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UNITED NATIONS

8TH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

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>> In light of the new gains people with disability obtained through the convention and the new constitution. It's pivotal to mention that Egypt is totally aware that in order to meet the challenges for the post‑2015 development agenda. It has to seriously deal with the portfolio of the poverty and unmet needs of people with disabilities. Therefore, a special attention should be given to the following, one, the formulation of the new disability national strategy in Egypt based on the U.N. CRPD. Two, dedication of enough resources for the capacity building strategy for people working in the different aspects and the disability fields. Three, proper and accurate statistics about people with disabilities, four, removing barriers and promoting the realization of accessibility in all contexts and society. Five, strengthening international regional and subregional cooperation and partnerships including north, south cooperation and south, south and triangular cooperation in light of the outcome document of the high level meeting on disability and development of September 2015. Six, ensuring full participation of people with disabilities in all development process. Mr. President, the national council for disability affairs raising its concerns that about not including disability at the first and third goal of post‑2015 development agenda. It urged the government to include a mainstream disabilities inside these ‑‑ development goals at the states party to the convention Egypt reiterates its willingness to continue mainstreaming disability issues as its integral part and its national strategy for these sustainable development and knows its commitment towards persons with disabilities. I thank you Mr. President.
>> Thank you very much, Egypt.
>> (APPLAUSE).
>> I will call on the delegation of Lesotho to take the floor.
>> Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. President, my delegation congratulates you and other members of the bureau of your election. We ensure you our support. Mr. President, the United Nations has worked tirelessly to develop an international framework on disability. In 2006 the general assembly adopted the convention on the rights of persons with disabilities. Subsequent major U.N. conferences and some in particular the conferences on sustainable development have consistently emphasized that development must be all inclusive. Among all agreed international standards and other commitments, as set out in shaping the international development agenda, the goals have stood out as the measure of social progress. Since the year 2000 the MGDs have shaped policy forecast yet disability was neither included in the goals themselves nor in their operationalized targets. As a result, disability has been largely invisible in implementation of the MGDs and rarely included in the related national policies or programs. However, in recent years there's been increasing recognition that no development path would include the participation of persons with disabilities in economic, social, and political life. Mr. President, implementing this developmental vision requires that we espouse national policies that have quality changes in the public perception of disability. We must remove all discriminatory stereotypes if we remain committed to an engaged and ensuring that all developmental policies include the integration and coordination of persons with disabilities, the future will want and not remain a utopia. This includes passing of legislative and policy frameworks with specific closures prohibiting discrimination against an advocation of persons with disabilities. The ongoing process to craft the post‑2015 development agenda must be viewed as a new opportunity to finally reverse the historical injustice of the past. We need to further mainstream disability in the global development agenda. We believe that the post‑2015 development agenda framework should include the commitment to accessibility to the general systems of society on an equal basis for all. This requires the mindset shift from policies that address mainly the objectives of equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities as a target group. To a focus on measures that contribute to accessibility to the general systems for all. Mr. President, people with disabilities are richly deserving of involvement in defining and participating in the global development agenda as any other member of society. Indeed, our efforts to secure sustainable future will be poorer in substance and lacking in direction if the disabled are not fully engaged in articulating the post‑2015 development agenda. In that regard, there is a growing need for strengthened cooperation and building of working programs and policies related to persons with disabilities. In that context, there is a need to avail sufficient project allocation to facilitate implementation that all these succeed. We therefore call upon partner to provide technical and administrative and financial assistance to aid in the establishment of monetary practices to achieve further inclusion. As I conclude, Mr. President, let me retread that 2015 is indeed a significant year as the world stands on the cusp of a new development era. With the clock ticking towards the end of the timeframe the global community is on track to achieve a new set of goals and targets that are ambitious in nature. Rooting out inequality and ensuring that human rights dignity and well‑being of each individual is key to bringing the benefits of sustainable development. In new agenda for global action should indeed not leave anyone behind in taking transformative steps towards shifting our world on a sustainable path. I thank you.
>> (APPLAUSE).
>> Thank you very much, I will now call on the international coordinating committee on national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights.
>> Ladies and gentlemen, I'm speaking to you on behalf of the international coordinating committee of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights. Which represents more than 100 institution around the world. 71 of which are accredited with the compliance of the principles. We have long championed the rights of persons with disabilities. They have played a vital role of in drafting the CRPD and actively involved in its implementation. As public bodies with a legal or constitutional or human rights mandate, acting independently of states and aided by their experience in addressing human rights we are suited to transform the world. Sir, as you know, the international community came together to comprise a plan to improve the lives of the citizens. The adoption of the millennial goals. This was indeed a significant achievement. A recognition of the needs for the specific development needs of a particularly vulnerable group were missing from the MDGs. The one billion people in the world with disabilities. These people were invisible. The world has changed since the MDGs were adopted. The CRPD was drafted and adopted and now is implemented throughout the world. The cloak of invisibility has been lifted. The world has acknowledged that these people have the same human rights as everyone else. This is a claim for all people with disabilities to feel the same as their fellow citizens. There are development goals that are a bold and comprehensive goals and targets that reflect better than the MDGs. The draft, the zero draft for the post‑2015 development agenda which is been proposed this week proposes a framework in which civil society is shown meaningfully and this is a bold channel for persons with disabilities. These ‑‑ it encourages people to have higher goals, sir. Nothing about us without us inspires the work of those working with the CRPD. People should be commended for efforts to ensure that they are not invisible the results have been encouraging. The NHR's work on the front line everyday with persons with disabilities we collectively offer these observations. Too often. Disability and poverty go hand in hand. A lack of employment opportunities, the failure of employers to accommodate those with disabilities. Etc. The consequence of multiple forms of discrimination result in this for many. The specific needs of these individuals must be recognized and addressed. Access to justice for persons with disabilities has been identified as the most civilian issues of this group and as identified in the SDGs, we encourage state to adopt measure to ensure that persons with disabilities can fully enjoy their right to access to justice including their legal capacity. The ICC encourages and they are firmly committed to working with their respective national government civil society and the community of people with disabilities to help ensure that in 2030 we can celebrate real progress for all citizens in the world including those with disabilities. To this end in line with the ICC statement to the integral government negotiations for the post‑2015 development agenda we would like to recall that the current economic crisis should not be used as an excuse for restricting social rights including the rights of persons with disabilities. Mr. President, on behalf of the ICC, I thank you for the opportunity to make this statement.
>> Thank you very much, ICC. We will replace the NIPPON with FTM of Mexico. You have the floor. You have the floor.
>> Thank you. Very much. And good morning to all of you. Distinguished members of the committee and distinguished colleagues, participating in this forum is practicing the right to hope. Exercising the right to hope, to work together in a team. To be heard to chair to learn but above all the obligation to build a world which is better for all. A long time ago modern society has learned that rights are inherent to human nature. They cannot depend on the generosity of somebody else. Unfortunately, this is not always the case. If rights were immutable property like physical forces, they would function independently of whatever humans do. But this is not what happens. Rights are a project of humanity. Which is held up through an effort. They would not cover anybody if they were not insured by someone. Unfortunately in many cases riots are nothing but a fragile intent which only protect people if somebody else is holding up the canvas. Rights only fly as long as the engine is working, like aircraft. We all wish to be the holders of rights. And for the ‑‑ these rights we respected the great history of humanity has been the continuous fight for rights. For dignity, for freedom, for equality of races, of genders, of ages, freeing ourselves from tyranny, cruelty, discrimination, poverty and hunger. Being here is an opportunity for humanity to live under the highest ideals without being exposed to human frailty because when this happens, it is society that suffers from disability and we must rehabilitate society, this convention is created to make the spirit of humanity whole. We have worked for the human rights of children for 18 years. Everyday we build horizon, respect, equity and equality. Let us care for the convention and those who it serves. Let the norms lead to this. This represents over 30,000 disabled Mexican children. This is 14.3% of children with motor disability in Mexico according to the latest census. In the foundation I chair we fully follow the human rights focus of the convention. We understand it. We practice it. We apply it. Let nothing stop us. As Jose said, with the same reverence that we use when we call for rights, let us apply our duty as well in this way we might make the world better. I am grateful to the people in the past and the present. Because of them we have created this space. I am yet another civil society representative who has come to speak to you today. Thank you very much.
>> Thank you. We will have a time this morning for three more interventions from Norway, Morocco, and the Islamic Republic of Iran and then break for the panel. Norway. You have the floor.
>> Thank you very much. The Norwegian governments policies are based on human rights both at home and abroad and in our view, human rights apply to everyone regardless of personal characteristics such as disability or gender. Unless persons with disabilities are included in society, and steps are taken to ensure that everyone can take part in development it will not be possible to achieve key development goals. We are very pleased to see that the draft outcome document on the post‑2015 development agenda, includes a pledge that nobody will be left behind. Norway has contributed to the inclusion of explicit references to persons with disabilities in the proposed sustainable development goal on education. In July, Norway will host a summit on education for development. The aim of the summit is to boost global efforts in the field of education with a view to reaching the sustainable development goals. We have appointed an international group of expert to provide input to the summit on education for children and youth with disabilities. Quality education for all is important in order to end poverty. Improve health and promote equality. Reliable data are essential in order to advance disability inclusive development. On the first of June, Norwegian authorities launched a new website where we present statistics and analysis that illustrate the living conditions of persons with disabilities in Norway. Chair, one issue of concern to the Norwegian government is the scope of article 12 of the convention on the rights of persons with disabilities. Norway recognizes that persons with disabilities enjoy legal capacity on an equal basis with others without discrimination this cannot justify any limitations to this right. However, it is our understanding that the convention allows for withdrawal of legal capacity if such measures are necessary. As a last resort and subject to strict safeguards. The principle of self‑determination must be interpreted in the light and weigh against other rights. Such as the right to life and the right to health. These are difficult questions which call for a balanced and subtle approach. Norway welcomes a thorough debate on this important matter in the coming days. Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.
>> (APPLAUSE).
>> Thank you very much, Norway.
>> Ambassador of Morocco, you have the floor, sir.
>> Sir, allow me first of all to thank you for having organized this 8th conference of states parties to the U.N. convention on the rights of persons with disabilities. While the world is dealing with negotiations and objectives for sustainable development we need to pick up the MDGs for development and the list of the 17 objectives and the ‑‑ of the member states of the U.N. who are ready to fully shoulder their responsibilities and take into account the specific needs of disabled persons. The situation of person with specific needs is at the heart of the concerns of the institutional players in my country. Morocco, which has 1.53 disabled persons or 1.12% of the population according to the national questionnaire on disability over the last decade has strengthened its legislative arsenal to approach these individuals in achieving health core education, professional insertion in society particularly after the adoption of the new constitution which states that public authorities must implement policies aimed at persons in specific categories of need. We have constantly shown our concern in this and promote the rights as by the decision to ratify the international convention on the rights of persons with disabilities and the option protocol. The sovereign in a speech in '99 emphasized how we could assure equal opportunity for all when disabled persons are marginalized and forced out of areas for which they have prepared and trained while Islam, the religion of solidarity and taking care of individuals and helping them insert them into society must help them become active members of society. These royal concerns have been reflected in a multiplication of projects designed to assist these elements in society. Initiated through the kingdom. Through national initiatives through development. The national date for disabled persons celebrated in Morocco the 30th of March each year is an annual occasion to take stock of persons with specific needs on a national level. In that context the conflict of solidarity has initiated action to promote the rights of such individuals and has stated a public policy for the advancement of this stratum of the Moroccan population. This policy was adopted by the council ministries of the draft law on the protection and advancement of the rights of disabled persons. An interministerial commission has been created entrusted with follow up for programs following the rights of individuals who are disabled and coordinating actions for government departments. Morocco has also taken a series of actions including cooperation with the World Bank on access for disabled persons. In scientific research there has been representation of government departments, international experts to guarantee the right to education for children who are disabled and the ministry has been contributing to their enrollment in special centers for education. Thus, with the program of partnership with civil society for 2014, the ministry in charge of the questions of disability has contributed to the registration of 2,300,000 people in several centers. Specific needs include for the full right to health care, education, as well as social and professional insertion and integration. This is the advancement of the rights of the disabled which has become a public war horse in several countries. A great deal still remains to be done to facilitate better living conditions for them. Finally my delegation hopes to fulfill these needs not just in experience in governmental departments but also to stimulate an exchange of experience among countries in development areas, in public policy dealing with the disabled and to take stock of progress made and examine obstacles still existing which prevent them from fulfilling their rights. Thank you, sir.
>> Thank you very much, Morocco. I will now call on the Islamic Republic of Iran to take the floor. You have the floor, sir.
>> Thank you Mr. President. Allow me to congratulate you and your vice chairs for presiding over this meeting. Today nearly 1 billion persons in the world are living with disabilities. And 80% of them are living in developing countries the fact that this year is mainstreaming disability in the part of equality at all levels. Poverty ignorance create inequality. Therefore empowerment and education as well as entrepreneurship and employment are inevitable especially for persons with disabilities around the world. The Islamic Republic of Iran in the past two years has adopted just last month with a cabinet approval a new instrument for persons with disabilities in Iran. Which consists of eleven chapters and 63 articles some of which needs parliament concerns. The new comprehensive disability act aims mainly at reducing inequality as well as poverty with persons with disabilities across the nation. The new Act covers a wide variety of issues and services including accessibilities, quality rehabilitation and medical services, insurance coverage, sports, education, higher education, entrepreneurship and jobs. Traditional services and prevention policies. However education and vocational training are two major tool to make persons with disabilities eligible for appropriate jobs throughout the country so the entrepreneurs are able to offer them the kind of jobs they deserve. The government furnishes their terminals which can empower persons with disabilities and make them competent for the job market. Article 9 of the new comprehensive disability act of Iran stipulates that all those that report that require equipment and materials for preemployment training will be exempted for costs. As women with disabilities are more vulnerable to discrimination and all the abuses in the job market, a special attention has been paid to them in the policymaking for persons with disabilities in Iran. According to the first national report of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the committee of the rights of persons with disabilities in December 2013, many measures have been taken for the empowerment of women with disabilities. Further, development of special education, cultural, and sport centers for women by supporting vocational training for schoolgirls with special needs and advocating training for girls in high schools are the measures by the government. Mr. President, last year the first Iranian female who won gold medal in paralympics was invited to the U.N. where she spoke on the empowerment of disability through sports. We are pleased that she was thereafter nominated by the international para Olympics committed and selected by the foundation for global sports for development as one of the 18 athletes in excellence award winners. She then started an NGO in Iran for the empowerment of persons with disabilities through sport. She is now aiming higher and participating at the qualifying phase of the Olympic games trying to participate in both Olympic and paralympic games in archery. These are persons with disabilities who have had great achievements. Both in quantity and quality, during the past three decades. The number of NGOs and charities which are active on the rights of persons with disabilities is growing and the awareness among the public is on the rides while defending the right of persons with disabilities in different forum. In closing, Mr. President, we believe that the appropriate inclusion on the rights of persons with disabilities in the post‑2015 development agenda, is an imperative. It should be taken seriously into consideration by the international community. While crafting the relevant indicators, we call upon all the stakeholders to include persons with mental and neurological disabilities and leave no one behind I thank you, Mr. President.
>> Thank you very much, Iran.
>> (APPLAUSE).
>> I would just like to recall that the president and ‑‑ this is a decision that he has taken and informed all members at the beginning of the conference has decided to make the speaking list more inclusive and to integrate into it NGOs together with reference states in the proportion of ten to two. This is a decision that was endorsed by the bureau of the conference and a procedure we follow not only here but in other situations and processes of the U.N. to make it, of course, more inclusive and to make the debate richer. Nevertheless we do have one delegation that requires to speak now because it is pressed for time and we'll have to leave so I will give the floor before we break for panel to the delegation of Gabon. Thank you.
>> I am pleased to take the floor on behalf of the delegation of Gabon. At this section on the rights of persons with disabilities in post‑2015 development agenda. At a time when international negotiations on this important agenda are taking place in New York, there is a need for us to reaffirm here together, now, the need to include the concerns of disabled persons. Gabon concerned with the full enjoyment of rights of disabled persons and its territory was among the first signatories on the U.N. convention on the rights of persons with disabilities. In Central Africa Gabon was the first country to have ratified this convention thus attesting to the commitment to the excellency for the conditions for disabled persons. Since the first of October, 2007 the date of the ratification of this convention the government has taken on numerous actions for greater protection of disabled persons. For example, the national insurance ‑‑ illness insurance association for disabled persons providing empowerment for them and to be sure though disabled they're not discriminated against. Regarding the problem of disabled persons technical existence is granted. Each year the state provides assistance to those with disabilities. Disabled persons also benefit from other types of subsidies of the states such as subsidies from the Gabon federation for disabled persons from the national federation for disabled persons. The government has also established structure which generates financial resource to support the actions of disabled persons it is also important to note the personal involvement of the first lady of Gabon in improving the conditions of disabled persons through various types of actions in the foundation. Since 2011 a subsidy has been provided by the state for disabled individuals to finance their needs on the educational level. There is a national school for children with auditory problems in order to train and help hearing impaired and speech impaired students. The school is planning to establish a secondary school for a training in sign language for parents with children with auditory problems and hearing problems and for an administration for the school. The government is now trying to define a national plan for accessibility design to increase mobility and access for disabled persons to public buildings. Through employment, through health care, training, new technologies, our governments hope to be fully involved in this process for disabled persons enduring this national plan. Sir, the present session provides us with a new opportunity to convey a specific message to the international community that of a world with a human face which is more inclusive with respect and protects the rights of all citizens that a society free from prejudice. Thank you.
>> Thank you very much, Gabon so we reach the end of the list of speakers for this morning's session. We will resume the list at 3 o'clock starting with Venezuela. So we will now just ‑‑ I will ask everybody to remain seated. We will just invite the panelists for the next session which is a, as you all know it's a discussion on the post‑2015 ‑‑ the mainstreaming disability in the reduction of poverty and inequality. So just give us five minutes so that we can bring the panelists over to the podium. Thank you.
>> (Break).
>> Round table one mainstreaming disability and production of quality and up equality. I will first inform you that a leading voice representing the secretary general during the post‑2015 negotiations will not be with us because of a family emergency. I myself am deputy representative of Brazil to the U.N. I will not replace her because that would not be possible but I will attempt to provide a ‑‑ some information and comment on the ESDG negotiating process from a perspective of Brazil to provide an input on the negotiations themselves and I would like to present the panelists for today. In the order that they will be speaking. So first we will have Dr. Kamal who is to my left. He is an associate professor at the center for research in educational development in Japan. He is ‑‑ his field of research focuses on disability and development with a particular focus on low and middle income countries. And I think it's interesting to note and to inform that he has just issued a recent book entitled Disability, Education, and Employment in Developing Countries: From charity to Investment. Next a presentation from Ms. Gomez who has been appointed since August 2013. She has been appointed minister of the national secretariat. She's in the Republic of Paraguay. She has a background in psychology and is a professor in neurophysiology in a number of institutions and universities. She will be followed by Miss Tina who is chairperson of my right. She has worked for many years on international issues including as an international officer at visual impaired association between the years of '89 and '95. She was followed by projects and development in to southern west African countries. She has worked in Bosnia as well. Then we will listen to Miss Catalina who is a special repertory on persons with disability of the human rights council. She is a national of Costa Rica. She is also the chair of the committee of experts of ‑‑ for the convention on the rights of persons with disabilities. So I will start by making a ‑‑ we will all speak for ten minutes and I would like to make a small presentation on how at least from the perspective of Brazil which I hope could be representative of a larger group of countries where we're at with the SDGs, with the post‑2015 process because all these will tend to converge towards a single outcome by September of this year to be adopted at the highest level here in New York. I think it's important to recall that the set of SDGs that we're working with and we have the draft by the co‑facilitators of the post‑2015 process contains the goals and targets produced by the open working group during the course of last year. '13 and '14 in fact it also contains means of implementation which are now the ones that we know of that are in the document of the open working group but it is an area, a pillar that will be pending the outcome of the conference in July. The third conference on financing for development that should provide additional significant outcomes for financing development in light ‑‑ or in support of the SDGs and also it contains a first document or draft with some content addressing the issue of follow up and review. So we have all these elements. Now from the perspective of persons with disability, the convention, the interrelationship between disability, poverty, and equality, I think we have to focus on the sort of overarching elements contained in the draft and in the SDGs themselves which stems from the Rio conference which is the issue of the universality of agenda. The integration of three pillars so we're integrating inclusion, economic growth, sustainability into a single concept so that is what sustainable development should be about and I think the document try to condense this vision through the words, people, planet, prosperity. In a world that we aspire to be in peace and also support it through partnerships so we have five Ps now. There are three Ps but there's peace and partnerships as well and I think the relevant element is that people come first and I think that's the main message. People come first. The agenda is universal and broad as well. It involves almost all areas that are prone to public policies globally, regionally, and within nations. So it's universal, it's global, it's supposed to be inclusive, people come first and then we have the idea that no one should be left behind which it also permeates all the texts. I think we have several references also to the idea of nondiscrimination as we follow through this new agenda as we go through to 2030. We pinpoint social segments that we believe are more vulnerable than others. Sometimes this is done explicitly. Sometimes it's not done explicitly but I think the concept of leaving no one behind means that this idea is present throughout all the text, all the commitments and, of course, you know that persons with disability are specifically mentioned under certain goals and targets. And I think they are present throughout ‑‑ they should be present as a concern throughout the document even if they are not mentioned they are specifically mentioned in certain goals and targets and I think what I want to point out right now is that there ‑‑ where do we still have a margin for discussing issues of concern? To the CRPD and I think, well, first of all, we have the political declaration so the text we have, I think, it's a good first draft. But it will be discussed for the first time amongst members on the week of the 22nd of June. So that's the first opportunity to react to the draft for the political declaration and I think here we can always try to fine‑tune this text and to consider whether or not we have captured adequately issues of concerns in terms of protecting the rights of persons with disabilities. With regards to the SDGs many I hear questions all the time whether or not there's room for improvement or for tweaking which is a term we use during the course of negotiations. While the SDGs have Xs and Ys as values to be defined. For those something will have to be done about then. So, of course, they will at least be a very minor tweaking for the Xs and Ys. Whether or not ‑‑ I think there's a position, an overall position that has gained traction that we should not reopen the negotiation of the document that we have achieved because of the political, the difficult political balance that it reflects amongst different countries and stakeholders. It was a fairly thorough consultative process that lead to that particular document even if it's not perfect I think an overwhelming majority of member states and stakeholders believe that that's an outcome to be preserved and to work and that we should work with. As coming from Brazil I particularly like the emphasis on many social goals. I think the social elements are very present throughout. I think the issue of eradicating poverty as an overarching goal is crucially important. Dealing with inequality I think is also extremely relevant for all human beings but in particular for those living in the south and in particular for those living in the south with disabilities which I believe are as I've heard before 80% of persons with disability live in the south. So of course, I will not be speaking to the correlations between poverty and equality and disability but we will have balance and we'll do that. Then we have the issue of the thematic areas which are very relevant I think and there's a concept of equality of opportunity in all of them throughout which is education, health, employment, the social protection which is crucial, and it's there and so on and so forth. And I think this is a commitment of member state to work in that direction. It's a very positive agenda to embrace and I think it's an agenda worth mobilizing for not only financially but in terms of advocacy. Not just member states but also the NGO community and those who work in development and inclusion. It's a very interesting, in my view, and ground breaking agenda for the international community to embrace. Attached ‑‑ within the zero draft documents we see an attachment at the end that mentions targets 12‑21 consistency with international agreements. We are seeing this for the first time and will discuss on the week of the 22nd. A couple of SDG here are compared with international existing ‑‑ standards. And I will just manage one so you have an idea. By 2020 half the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents. And there's a proposed revision that is included here by 2030 ‑‑ not 2020 but by 2030 half the number of global deaths because this is to produce to provide or to ensure consistency with the current existing international ‑‑ agreed international standard with respect to the reduction in the number of global deaths and injuries in road traffic accidents so I will just make a humble suggestion an idea I raise here not only in Brazil but because this is the right context of that that perhaps it would be also a matter of comparing some very important goals and targets with the standard established by the convention on the rights of persons with disability to see whether it is up to the standard, whether the current draft, the current goals and targets perhaps focusing on a couple very important ones. Meet the standards that are there that were established by the convention. So maybe this is something that should be incorporated into this attachment. The value of which I don't know because we will still be discussing it on the 27th of June but I think at least it is an opportunity for including an element and I agree that, you know, it would be significant to have the issue in the goal one and three. I think especially with respect to health and perhaps that is a standard that should be considered coming out of the convention. So that's a comment I make and I will also like to mention the issue of technology because on Monday when we had the discussion I heard from the Q and A session there were several comments on the importance of accessive technologies. And I would just like to mention because I was together with the ambassador of Switzerland last year office moderator for the so‑called stretcher dialogues on establishing technology facilitation mechanism because we have a mandate for that. We are still discussing it and you will see a piece of paper within the zero draft also as an attachment. A bit of a question mark as to what do we do with this attachment. So first there's a discussion. Do we discuss technology in the SDG discussions or do we do it in the FFD discussion in the financing for development discussion. In any case I think there's ‑‑ many countries are interesting in seeing an outcome in technology. Now whether we call it a mechanism, whether we call it a U.N.‑wide technology initiative, it is a difficult issue to tackle because there are many countries who are demanding an outcome. Others who sort of have their doubts. They think it's a difficult issue for the U.N. to tackle because they argue that technology is market oriented and privately owned. Most of it. At least. The technology that is available for commercialization, for commercial use. But I think there's a public policy dimension to technology when it comes to accessive technologies and to dealing with the social issues of the day in developing countries that we have to tackle so I think in the technology discussion, we should incorporate a dimension that would be relevant for persons with disabilities and I think this is an issue that is still open and we can still do that. Bring this into the discussion on a technology mechanism or U.N. technology initiative whether it's agreed within the FFD Addis Conference or whether we do this in the SDGs I don't think it really matters that much. What matters is to agree on an important initiative or at least an a mandate to allow the U.N. system to sort of think of ways in which the U.N. development cooperation system can provide some sort of assistance or support or improve access to relevant technologies for persons with disability. This more or less follows along the lines of the three si for the visually impaired that was adopted at the world intellectual property. We did that then perhaps we can do more things in other fields. Having said that I will now give the floor to our first panelist of the day. Dr. Kamal. You have the floor.
>> Thank you for the introduction overall about SDG and just I also would like to thank U.N. and all the event authorities for this successful organization of the event which is a very timely in terms of choosing this theme. Mainstreaming the rights of people with disabilities in development framework for post‑2015 and we are here just before two weeks we were there in South Korean city for world education forum. Which clearly states that no education goals are considered met until the disadvantaged, especially those with disabilities receive quality education. We need to make this, 2015, the year for minority people who will be included in all forms of SDGs, with this, let me just briefly discuss about disability, poverty, education, labor markets and inequality related issues from the academic perspectives. One of the things we are lacking is the research on these issues. Therefore, I actually being visually impaired, coming from the low income country namely Nepal always wanted to work on this issue. So second slide. In my note development goals will be unachievable by excluding any segment of the society in this inclusiveness cannot be ignored in post‑2015 development agenda goals. As we know that% of the population in the world has some forms of disability. So in ‑‑ next. People with disabilities are one of the most vulnerable groups in national disasters. Just recently Nepal experienced and Japan and different parts of the world have been experiencing. Some people with disabilities are mostly vulnerable in disasters. Rising inequalities, education, implement as well as poverty. So what about MDGs, then? This is actually overlooked disability in its goals and the target. Therefore, it is not a strange to say that lack of inclusion of disability issues in MDGs could be one of the plausible hindrances for not successfully accomplishing all of the development goals that we targeted but that is the past. We have present and the future so what would be the solution? The solution would be not to repeat the same mistakes that MDGs had before and that will be possible only through making SDGs disability inclusive as already mentioned we have been doing so far. We have getting success in terms of inclusion of disability in some of the goals in SDGs and as well as just inclusion is not enough. Suitably people with disabilities should be included from the process ‑‑ from the beginning to the implementation process. So the challenging remaining issues and the challenges, so far is, like, association between disability and poverty. Many research is so people with disabilities and poverty are corelated. Other poverty are genders. Poverty is a debate but people with disabilities suffer more from poverty particularly from low and middle welcome countries more than those who live in developing countries. Making the worldwide population one of the poorest and the largest minority people in those countries. While there are multiple factors for the contributing in poverty, poor and unequal access to education or employment and the unequal distribution of all the resources are likely to be among the major causes of their poverty. I would like to show you some of the figures as well as other indicators in in column three of the table you can see the GNI per capita is for rate of disability. Column five is unemployment, six is education, and seven is 1.25 poverty line. In these ‑‑ in this table fifteen countries are selected based on the disability related information available in the world report and disability. And also the other information on the issues from the World Bank development report of 2012.
[Pause].
>> And according to this table Nepal is among the poorest countries where Sweden is one of the richest one. Poverty is highest in Nepal and Bangladesh 49%. The general trend we see in this table except for Sweden because Sweden has higher disability per rate balance right here. Okay so just give me your ears. Not eyes here. I will tell you everything so except for Sweden. Sweden has a 90% balance rate according to that world report on disability. Countries with high income status have lower level of disability rate. For example, countries with more poverty of Nepal with the disability per balance rate of 21%. Bangladesh 32% so those countries with a lower level of education are also more poor than those countries with higher level of schooling. So in this sense what we can say is disability and poverty are quite interrelated. So in ‑‑ another slide that is in slide number seven. Can you see the table there?
>> No. It's not a table.
>> The slide presentation doesn't have any tables.
>> (Speaking away from mic).
>> So you are not able to see the tables so you in the sense, in term of table you are all similar with me. Visually impaired. Sorry for what this has caused. Let me give you figures about poverty and disability with the case of Nepal. That was actually supposed to be much more statistics here so you are lucky that you don't need your eyes to be tired on that. So result in that ‑‑ results so that figures for poverty head count incidence and severity is higher among people with disabilities compared to those without disabilities. This is the case of Nepal indicating that people with disabilities are vulnerable to fall in the poverty trap. Unfortunately, males are poorer than their female counterparts but that's not the case with disabilities. Female with disabilities are more poor than their male counterparts. We suggest that women suffer discrimination within the group of disability also. But one optimistic finding I want to share is that if you give more than six years of schooling of those with disabilities up to ten years they will not become poor compared to their non‑disabled counterparts. Of course education play important role for both groups but more strong role it plays for people with disabilities. If they receive more than ten years of cooling they're likelihood to be poor is rare. So it shows how important to educate people with disabilities. So in terms of education, the role of education, there is a global reach out to education for people without disabilities unfortunately, again, there is no table. I had a lot of tables in this slide but that happens sometimes. So for people without disabilities their return to investment in education is around 10%. In the world the returns to education is around 9% for all over it's 7.5%. For Asia it's 9.9%. So what about disability? Many people believe that there is no returns to education for people with disabilities. Actually this assumption is empirically invalidated if you give one year for schooling for people with disabilities their income would increase by 19 or 25%. That means two or three higher times returns compared to their non‑disabled counterparts. This is a finding from Nepal. I would like to present another finding from Philippines. That is for Philippines is regarded as one of the countries with gender equality. It's one of the top five countries in the world which has gender equality in terms of access to labor market by women but that is not the case for women with disabilities. However, the findings about returns to education for people with disabilities, again, encouraging, it's 24%‑30% that means if you give one additional year to schooling to people with disabilities their income would increase by 38% for people with disabilities. But the difficulty is also for women with disabilities. Women with physical and hearing impairments are less likely to participate in labor markets of Philippines showing clearly the gender‑based discrimination even within the group of disability. Also, if people with disabilities get education, they get the diploma label, diploma means graduating for example grade five, eight, ten, if they have some sort of diplomas in hand that will pay for their jobs but that is not the case for women with disabilities therefore women with disabilities suffer more in terms of labor market participation, in the case of Philippines which is regarded more gender equal in terms of labor market participation. And next I would like to talk about disability and technology as well as poverty which was just mentioned. People with ‑‑ if people with disabilities get technology that will help them access things for education, employment, as well as other issues. And as a result, it will help reduce their information disability and when they have information ‑‑ no information disability, and when they access to jobs that will obviously give them income. When they have income they will become economically independent and socially included as a result it will help reduce poverty. So in conclusion, second to the last slide, if we don't include disability in all forms of development issues, that will not cost more expensive just for people with disabilities but the society as a whole. We want people with disabilities to be included in development, not just for the benefit of people with disabilities but for their families and the society as a whole. As I just discussed some statistics about poverty, return to education, and labor markets, I had also some findings from Nepal, India, Bangladesh showing that longer years of schooling encourages people to get full‑time jobs and white collar jobs. This gives their income stability again so it will reduce poverty. So these people are generally poor and face more inequality, and if we fail to include them in the development efforts, it will cumulatively pose a daunts sense of vulnerability for entire society. Therefore, the last slide I suggested four things to do. When need to shift the paradigm from exclusion to inclusion from discrimination to acceptance from sympathy to rights. And last but not least from charity to investment. If we do this, we will have the development goals that will be achieved. We will have growth that will be like call. We will have growth that will be dynamic and we will have society in which we can all enjoy therefore this 2015 is much more important for us to be fully included in all the issues that are relevant as I participated for some EGM, and we discussed a lot about disability and inclusion of those disability related issues in SDGs and disaggregated by disability. In terms of data same. In terms of poverty there's no reason someone should be left behind. In terms of education, same, we need to just desegregate by disability. If we do this we will have the develop goal achieved by 2030. Thank you.
>> (APPLAUSE).
>> Thank you very much Dr. Kamal. Next on our list of panels. I have the pleasure to invite minister Gomez to address the plenary. Thank you.
>> Thank you I'd like to thank the organization for inviting me. It seems that to me that this debate is very important. Especially for the state which I represent. It is important I believe to debate. But we also have to have an effect on public policy design. What we are saying is that we have to be included in all of the SDGs. But the major challenge is how we ensure that this happens. The debate is not whether we are included or not but rather how we are going to be included. It's clear that we have to be include and so when we talk about designing public policy we should think about what exactly they mean. What ‑‑ whether governments decide to do something or not so the critical point is the decision itself. As was mentioned earlier we're going to discuss this in September. So ultimately it has to do with political will. This is to be determined by each government, by each state, what they consider more or less relevant. Public policy might be a course for either action or inaction by governments. We've heard in the general debate that a lot of things still have to be done by states. Mention has been made that disability is considered a public problem. But it doesn't need to be a public problem. What is the 360 degree turn? It's from the focus ‑‑ on inclusion. The focus on the system. The system provides goods and services. How accessible are these? Are they accessible to all or not? So in this vein we're turning to the idea that it's a problem without having to be a problem. I'd like to highlight the need of ‑‑ that each state has to look at itself in the mirror and start identifying our ‑‑ the obstacles that we create as a system that does not provide goods and services that are accessible to all. We have to guarantee public policy. That can remove or eliminate these obstacles and this is with a view to the future that we want for all of us. Now what this hinders on is decision‑making. We all make decisions. They have to do with the culture, they have to do with attitude, with what we know about the problem, how I feel about the problem and how I act. So what we should ask ourselves in this room is what do those who govern know, feel, and how do they act towards the sector? We can see that we're not fully included in ‑‑ we weren't fully included in the MDGs but let's look towards the future. Not towards the past. But the issue of attitude is important because attitude always defined how we see inclusion and if we are still debating inclusion today, it's because they're ‑‑ we still have to face discrimination. We should think about inclusive public policies rather than having sectoral policies. But this also means that we have to be more visible. This has to do with the design of global policies but with desegregated specific goals the convention on rights of people with disabilities is run one of the instruments that should be a guide of states to design inclusive public policies and on a regional level the same can be said about the inter‑American convention now how do we build these policies? We also have to take into at the various steps or processes for public policymaking and the role of state actors. We have to begin by recognizing and identifying the situation we know that we ‑‑ that the states parties have situations of exclusion, segregation, but also of inclusion. In this vein it is important for us to think globally but act locally so that we can provide local responses to the national reality. Now the second process of policymaking, it needs to be inclusive and participatory, how would it be inclusive and participatory. Well, we tend to work or ask the sector for suggestions about participation. But here we also have to include everybody so besides the people with disabilities we also have to bring in the families, the local authorities, the regional authorities and also those at the central level because if there's anything that will guarantee our ability to come up with policies and implement them together, it is the fact that we draw up these policies together. Drawing up policies jointly is also important for us to be aware of that reality. And use it to inform us. I'm talking about the state, the government, that needs that empowerment to have a sustainable public policy. One writer says we cannot love what we do not know so we have to know it and include it in the process. I'd like to bring up experience we're having in Paraguay with the drawing up of a national plan which has the convention and also the crosscutting aspect, seeing which part of the state has to ensure that a given article is complied with so if we have ministers involved this is useful for crosscutting but it doesn't mean that it becomes a silo which is the only place where the issues of the sector are resolved. We have to have a guiding body which is responsible for the overall design of public policy. Another important aspect of policy making is a timeline. It's important for us to be able to project actions over a short medium and long‑term. And here, very often, the expectations of the sector differ from the timeline that the state uses. We have a different calendar which has to do with the development of policies and their implementation. For this reason it is important to establish what we're going to do over the short, medium, and long‑term. Another important aspect is the budget. The budgetary issue in the third phase which has to do with the execution of policy beyond the actual budget we have to have availability and this goes back to political will to the attitude of what we have to decide to do and leave out. The budget is a constant problem when it comes to policymaking for the sector. Now once we have the universal design that we have ‑‑ can use as a focus for those policies, we will be responding not only to the needs of the sector but everybody's needs. As I said, with inclusion, we all win. So accessibility is not just the heritage of people with disabilities. It belongs to everybody. In terms of budget I should recognize the cost of excluding people with disabilities. If they don't have access to education or to health care then somebody else has to take responsibility for this person and this social economic circle has effects not only on the disabled person but also when we talk about people with disabilities, we have to think about their families as well. So we should understand that inclusion is a high ‑‑ is quite costly. And they should be understood. While inclusion is the opposite. It is an investment. Now the last aspect that has to do with monitoring and designing policy has to do with the ability to implement mechanisms both inside and outside the government. Here, I believe that the role of civil society is very important. In the entire process. We should highlight here that we need organized civil society that is trained in leadership. Civil society that is trained in policymaking. Public policymaking. That kind of support this process through positive leadership. On the country level, we've had a successful experience in setting up the national commission as a joint commission made up of representatives of civil society on the one hand and representatives of the state of the higher state authorities on the other and in other words, civil society nor present in this joint commission. Public policies for poverty reduction and disability imply changes for states party from three points of view. Policy, practice and culture. We need to align domestic law we need a law. Is it okay on paper? It's not enough to change current practice and we also need a society that sees disability as an opportunity. An opportunity to improve the current system so we also have to understand that we can't do this on our own as a state. What is key is the alliance. The alliance between government, civil society, and also international cooperation. As a previous speaker said, in order to avoid committing the same mistakes. We should make new mistakes instead. Inclusion is not a privilege, inclusion is a right. Thank you very much.
>> (APPLAUSE).
>> Thank you very much, minister. I will now ask ‑‑ I think I'm doing a good job of pronouncing your name.
>> Thank you very much. I would like to thank for being included in this panel and being able to give my viewpoints and I won't repeat all of the good aspects that have already been told by my knowledgeable colleagues here in the panel. But I would like to give you an idea both from being working on a Swedish NGO, my right, former known as SHIA and we work ‑‑ the work we do with the developmental agenda. I would like to highlight on being part of civil society working on both the SDGs and working on promotion on the convention work in my country, Sweden and where we work, developmental work of course in partnership. So I would say that the first goal that tells what we should end poverty in all its forms. And in all aspects everywhere. It's a very big thing to go about and I think it is the right time that we can really start to work on this and I think that we should, in this aspect, take ‑‑ we should learn from other things that we have learned with and also what we have failed with. We have, therefore, much better possibility now when we're at the convention of the rights of disabled people is still on force and when it's in so many countries has been adapted and that mines that we could also work out of that. So I think also as several of the panelists already have said that all this work should be done when we should try to work with the SDGs and the poverty reduction. We must do it in line with the convention. Where it is ratified. That's a strength otherwise with disability experts and DPOs that with help out in the process and make sure that SDGs are implemented in a way nationally and so on that we can really guarantee the disability aspects are not forgotten again. And when it comes to what we ‑‑ I have lifted up it's the same indicators as several that was pointed out but it is important and was told and very clear as to why it's important to poverty reduction so I would just like to stress both that the gender aspects we could learn a lot from them but they should be learned on in all aspects in whatever work we do because we have in all areas I think still differences when it come to gender then, of course, there are several other means of discrimination that has been mentioned earlier on during this conference so we have to look upon this of course in a ‑‑ in a way that we avoid discrimination also when we just work with disability thing. We have to look at it much more desegregated. When it comes to inclusion in the social sector I think social protection is the main thing and as several people has touched on before it is much more valuable to include people both socially but also in economic growth. And then, of course, it's also ‑‑ it means that people could become productive, disabled people and their families could play important part of our societies and it could also lead to full employment, I mean, an education, always it links together. But I think it's very, very important that we make sure that these parts of the SDGs are in place and I would like to very much like to stress that there is specialty indicators. It is important to work with them and I have understood from this conference and will also work hard on that, for example, in goal one that we not only turn to vulnerable but we bring in the disability aspect in that goal one so that it's clearly said, as this group is so highly represented there. I would also like to state that we should, of course, be as we have mentioned before, it is very obvious but most people living under poverty lives in developing country. We can't ignore the developmental work and the development agenda. And it is very important that we work on that both from countries where we work with the developmental agenda. But we work with partnership and then I mean in a twin track approach as I said in the convention, article 32 so that it means that we work both with the bilateral work and they really try to work on poverty reduction and equality aspects. Of disabled people. But we should of course involve disability organizations and disabled peoples and their families in all this work. And make sure these agendas really fulfill their role and what we find good indicators that could also be statistically proven and that ‑‑ where we could also work to really monitor the whole process. I said I'm ‑‑ I said I'm also a civil society part here. I'm part of my official delegation in the states party conference and I also had the luck to be involved in one of the negotiations of the SDGs that was taking part in May about review and follow up. And also a part of the Swedish delegation they give place to civil society organizations and DPOs within their delegations and it cannot be done all the time and it's only a few who can have these privilege but it gives a very good possibility to continue working in civil society, for networking, and it gives a mutual understanding of a process both that we can use our special knowledge and expertise from different fields and bring it into the process. Also in different consultations, with our authorities and governments but also that we can understand what is problematic in the negotiations and the decision‑making around these things and what we could find out how to go on with the process. I would also say that it's vital that DPOs network and try to find collaboration within their civil societies. That's the only way I think that we can guarantee that we can come and have a voice and be able to come through because there are so many prioritization. There are so few possibilities to really reach in, consult and so we have to help each other. Therefore I would like to say that it has been very successful from my right and other DPO ‑‑ others in Sweden to work together in the work in the civil society work that is formed a network and we will do so also during the setting of a national plans. And really try to find collaboration there and to work so we can get a better position and that we could commonly help to strengthen the visibility aspects together with other important aspects in this agenda. So I would then like to finish with, to say that I think the only way that we should leave no one behind is that we step forward and the ones of us who have the privilege to be here today and to take part in this important happening that is going on now until September and then we have to return and start working on the national basis to secure that these issues is not forgotten in the national context nor in the development agenda and this is a partnership that should go on from both sides and we should really be sure that these aspects are asked for and are set on place when we are working in all different programs and when we are implementing the SDGs in different ways and I would say that to leave no one behind happens about but now we should go home, network, trying to explain these things, a man said to me once that I think you are dreamers. How could I ever return to my village in Uganda and talk about the process going on here and it's a real challenge. By I would say if we are such dreamers just sitting here deciding about things that are not possible to explain and to get out in practical work at home. Then we have a problem. So we should work on it here on the level it needs but we should all break it down, we should network and we could make it understandable as much as we can in the networks we have and with the possibilities we have at home and if the possibilities are not there, try to start and such and around you. Work in your network. Where can you find ‑‑ which channels are available and don't give up because this is the time when we can't be left behind. No one should be left behind. Her here to secure that. Thank you.
>> (APPLAUSE).
>> Thank you very much. That's very interesting because we had the view of an academic professor, a view of a high government official. We had the view of a civil society NGO and now last but not least we will hear the view of the special on the rights of persons with disabilities.
>> Thank you very much and thank you for the invitation and I'd also like to thank panelists for their excellent presentations. As has been mentioned worldwide efforts to fight poverty over the past fifteen years have been considerable. Extreme poverty has been cut in half by the world. A large number of middle and low income countries continue to improve their social protection systems with the reduction in poverty and inequality. However, despite all of these efforts, the rates of poverty and inequality amongst disabled individuals continue to be high in comparison with other groups. Research had shown that disability affects countries with low, middle and high incomes. In other words, poverty affects all people with disabilities throughout the world. This is explained by the diverse social barriers which people with disabilities must face as well as a lack of opportunity to access education and employment situations which of course are aggravated when you talk about boys, girls, women, deaf, autistic people with psychosocial or multiple disabilities. I'd like to recall that poverty is a human rights issue. Poverty, especially streamed poverty are violations in human rights themselves. It is not possible to ensure the enjoyment of human rights under conditions of poverty. It is not possible to attain full effective participation in society living below the poverty level. It also seems important to me to highlight here that poverty and disability force us to turn our attention to national social protection systems. We are aware that in their great majority social protection systems have not promoted inclusion and social participation with people with disabilities. Quite the opposite. Many of these systems have generated segregation and dependency in our group through the schemes that, for example, promote institutionalization, given a loss of our decision‑making capacity. However, article 28 on the convention under the rights of persons with disabilities is an important step towards building social protection systems which are truly inclusive for people with disabilities. The convention proposes a new social contract with a more equitable distribution of the benefits of development across society and to people with the disabilities. One, recognizing the role of social environmental barriers in segregation and exclusion of people with disabilities. In the light of this new PAC we have to overcome social assistance leaving charity, dependence, and segregation behind and become a tool to promote activity citizenship with independent life and social participation for disabled people. What are we talking about when we mean inclusive social protection. We are talking about adequate living conditions where people with disabilities and their families. We're talking about guaranteeing access to free inclusive education for boys and girls with disabilities. We're talking about universal health coverage for all people with disabilities. We're talking about employment programs sporting the entry of people with disabilities to the open job market. We're talking about ensuring the financing of support and assistant systems which people with disabilities need in order to live independently and their communities. This is the new understanding of social protection that we need in order to protect and ensure the full enjoyment of all human rights. And fundamental freedoms for all people with disabilities. We also need this vision in order to move toward specific results in poverty and inequality and reducing these and having that transformative policy described to us by the minister of Paraguay. With such a large number of people with disabilities living in poverty and exclusion, we cannot afford the luxury of excluding them from poverty reduction programs. It is both a human rights and development issue. But it's also an issue of common sense. The cost of exclusion represents between three and 7% of the GDP of our countries, in this context the new framework of SDGs is a unique opportunity to face the challenge of poverty and inequality for people with disabilities throughout the world. I'd like to take this opportunity to mention the opportunities that were brought up by the ambassador where he said we have a margin on this discussion on the declaration of the SDGs. Is zero draft is progress and we welcome the fact that after being excluded from the MDGs we now have a specific references to people with disabilities. However, we have to make the most of the opportunities that ensure that the political declaration has strong references to the CRPD. To ensure that in the appended document mentioned to us by the ambassador on the consistency of the international treaties and agreements that with the new SDGs we also have a comparison of how these new goals are being consistent with the principles and the regulations established by the CRPD. It would also be a major opportunity and I'd like to call for states to reconsider the nature to include the reference of stability to in the SDGs and in the goals on poverty and health. Inclusive technology is also a fundamental issue and we are grateful to Brazil for their leadership it has and we hope it will continue to show to integrate people with disabilities and above all to promote access to people with disabilities to technology. Beyond specific references and what we hope it can achieve before September it is important to ensure that, first of all, efforts to get desegregated data on disability are increased. And, secondly, to improve specific indicators on disability so that we can measure how the post‑2015 effort to improve the conditions of people with disabilities and this is for agencies for international cooperation and, above all, the states. All you bodies and agencies have to appropriate, take ownership of the agenda for people with disabilities. A lot has already been done. We need to make even more effects to make the most of the SDGs. The statistics units happen to be involved in activity generating indicators. Appropriate indicators that makes it possible for people with disabilities to be visible from the very beginning of the adoption, monitoring and follow up of the SDGs, however this will not be enough to give greater resources to inclusive development. It is important to recall at this point that we hope to have good references and to take into account the situation of people with disabilities in the negotiations that will take place in the conference on financing for development. This is why development should be involved in these issues as well and increased involvement of those with disabilities. In the meantime we have those in general programs and policies against poverty will benefit them. We need this to retrack focus where you can to respond to the needs to people with disabilities but we have to ensure that these people are included in any development action for the general population. If this is not done we will never reach the sustainable development goals that we are thinking of today. And this is something that all agencies and banks and states should bear in mind. I would like to conclude by recalling that people with disabilities are 15% of the world population. 1 out of every 7 people. We cannot accept excuses anymore. We cannot leave people with disabilities outside the development agenda. Nobody must be left behind. Thank you very much.
>> (APPLAUSE).
>> Thank you. A little bit of time for a couple of questions from the floor if you wish to make them and address them to the panelists. We can take two or three questions. Yes, please. Madame. Yes. What is your question? I cannot see the ‑‑ plate. Yes. From Ghana I understand.
>> Thank you very much honorable speakers for such a wonderful presentation. And so my question is ‑‑ I am a member of the Ghana delegation and part of sight savers. My question is a clarity on what we can practically do between now and the September. Honorable Brazil ambassador did mention them but from the country level what exactly can we do so that disability will be well placed and take us to the level we are discuss now. Thank you very much.
>> Thank you very much. Would any other delegation wish to pose a question or make a comment? If not I will simply ask whether the panelist would like to respond. I can't see. Please, sir. Go ahead. Can I not see your name plate.
>> Yes my name is Mustafa. I'm the deputy minister of social welfare of Sierra Leone. I would like to ask the panelist what can be practically done when it come to education for the disabled. Especially taking into contribution the special needs of the disabled like the hearing impaired, the mentally retarded and some cases like the blind. Example, some parts of the world like even where I come from the blind have like national braille printing press so I'm thinking about all those special needs. What can we do practically to change that kind of thing. Because to educate the disabled I think will be a big step in reducing poverty. Thank you.
>> Thank you very much. I understand that EU wishes to make an intervention.
>> Thank you Mr. Chair and thank you to panelist for the interesting interventions I mean, I think everything was said on the reduction of poverty and inequality and big steps have been made since these were approved but the state hasn't reached the person with disabilities. In the European Union we have the same issues as ‑‑ I mean as expressed by the person from Nepal. Of course, there's a gap and we address it through measures with the location and special also impacting items ‑‑ sorry in terms of employment. We also involve the civil society in the design of these policies, but I would like to hear from you if there is any measures that have work in this respect according to you. Thank you.
>> Thank you very much. Yes, sir, you have the floor. From ‑‑ is it Guatemala?
>> Good afternoon I'm from Guatemala and I would like to ask you whether you could give me a document that could support the work that we have to do in the countries. The governments in our countries don't see tool that will oblige them to provide education to people with disabilities. Yet there's anything apart from the CRPD, something that will support our work that will not just leave the governments with a free hand so to speak. Thank you.
>> I will ask the panelist to kindly start with the right‑hand side with the minister. We have questions on what to do with the national level what can be done from now to September. The issue of education from Sierra Leone. What can be concretely done to improve access to education special needs. The EU as to what works in terms of better engagement and greater participation and policies I understand. Guatemala documents supporting ‑‑ supporting documentation in addition to those that exist or to the convention itself.
>> I think that for the first question which is what we have to do until December as I was saying in my previous remarks one of the important documents to have an effect is information if we have information we can generate debate and have actions proposed for the sector. That was why I was talking about having an effect in an alliance with civil society, the states and international cooperation. There's also a crosscutting focus in the question. Which is international cooperation in terms of successful experiences in countries. Returning to inclusive education. Many states have successful experiences and this would be one of the options. If we need to implement a program that our countries do not yet have because what we were saying was we should not lose time in looking for answers because some of us might already have them. But cutting and pasting doesn't always work either. We also have to think globally and act locally based on our local reality and I return to what I was saying earlier which is that decision‑making based on evidence is important. We need statistics for evidence‑based decision‑making. Thank you.
>> Minister? Would you like to add something?
>> Yes, please. I would like to say that both ‑‑ that we should lobby, try to take out the points that are really important to bring home myself. I try to work on this not only having written but it should reach vulnerable in goal one but we should also add disability and maybe several other ways but if that doesn't work I think it's most important to try to figure out how is the national planning going to take place in your country because everyone is so focused now on September and then what happens after September? So we are several actors in the civil society who, together, we ‑‑ with Swedish authorities will have a seminar where we discuss how to start about it and then what kind of roles can different actors place in that and how to ensure that we could get important things through in the national planning and then I need from the local context up to the national and also in the developmental agenda so it's a very big scope and it will take time. And then, of course, as I said to make networking with our CSOs and with our stakeholder approach. There are a lot of actors that knows about these things. I would also say to utilize what our NGOs have done like IDI, and there are several other international actors on the disability field who have done a lot of research and who also have both good knowledge about inclusive education, how it can take place, how one can do it in different parts of the world. They also, I guess, it's working very hard on how to line the convention work and the strategies taken out from that to the SDGs and the national planning. So I think there is a lot of fruitful things that could be got from the net and from the web pages of this big NGO so keep your eyes open and try to find there. And when it come to the hard question of education and how to fulfill that goal it is not easily answered. My organization, my right works with it and we also have found out that as ‑‑ that goal failed to be fulfilled on behalf of disabled girls and boys. In the millennium goals. We have took out a report where we have worked a little bit and that could be got from our web page as well. But I mean very ‑‑ several other actors on the field that has been dealing with the questions. So I would say to try to find out what is already there and see what could be used by that. But it's a complicated thing and it will take time but we should start to find out what is already there and then work on what should be in place next. Thank you.
>> Thank you very much. Mr. Kamal would you like to ‑‑
>> Thank you, these questions are very important but I would like to focus on education. As I also discussed the value of education particular economic value for education for people with disabilities not just for themselves but their families and society as a whole, therefore, we need to deal with the governments not by talks but by evidence‑based advocation. For the advocation we need the evidences and as you asked, how you can convince your governments. Some research is there and available in the alternate also. Search by education. Disability and the nexus to implement and the education and you will find a lot of researchers showing that education is important for reduction of poverty and maximization of labor market legislation. This will be the evidence to convince your governments that without exclusion ‑‑ the exclusion of disability is costly to governments. And number two, how to achieve education. One of the important issues is technology. If we give access to technology for people with disabilities, that will help them continue their education. I notice that UNICEF is also trying to develop these kind of tools that will enable people with disabilities to access, you know, the educational materials and that should be of course cost effective and often enabled by developing countries. This is another issue. Another issue is related to, again, investment disparity. How intra‑household resource allocation. If there are two children. One with a disability and one without. Parents who are suffering will choose to invest in the child without disability, therefore, one of the policies should be like, transfer. If we apply the policies like this to encourage parents to send their children with disabilities in school that would increase the access by disabled children. And another issue, just one of the researches that I have still been working on in Bangladesh is that parents have discriminatory attitude in terms of providing access to education. First of all if they invest or send their children in school, children with disabilities, they're after the label of discrimination is low. But the label of discrimination is high in terms of providing access to education. This may be because first they have less faith on those with disabilities but once they get access parents will start believing that education is valuable for people with disabilities. You should and we should collectively show the evidences of value of education as well as we also need to deal with the final issue of burden. Final issue of difficulty of parents by providing some sort of subsidy and another issue would be of course institutional barriers on the part of schools. If the schools are inaccessible people with disabilities are less like to go to schools so multiple factors work and we need to address these issues so that each of us can be greatly benefitted by the multifaceted value of education.
>> Thank you very much.
>> Thank you very much. Because time is short, I'd like to respond to the question about what we can do especially in view of the opportunities that we have until September and then until February when the finalists of indicators is to be adopted. It was also mentioned that on June 22 there's going to be a new integral mental meeting discussing the zero draft and the appended documents. It is important for all governments, well, for civil society, the people here, the delegations to have an impact. To reach an agreement that people with disabilities be included by June 22nd and so that states are open to further improve, if possible, the declaration and the document in general for it to be in line with the convention with the CRPD. The second point is also to have an impact on the work done by the interagency group and the group of experts in indicator development so that by March of next year we'll have a specific indicators for disability and over the longer term, well, I might say the immediate term we will work on policies that will translate the sustainable development goals into specific actions that will benefit the lives of people with disabilities. And then these terms the entrepreneurship is available to provide the technical support on the issue of disability in order to facilitate these processes. Thank you.
>> Thank you. I was meant to do a wrap up at the end of the session. I will try to do it quickly because we are already past 1:00. So first of all, there are several points in common in all presentations and I'll try to capture them. MDGs we shouldn't repeat the mistake of MDGs of the past of not including specific references of disability. There's an important thing with disability that we have to deal with. It's north, south, but it's also within countries so it works several ways. Education seems to be a central factor in terms of allowing persons with disabilities to become product and I've be included in society in a positive way and they are the thresholds that have been mentioned by the doctor of the six‑year threshold, the ten‑year threshold which I found was extremely important. The gender disparity so persons with disability are often have more difficulties and are often associated with poverty or lower income situations but there's also a gender disparity that needs to be addressed. The high returns of investments. So I think the idea from charity to investment is crucial here. It's a game changer because it changes completely the approach to dealing with the challenges and I think the point was made that the investments ‑‑ the returns of investments of policies geared towards persons with disabilities are two to three types higher than average. Technology is an enabler and should be accessible. There's the pricing of technology and also it being made available through state action and government policies at different levels. There's a role of the state, therefore, which is really important that has been highlighted. It's not whether the state or whether to include the issue in our international commitments and in government policies but how to do it now. I think there's a huge cost of inaction that was highlighted as well. I think it's very interesting to note this high cost of inaction but also the benefits of action. Which benefits society as a whole. The families of those who have within them person with disability but also society becoming more productive and creating more wealth. It should not be considered as a public problem. The issues relating with the rights of persons with disabilities and goods and services should be planned and provided always for all. We need to seek out the barrier to access so that we have targeted public policies and very effective solution. Policies today should be integrated and ‑‑ this is preferable to the sector by sector approach of before and I think here with the SDGs we do attempt to have an interconnected approach to the issues so we have to think globally but act locally and we also recognize the different layers of government. Federal, state, local, municipal, we have cities also and the issue of persons with disability appear under the cities sustainable sustain cities goal. We need participation. So the issue of having participatory processes at all levels including here at the U.N. and it should continue to happen as we negotiate towards September. I think national plans are extremely useful. They also need to provide different types of timeframes for short‑term, medium‑term, long‑term goals. We need budgeting of course. It's hard to do things without resources so this is also a question of political will and mobilization of advocacy. And the implementation and follow up of agreed ‑‑ of adopted policies or agreed commitments I think there is a critical role of civil society to support. I think creating national commissions are also an interesting solution to highlight the issues and to raise the visibility of these challenges as well as raising the profile of those in government that are in charge of these policy to the highest possible level. We have with us a minister from Paraguay and I think the issue of partnerships between governments, civil society, the international community was mentioned we have to desegregate the data to fight this. If we do not make the problems visible they will not be recognized or dealt with so the desegregating data is critical. The protection should be provided for and extended to those with persons living with disabilities. In particular they have to be included not excluded from social protection programs. I think goal one should not just leave things at the level of vulnerability. We need good indicators to monitor progress of the agenda for the future. I think the best way to leave no one behind is for persons with disabilities themselves to step forward which is also another recommendation we have today and I think we also had the comment that poverty and inequality rates are much higher for persons with disability so we have to deal with the social barriers. And we have to look at the issue also that poverty is a human right issue. Poverty in develop is a human right issue and I think there is also a human rights based commitment and a treaty framework in fact. A framework of rights. It's not a privilege or charity. It is a right that persons with disability should be supported and enabled and included in all policies as full citizens. Full and productive citizens so this is my wrap up for this morning and I thank you all for much for being with us up until now. Thank you and a round of applause for the panelists, please.
>> (APPLAUSE)