Thank you Mr Chair for giving me this opportunity to intervene as a CSO representative on behalf of persons with disabilities.

My name is Ipul Powaseu and I am from Papua New Guinea and a Board Member of the Pacific Disability Forum.

Mr Chair, let me begin by reminding all that according to the World Report on Disability 2011, persons with disabilities comprise 15% of the world population and almost two third live in the Asia Pacific Region which accounts for 690 million.

While we are here discussing about the dynamics of population and development and the various dimensions of population demographics, and especially being reminded of leaving no one behind, and unprecedented population aging, I like to seek member states increased attention to mainstreaming disability into all policies discussed here including those on sexual and reproductive health, poverty alleviation, gender and climate change.

We, persons with disabilities, are made unheard, invisible and unaccounted because we are considered to be culturally unimportant and non-productive. When mainstreaming disability perspectives into all relevant policies, I would like to point out several key factors:

- Demystify negative stereotypes against persons with disabilities.
- Enhance disability aggregated statistics to better understand the vicious cycle between poverty and disability and underserved persons with disabilities.
- Buildings, transportations, information including ICT related to policy discussed should be accessible for persons with diverse disabilities.
- Harmonise all policies discussed at this forum with the spirit and content of the Incheon Strategy and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with disabilities, Sustainable Development Goals.
- Urge all members states present here including my country Papua New Guinea to intensify the efforts to collect and analyse data on persons with disabilities in the context of the policy discussed here and submit to the UNESCAP Secretariat and in future country reports.

Mr Chair, we, persons with disabilities should no longer be invisible, unheard and unaccounted.

I sincerely urge all members states represented here to take actions on the points stated above and to sincerely not LEAVE PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES behind.

THANK YOU MR CHAIR, for giving me this opportunity.

IPUL VICKY POWASEU