

**The Seventy-Ninth Session of The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and
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Bangkok, 15-19 May 2023

COUNTRY INTERVENTION

AGENDA ITEM 4 (B)

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

18 MAY 2023

Esteemed Chair,

Distinguished Excellencies,

Honorable Colleagues,

I would like to take this opportunity to emphasize Indonesia's unwavering commitment to promoting the rights of persons with disabilities. We have ratified the CRPD commitment through Law No. 19/2011 and regulated Law No. 8/2016 on People with Disabilities to establish a human rights-based approach to disability policy. Bappenas, in particular, has led the charge in enhancing multisectoral collaboration, leading to a significant transformation in planning and budgeting mechanisms and improved synergy between national and regional governments.

To further this mission, we have implemented the National Action Plan on Persons with Disabilities, consisting of seven strategic goals ranging from database development, inclusive policy planning and budgeting, to inclusive education and health services. It is essential to note that the responsibility for promoting the rights of persons with disabilities now extends beyond social affairs, requiring the involvement of various stakeholders, including ministries/agencies, local governments, disabled persons organizations, private sector, families, and communities.

Despite these initiatives, much must be done. Concerning employment opportunities, the Labor Force Participation Rate (LFPR) for persons with disabilities remains significantly lower than the national level. Accessible and inclusive education and vocational training must be prioritized to increase independence and employment opportunities. The government has also enacted Government Regulation No. 60 of 2020, encouraging sensitivity modules and mapping job opportunities to facilitate the employment of persons with disabilities. To accelerate, private sector and business communities must transform to create a more inclusive job market and working environment.

Additionally, Indonesia faces an aging population. In 2045, the proportion of the older population of 60+ will reach 25%, or more than 60 million in total, bringing forth unique

economic, health, and social welfare implications. The government's social protection programs, such as conditional cash transfers, food vouchers, social care and services, national health insurance, and pensions, have benefitted millions of families and individuals. However, there is still room for improvement.

The formalization of Presidential Regulation No. 88/2021 on the National Strategy of Ageing will protect older persons' rights, including education, health, economics, and politics. The government is also drafting the Presidential Regulation on Social Protection System Reform, which includes the program's inclusiveness for older persons, paving the way for better coverage. The new regulation will also include adaptive social protection, supporting more responsive programs facing disaster and climate change risks, especially for the most vulnerable populations.

In conclusion, Indonesia remains committed to promoting an inclusive environment for vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities and older persons. Additionally, ensuring that vulnerable populations are not disproportionately affected by disasters or climate change is imperative. We urge all UNESCAP member countries to always conduct discussions, information exchange and learning, and policy improvement in this area. As we continue to pursue development, we must remain cognizant of the impact on vulnerable groups and strive to create an equitable society.

Thank you, Chair.

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