

**Session 2. Regional Perspective on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda
Presented by: Ms. Abia Akram on behalf of the AP-RCEM Disability Constituency**

ON behalf of the APRCEM Disability Constituency I would like to thank ESCAP and member states for your inclusion of civil society in this meeting. I hope the inputs of persons with disabilities will be considered and adopted as your priorities in implementing SDGs.

As we are addressing issues of inequality, it is critical to remember Persons with disabilities comprise an estimated 15 per cent of the world's population, or one billion persons. Within the Asia-Pacific region alone, one out of six individuals live with a disability, an estimated 650 million persons, most of whom are living in poverty. Persons with disabilities often encounter systematic discrimination and exclusion on a daily basis, and in particular experience pervasive exclusion from development programmes. The Asia-Pacific region however has the unique opportunity to address such barriers and inequities facing a sixth of its population, by interconnecting and utilizing the regional and global frameworks. It requires that policy and programming must be in line with and build upon existing international, regional and national commitments and mechanisms such as the Incheon Strategy. The harmonization of action towards the implementation of the SDGs and Incheon Strategy can easily be accomplished since both draw particular attention and are committed to eradicating poverty for persons with disabilities and achieving dignity

Two years into the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, Disabled Peoples Organisations still remain strongly concerned that the reference to UN CRPD in the established regional and global framework and the self representation of persons with disabilities within sustainable development processes remains very limited. For us, its about meaningful participation at all levels emphasizing 'Nothing about us without us'. We are standing ready to provide you with our experiences. We would like to urge to reference the UNCRPD and the Incheon Strategy as you advance your work.

Finally, I encourage all governments here to adopt the principles of Development Justice as you advance your work through ESCAP as well as at national, international and global levels.