

Opening remarks for the 15th Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

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The Secretary General of the United Nations has alerted us to the following alarms: the COVID-19 pandemic, global finance, climate action, anarchy in cyberspace, peace and security.

The Secretary General has called on everyone to help overcome these alarms.

In this world scene, the question is: How can we, persons with disabilities, be truly included and participate? , which is the central theme of the 15th COSP.

The complex situation that we have experienced during the last two years due to the pandemic shows the resilience of persons with disabilities in the world, flourishing again with new ideas for effective action. We have seen it on a national scale where persons with disabilities work for their spaces of political and public participation.

On an international scale, an example of empowerment was seen at the World Summit on Disability held last February, where the International Disability Alliance was co-organizer and co-chair, along with the Governments of Norway and Ghana. The specific outcomes of this Summit were more than 1,250 commitments, many of which emanated from the United Nations Member States. The fulfillment of these commitments will be even better news.

Now I will refer to some key areas that are related to the mentioned alarms:

First, **Technological innovation (subtheme of this Conference)** must reach persons with disabilities in a timely manner to be in line with global information and communications. Without a doubt, this helps to counteract the alarm of cyber anarchy.

Consequently, I consider very important that we, persons with disabilities, are included in the Global Digital Compact as part of the Summit of the Future scheduled for 2023. This Compact will bring together governments, the private sector and civil society to agree on the key principles of the global digital cooperation, reinforcing the focus on cyber security. At the same time, a Global Code of Conduct will be agreed to promote integrity in public information, even online.

Of course, the accessibility, affordability and availability of technology for persons with disabilities should be included in the principles mentioned before. I make a special call to the States and the private sector to make this a reality.

Secondly, **the economic empowerment and entrepreneurship of persons with disabilities (another sub-theme of this Conference)**, is directly linked to the alarm about a global financial system that must address the situation of inequality and vulnerability in the world. There must be a connection between workers with disabilities and money markets and loans for entrepreneurship. For this, developing countries must be supported, taking the SDGs as references.

We must remember that the accountability of the States to the CRPD Committee and the review carried out by the HLPF in relation to the SDGs has not been suspended due to the pandemic. On the contrary, these mechanisms are attentive to examining how the States are contributing strongly to the construction of the inclusive and participatory societies that we want, with a disability, gender, childhood and aging perspective.

In connection with the 2030 Agenda, next month the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) will review compliance with SDG 4 on inclusive and equitable quality education. In this sense, the participation of persons with disabilities in the Transforming Education Summit, convened by the Secretary General for September of this year, will be essential, especially to cement the education for sustainable development and the education for peace and security, with which we will overcome the alarm in this matter. We want to mobilize action and solutions with a view to the year 2030.

On this important topic, I have prepared the global campaign called "Decalogue for Good Treatment in Schools: from Students with disabilities to their Classmates". I invite you to make use of it and spread. You can use it for awareness raising, so that it sounds loud and clear in this Forum and throughout the world, that no student with disabilities can be left behind.

Thank you very much.