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**Statement by Ms. Catalina DEVANDAS-AGUILAR**

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Panel discussion on the “Implementation of the Post-2015 development agenda in light of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities”

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Thank you,

I appreciate the opportunity to participate in this panel discussion in which we are raised very valid and important questions. How to ensure the inclusion of people with disabilities in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals? What should be the role of bodies and United Nations mechanisms to accompany this process? These are fundamental issues that we have to answer who work with the aim of development processes and in particular the implementation process of the new Agenda 2030, do not leave out anyone.

We have unquestionably advanced. We have gained recognition spaces and opportunities to transform the lives of people with disabilities. Over 15 years ago when the Millennium Development Goals were traded, we were absolutely absent from the discussions, agendas, goals, indicators and, of course, of the implementation process. We did not have internationally comparable statistical data and methodologies. There was a clear conscience, as now, that if not included all groups, including those most affected by poverty and exclusion, such as people with disabilities are not going to move forward steadily and sustainable in the eradication of poverty and universal access to health services and education.

More than 15 years later we learned that the inclusion of people with disabilities is necessary for social benefits and programs more relevant and more efficient for the whole community. That inclusive policies for people with disabilities are a good investment for the social collective. We learned that the exclusion has great social and economic cost to our country.

The United Nations system has made significant efforts to adjust and update their action frameworks for inclusion and participation of people with disabilities. Today we have a Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and, with it, a Committee of Experts of the treaty and a Conference of States Parties. Furthermore, as a direct result of the adoption of the Convention also created the Inter-Agency Group for the Convention, the United Nations Fund for Promoting the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD) and, more recently, the mandate today I represent. Also, there have been significant efforts to generate methodologies for collecting statistical data, particularly through the work of the Washington Group, but also through the work of WHO, UNICEF, ILO and Statistics Division United Nations. It is in this context that we have a great opportunity to ensure that the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda to be inclusive of people with disabilities. However, how do we ensure that the processes of monitoring and evaluation of Sustainable Development Goals are inclusive of people with disabilities? How to measure how we are advancing in building communities that are more respectful of the needs of people with disabilities? How to ensure that the efforts of the different stakeholders provide feedback and allow us to move in a coordinated manner towards common goals?

First, we believe it is essential to have a political commitment at the highest level. At the international level, the High Level Political Forum should seriously consider how you will monitor that the disabled are being included in the implementation efforts of States. It requires political will at national level to ensure that the priorities established in the implementation process be inclusive of people with disabilities.

Secondly , it is important that the actions are accompanied by monitoring and evaluation systems , including impact assessment studies of inclusive policies to determine which efforts are working and which are not. It is therefore necessary to improve the collection and disaggregation of statistics in countries.

I would stress that, beyond the need to advance the development of new guidelines and methodologies, it is important to unite efforts to ensure in the short term that countries use the recommendations and existing international guidelines. We have to identify gaps in information production disability and maximize the available information.

Third, but not least, we need to involve people with disabilities and their representative organizations. In all cases the participation and consultation with representative organizations of persons with disabilities is essential. States need to develop important efforts for any effort to advance the implementation take into account the perspective of persons with disabilities. The participation of people with disabilities in the public decision-making is not only an international obligation but also a principle of good governance that ensures more effective and efficient decisions. Now, where do we direct our efforts to ensure that the processes of implementation and monitoring of Agenda 2030 are inclusive of people with disabilities? It is essential that all actors and mandates working to promote inclusive development and the rights of people with disabilities, adjust their actions to the new Agenda 2030. **Therefore, it is key to combine the efforts that are already doing implementation mechanisms and monitoring of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It is complementary and mutually reinforcing** instruments whose actors should come together to ensure better coherence and efficiency of the different systems of monitoring and evaluation. ***It is worth remembering that the Convention is both a human rights instrument of development, and the regulatory and conceptual framework that informs the implementation of Agenda 2030*** from a disability perspective.

From my mandate, and accompany the process of adoption of new targets and indicators, we have directed our efforts to propose to States two lines of important progress in building inclusive development policies action: first, how to make social protection systems consider people with disabilities, reduce poverty levels and promote their independent living and inclusion in the community, and secondly, how to facilitate consultation and participation in decision-making. Finally, it seems essential to ensure that all these different actors work in a coordinated manner in the implementation of the objective of sustainable development; to avoid duplication of efforts, to create a coordinated response and to ensure that the implementation of the agenda is in accordance with the Convention. In that vein, the (**ECOSOC) Economic and Social Council, through this committee could consider creating a permanent space in which agencies, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and mandates (the Special Rapporteur and the Special Envoy on Disability and Accessibility) report regularly on the actions developed to advance the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals in relation to persons with disabilities**.

This would allow the Commission for Social Development on the one hand, receiving, analyzing and processing information to influence key processes High Level Policy Forum, and on the other, play an important role in the coordination of actions of the various actors to achieve a coherent follow without duplication of Agenda 2030. Furthermore, this space would allow States to learn about the challenges and pending to advance the implementation of Agenda tasks, but also present their own challenges and technical assistance needs and as sharing initiatives are working. Similarly, these discussions nourish the reports of States for Political HLF. In the short term, and urgently, we must work with the twelve states will present reports at the next meeting of the High Level Political Forum (Germany, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Madagascar, Mexico, Morocco, Norway, Peru , Philippines, Republic of Korea, Samoa, Sierra Leone, Turkey, Uganda and Venezuela) to ensure that your reports include at least consultation with people with disabilities and their organizations. It is true that we have many challenges, but it is also true that we have many more tools to move in the right direction. This Rapporteur hopes to continue cooperation on global, regional and national efforts to implement Agenda 2030, promoting the implementation of national policies inclusive of people with disabilities as well as the involvement of international cooperation from an inclusive perspective. We can not wait any longer, no more excuses to exclude people with disabilities. Thank you. -----