

ASIA-PACIFIC FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 2017

"Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing Asia-Pacific"

29-31 March 2017 | UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE CENTRE, BANGKOK, THAILAND

SIDE EVENT

Including Persons with Disabilities in Sustainable Development- An Inclusive Pathway to Eradicating Poverty and Promoting Prosperity

Venue: UNCC, Meeting Room H

Date: 31 March 2017

Time: 11:30 - 12:30

Organizers: ASIA PACIFIC DISABILITY CONSTITUENCY, ASIA PACIFIC WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES UNITED, ESCAP, INTERNATIONAL DISABILITY ALLIANCE, and STEP

Background

Persons with disabilities comprise an estimated 15 per cent of the world's population, or one billion people, of whom 80 per cent live in developing countries and are vastly overrepresented among those living in absolute poverty and women in both developing and developed countries: male disability prevalence rate is 12%, while female disability prevalence rate is 19.2%¹. Moreover, there is a strong evidence to show that women and girls with disabilities disproportionately face greater poverty, lack of opportunity, denial of political and social rights due to the persistence of certain cultural, legal and institutional barriers, which makes them the victims of multiple and intersectional discrimination

Persons with disabilities often encounter multi-layered discrimination and exclusion on a daily basis. However, in the last few years for the first time, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has explicitly included persons with disabilities as a population to be actively included in sustainable development planning and processes. With seven targets having explicit reference to persons with disabilities and all goals and targets being applicable to persons with disabilities by simple virtue of universality, which applies to all persons, the 2030 Agenda embodies the principle of "leave no one behind." As a consequence, this has opened doors for persons with disabilities' participation and recognition as active contributing members of society and sustainable development processes at all levels.

Member States acknowledged early on the critical "importance of the regional dimension of sustainable

¹ The World Health Organization, World Report on Disability (2011).

development” and have invited regional commissions to contribute through annual regional meetings and the active engagement of other relevant regional entities, major groups and other relevant stakeholders.² As one of these regional meetings, the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) since 2014 has brought governments, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders together in preparing for the follow-up and review process of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the High-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF). As a key stakeholder group within civil society, persons with disabilities must be recognized as equal partners, and be consulted³ by Governments, the UN system, civil society and other stakeholders, and are in the unique position to provide critical information on the issues facing persons with disabilities at the local, national, and regional level.

Before the global agreement of the 2030 Agenda, the Incheon Declaration set a precedent for a comprehensive regional framework in which mandates the active engagement of persons with disabilities within sustainable development and human rights processes. The development of the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for persons with disabilities in Asia and the Pacific was derived from the experiences in the implementation of two consecutive Asian and Pacific Decades of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002 and 2003-2012, as well as the historic adoption by the General Assembly, in 2006, of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.⁴

The goals and targets of the Incheon Strategy intersect and reflect the core principles and goals of both the 2030 Agenda and the UNCRPD. With this year’s theme of the High-level Political Forum and APFSD being “Eradicating Poverty and Promoting Prosperity in a Changing Asia and Pacific”, it is additionally critical for the regional level to focus on Goals 5 and 10.

Scope

This side event will aim to address the meaningful participation and inclusion of the regional perspective, particularly keeping in mind the idea of development justice. In addition the event will aim to elaborate on challenges persons with disabilities face in the region while trying to provide solutions and recommendations on how to address these issues through the implementation of the SDGs.

Member States will be invited to sit on a panel with experts from the Disability Constituency to make formal statements and engage in a dialogue with other panelists. Member States and panelists will be asked to discuss strategies and current best practices in addressing poverty eradication and gender equality, focusing on the challenges for women with disabilities’ inclusion within inclusive national policies.

This side event will additionally provide a platform for Member States who are volunteering to report on their national level SDG implementation at HLPF to engage with disabled people’s organizations (DPOs) who are working at the national level on making SDG implementation inclusive of persons with disabilities.

² Paragraph 13 of the resolution “67/290. Format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development”.

³ As required by CRPD Art 4(3)

⁴ General Assembly resolution 61/106, annex I

Presentations:

Goal 5, Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Through the disability perspective, the discussion will focus on the Beijing 20+ review which includes inequality, poverty, health, education, decent work and living wages, as well as the leadership and participation in decision making. It will also touch upon the intersectionality and reinforcement of commitments made in key international documents, such as article 6 of the UNCRPD on the rights of women with disabilities and Goal 6 of the Incheon Strategy in which makes the right real for the inclusion and empowerment of women with disabilities.

There is a lack of understanding about the issues affecting women and girls with disabilities, and a lack of information on sustainable development being shared with women and girls with disabilities. As such, there is not sufficient dialogue between different stakeholders – women’s rights organizations, disabled people’s organizations, international organizations and governments. This discussion aims to find best practices and solutions to these barriers.

Goal 10, Reduce inequality within and among countries

Discussions will focus on how disability-inclusive development involves the meaningful participation and inclusion of all community members particularly of persons with disabilities. To ensure inclusive development, donors and agencies must priorities planning and reporting systems that explicitly capture the participation of, and outcomes for, traditionally marginalized groups. Discussions will particularly elaborate on how disability inclusive development at the local level focusing on reducing inequality, both sharing best practices and challenges, can substantively inform the regional level.

Chair: Aiko Akiyama

Co-Chair: Abia Akram, APWWD.

Panelists

- Ms Jigjid Dulamsuren, World Federation of the Deaf, Mongolia
- Risnawati Utami, Disability Rights Fund, Indonesia
- Ms. Savina Nongebatu, Pacific Disability Forum, Solomon Islands
- David Corner, II self-advocate, Inclusion International, New Zealand
- Wardarina, APWLD
- Anuradha Pareek, India, Sightsavers

Proposed programme

1. Introduction and Framing the Discussions (5mins)
2. Panelist interventions (20 mins)
3. Key messages and closing (20 mins)

For more details and information contact:

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