

# Practical issues and challenges faced by people with disabilities in the ESCAP region in accessing and using new ICTS



Opening remarks, Expert Meeting  
on Disability-inclusive Technology  
and Innovation, 30<sup>th</sup> August 2018,  
UNESCAP and INIT, Bangkok



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Educational, Scientific and  
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# Technologies are making the world more unequal



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<http://www.hindustantimes.com/world/lamborghinis-versus-garbage-salaries-spain-battles-inequality/story-SnY3IsblpkStfrjhB5bDZK.html>

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# And people with disabilities are amongst the most marginalised



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# Unless all technologies are **accessible** to all, they will increase inequality



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Although specific **assistive** technologies can also help empower those with particular disabilities

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# Aims of this expert meeting

- To turn rhetoric into reality
- Three key questions for Asia and the Pacific
  - Practical issues and challenges?
  - Policies that can help solve them?
  - Promoting policy action?
- Above all focusing on what we will all do next
  - Each person taking away two clear action points
- Building on a series of previous workshops



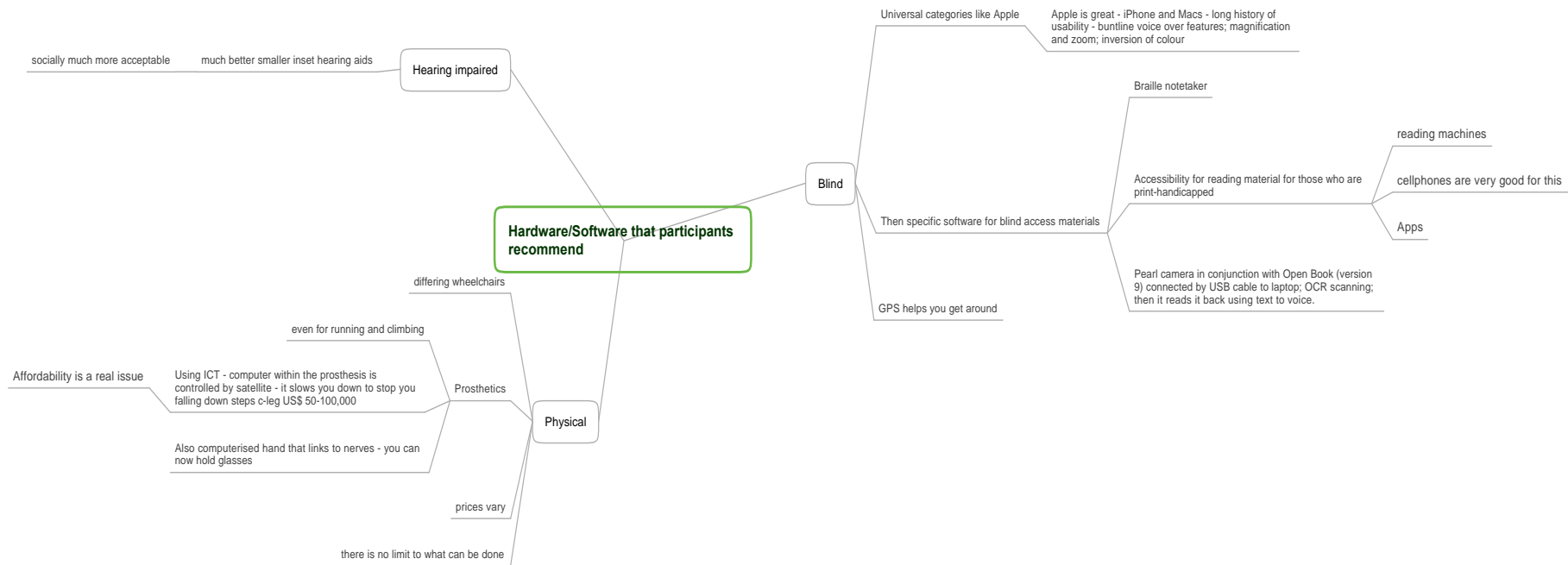
# Modalities: co-creating mind-maps for each issue



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<https://disabilityict4d.wordpress.com/workshops/>

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# Some useful resources – no need to reinvent the wheel



- [London Global Disability Summit 2018](#)
- [International Disability Alliance](#)
- ITU and G3ICT (2014) [Model ICT Accessibility Policy Report](#), Geneva: ITU
- UNESCO (2014) [Model Policy for Inclusive ICTs in Education for Persons with Disabilities](#), Paris: UNESCO
- [Commonwealth Ministerial Summit on e-Accessibility 2012](#)

THE GLOBAL DISABILITY SUMMIT 2018  
**CHARTER FOR CHANGE**  
#DisabilitySummit #NowIsTheTime



**We gather here in London and across the world to achieve a common aim: to ensure the rights, freedoms, dignity and inclusion for all persons with disabilities.**

Important progress has been made in the decade since the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). But we must do more. We must strive for real change through the Convention's implementation and the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals for persons with disabilities. Now is the time.

#### SO TODAY WE COMMIT TO:

1. Catalyse political will and leadership to turn our promises into change; in long-term plans that we invest in, implement and review.
2. Promote the leadership and diverse representation of all persons with disabilities to be front and centre of change; as leaders, partners and advocates. This includes the active involvement and close consultation of persons with disabilities of all ages.
3. Eliminate stigma and discrimination through legislation and policies that make a difference, promoting meaningful leadership, and consistently challenging harmful attitudes and practices. All people deserve dignity and respect.
4. Progress and support actions that advance inclusive quality education for people with disabilities, with the necessary resources to put plans into practice: every child has the right to learn from birth.
5. Open up routes to economic empowerment and financial inclusion so that persons with disabilities can enjoy decent work and achieve financial independence. This will mean creating more and better jobs, providing social protection, ensuring the necessary skills training, making workplaces accessible and hiring people with disabilities.
6. Revolutionise the availability and affordability of appropriate assistive technology, including digital, which will enable persons with disabilities to fully participate and contribute to society.
7. Change practices to make all humanitarian action fully inclusive and accessible to persons with disabilities. We will mainstream inclusion across all Disaster Risk Reduction and humanitarian sectors, and implement our commitments in the Charter 'Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action'.
8. 'Leave no one behind' and put the furthest behind first. We will champion the rights of the most under-represented and marginalised persons with disabilities, of all ages, affected by any form of multiple discrimination, and notably women and girls with disabilities.
9. Gather and use better data and evidence to understand and address the scale, and nature, of challenges faced by persons with disabilities, using tested tools including the [Washington Group Disability Question Sets](#)
10. Hold ourselves and others to account for the promises we have made here today. We agree that our individual commitments will be reviewed, assessed and published on a regular basis, with the results published on-line.

**Most importantly,  
what are you going to  
do differently when  
you leave here?**



And holding each other  
accountable



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# Let's make a difference...



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