Pakistan is a country with an overwhelming culture of sympathy for persons with disabilities. There is a predominant desire to help disadvantaged persons either through charity or free medical assistance.

Over the years, however, there has been a significant shift in its perspective and attitude from the earlier charity based approach to a more comprehensive rights-based perspective wherein there is a clear recognition that persons with disabilities need to not only be accepted but pro-actively empowered in society.

Subsequent to the ratification of UNCRPD in 2011, a national level committee headed by Minister thraying including representatives of parliament, UN agencies and organizations has been constituted to oversee and monitor the implementation of the UNCRPD. Council
Focal persons at both Federal and Provincial levels have been identified for coordination on all strategies and policies dealing with the prevention, the protection and the rehabilitation of persons with disabilities.

To enhance coordination a treaty implementation cell headed by Attorney General of Pakistan, with corresponding cells in all provinces has been set up to coordinate and oversee all measures notified by the Govt of Pakistan. This includes CHPD.

At the legislative level, the Government has promulgated the:
1. Disabled Persons (Employment + Rehabilitation Act 86)
2. The National Policy on Disabledly 2009
3. The National Plan of Action for PWD (2016-2021)
4. Special Citizen Act (Accessibility to persons)
5. Special Citizen (Right to concession in Movement Act 2009)

6. Provincial laws include:
(iii) Rehabilitation Persons with Disability Act 
(iii) Punjab Disabled Persons Act 2019

7. The Pakistan Disability Act relevant to Islamabad Capital Area is drafted and ready for promulgation.

Policy decisions on PWD include:
1. Increased quotas - 25% (And when it was found that many government organizations were not following this, it was taken up by Supreme Court of Pakistan)
2. Free medical assistance
3. Enhanced Vocational Training
4. Financial support through Braille cheque books, Braille ATMs,
5. Social nets and support mechanisms through poverty alleviation programs such as Pakistan Rural Mission and the Benazir Income Support Program (which is done to help the poorest and least educated)

...with all the country with outreach of nearly 8 million vulnerable groups providing social, financial aid and medical treatment.
6. Micro-finance facilities to women & PWDs is also part of Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Program which spends a chunk for training, assistive aids & construction of special rooms and architectural changes in both urban & off-site.

7. A National Training could be set for special persons who works to provide life and career skills to PWDs.

8. Some 15,000 persons with disabilities have also benefited from programs of the Vocational, Rehab & Employment of disabled persons.

9. Some 400 special education schools in Punjab, Sindh & KP also provide focused training to PWDs.

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Key accomplishments of public-private partnership in Pakistan in last five years for the inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in the development process:

1. Ministry of Information and Communication Technology and Pakistan Telecom Authority have launched their websites accessible for persons with visual impairments designed as per universal standards in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities.
2. An ICT Accessibility Working Group has been established having the representation of persons with disabilities, Government, development organizations and corporate sector.
3. A mobile App development competition was initiated by ICT R&D Fund managed by Ministry of Information and Communication Technology with a theme of disability mainstreaming in daily life. Three best applications were awarded by the President of Pakistan.
4. Sign Language Interpretation has been started on Pakistan Television for the major prime-time news bulletins.
5. Infrastructural Accessibility has been ensured at the National Assembly Building.
6. A fully funded Educational scholarship is being offered from High school to Ph.D. level for persons with disabilities at Allama Iqbal Open University, which is largest public open university providing distance education to around one million students.
7. Assistive Technology Center has been established at National Institute of Special Education. More than 200 persons with disabilities have been trained at this center for the corporate work environment.
8. A virtual ‘Disability Job Center’ has been established connected with Job Placement Center of National Training Center for Special Persons.
9. Incheon Strategy has been translated into the Urdu language.
11. Election Commission of Pakistan has addressed the inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Electoral Process in its strategic goals as a specific goal with Indicators.
12. Punjab province has adopted five-year inclusive education strategy.
14. Accessible Metro Bus service has been started in major cities of the country.
Port initiatives such as mandatory design's construction & disabled-friendly public buildings and sites, and declaring Islamabad's provincial headquarters as disabled-friendly that helped create awareness on the rights of persons.

The Women's Parliamentary Caucus of the National Legislature, in collaboration with civil society, is also actively working to enhance capacities and leadership roles of women with disabilities at national & global level.

Despite these strong initiatives, much still needs to be done in terms of awareness and implementation with the figure of disabled persons varying from 2.5% in the 1988 census to 10% in the report of 2014. There are always with regard to social stigma - particularly in the issue of marriage & disabled girls & their employment opportunities available.
Nauru has just launched a campaign to address our heinous rights issues of social segregation and stigmatisation of PWDs.

Important documents such as World Disability Report, UNCRPD and the Human Strategies have been translated into local language as well as Braille.

Addressing concerns of PWDs as both a constitutional and moral mandate.

Today, despite huge challenges such as natural calamities such as floods, earthquakes in which thousands have died, Pakistan has seen a concomitant rise in persons with disabilities.

The challenges are harsh but NDMA has worked hard to include the issues of PWDs in all disaster-related activities. This includes response and reconstruction policies, awareness, use of technologies and direct medical provision to mainstream disability concerns with developing policies.
Civil society also plays a strong and positive role in combating the Goals drive.

Last year, the Pale, dinner & Special Olympics benefits theme 16 medals and three violences retain your support and mentorship to money, ladies & gentlemen other violations of PWDs could all make this life in our purity. Together Goal & civil society, academia & media, we need to work together to make a change in the world.

I thank all organizers and members present for this opportunity to share our country report.

Thank you.