of the Iranian decision makers both in the Government and among the civil society representatives.

In closing, I would like to emphasize that, we are aware that no country is perfect on disability rights records like other human rights records, we should always bear in mind that the rights of persons with disabilities cannot and will not be fully implemented, promoted and protected until and unless the right to development is fully realized.

Thank you for your kind attention.