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UNITED NATIONS

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

(3:00PM-6:00PM)

JUNE 10, 2015

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Please stand by.
>> Ladies and gentlemen, if we can start, please take your seats. Ladies and gentlemen, thank you very much, for your attendance and we are beginning our afternoon session. My name is VOGAL I am ambassador to Poland and it is my pleasure to honor to chair our meeting here from 3‑6 p.m. before we start the regular panel I have one announcement. As you know, there are still a lot of speakers on the list so the first hour from our debate today will be devoted to the continuation of the general debate. And we will have according to the decision of the bureau, we will have eight national ‑‑ well depends on time but we will basically have eight national statements and then one NGO so this will be done in this order. And if we do not conclude in this one hour then we will do it tomorrow morning and conclude the debate tomorrow in the morning. And I was also informed that the list of speakers is already closed so we still have about forty or thirty interventions. Well, since the time is very limited I will follow a question of my predecessor if each and every intervention could be limited to three minutes. To three minutes. And around 4 p.m. I will invite members of our panel about disability data and statistics so we will have probably two to three minutes break to rearrange the chair and we will continue with the debate. So now if I can ask the Cyprus to take the floor.
[Pause].
>> Thank you very much Mr. Chairman. Cyprus aligns itself with the statement delivered by the representative of the European Union and would like to say the following in its national capacity. Cyprus ratified the convention in 2011. And submitted its first report on the implementation in 2013. Currently various policies are being developed by the focal point the ministry of labor following assurance with the stakeholders. I would like to stress that consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities is not only an institution by practice in Cyprus but also a legal obligation according to a national law of 2006. In the area of education, we work to facilitate the smooth transition of persons with disabilities from education to employment. While we are currently in the process of upgrading provocation and programs for early intervention services for children of ages of 1‑6. As regards to employment, financial assistance is provided to persons with disabilities for creating small and medium enterprises while organizations of persons with disabilities are subsidized for operating programs through a job coach. We aim to extend this program to the rural areas for the period 2014‑2020 we are also in the process of modernizing and upgrading the sector for vocation fall rehabilitation for people with disabilities. Furthermore we promote the recruitment of persons in accordance with the national law of 2006 which provides that the percentage of 10% of current vacancies to be filled by persons with disabilities. Research on these public buildings is to be completed soon. Finally I wish to inform you that Cyprus has developed a new system for the assessment of disability and functions based on the WHO international classification. We are confident that this is a significant step in safeguarding the rights of persons with disabilities and will provide in a less time‑consuming manner access of these persons to employment, and social production programs. I thank you very much, Mr. President.
>> Thank you very much.
>> (APPLAUSE).
>> Thank you very much I can say this was model intervention and now I would like to give the floor to representative of Georgia.
[Pause].
>> Thank you, Mr. Chair. At the outset let me express my sincere gratitude to the bureau members and to secretariat for convening this very important and timely conference. As we approach post‑2015 development agenda this year is a critical time to assure that the new agenda addresses issues of persons with disabilities in an America. In this context I would like to bring to your attention and outline some of the developments achieved in Georgia in promoting the rights of persons with disabilities. The national human rights strategy and action plan of Georgia adopted in April 2014 establishes and strengthens the human rights based approach providing guidelines for the state policy and programs and identifies right holders and duty bearers in each case. This expects promotion in human law and practice. It is important that issues related to persons with disabilities is an integral part of the national humans action plan and is discussed with all stakeholders including relevant NGOs and international organizations. Following the principle of inclusion, the action plan also establishes an interagency consult focusing specifically on the rights persons with disabilities chaired by the prime minister and acting as an implementation mechanism for the U.N. CRPD. One of the most important goals of my government has been bringing Georgian legislation in line with the CRPD and facilitating the persons with disabilities in the decision‑making process in this regard the Georgian parliament has adopted the law on all forms of discrimination. Relevant projects are designed to raise public awareness on this issue. It is the priority of the government to ensure all legislative framework in mechanisms for education of persons with special education needs. Specific mechanisms have been put in place to meet special educational needs of all children concerned. The ministry of education with support of the EU and in close cooperation with the NGOs is working on creating a monitoring model in order to evaluate the quality of inclusive education. Equal access to health care services without discrimination on the grounds of disabilities, children with disabilities are fully integrated in the universal health program. Since September 2014. With state rehabilitation program for children government has developed the standards for early intervention program that needs launching in the system this year with the goal of job seeking purposes of the labor market a new mechanism of professional counselling is being developed within the project on introduction of inclusive education invocation and education and retraining system of Georgia. Social protection, inclusiveness in public and political life and support for the development of alternative civil services for the persons with disabilities. Our governments priorities and high on the national agenda. Government's efforts to assure equal legislation lead to increasing number of persons participated in the elections. As we mark the second year of Georgia's ratification of the U.N. CRPD I would like to reiterate my government's full commitment to the implementation of the convention. Georgia stands ready to further promote and assure the rights persons with disabilities and call on all country to join on this important cause I thank you.
>> (APPLAUSE).
>> Thank you and now Cuba.
>> Thank you, Mr. President. Cuba affirms the commitment with the spirit on the convention on the rights of persons with disabilities and reiterates the priority it gives to this matter. Cuba believes that protecting persons with disabilities and caring for their specific needs are a moral imperative. The international community has resources to address this. Nevertheless, a considerable share of these resources is not earmarked to the development of social policies but instead to military purposes. The majority of developing countries don't have the economic resources to create capacity to provide care for persons with disabilities. Hence persons with disabilities are more vulnerable to social exclusion, poverty, and discrimination. Regardless of the state's intentions. We reiterate it is key to strengthen cooperation and technology and knowledge to country ‑‑ developing countries. We urge developed countries to fulfill their agreed international commitments for financing for development. Mr. Chairman, since the triumph of the Cuban revolution is state has paid particular attention to issues related to disabilities. In an environment where there are difficulties from the unending economic trade and financial blockade imposed on Cuba for more than fifty years and limitations of a need of an impact of climate phenomena. Cuba has implemented a development strategy based on the principles of social justice for caring for persons with disabilities. The aim is to place human beings at the center. And to tap into their development potential. The strategy believes persons with disabilities are subjects of law with a different capacity and this is focused ‑‑ on three aspects. The medical prophylactic aspect and meant to assure physical rehabilitation and social insertion. Although Cuba has no specific law on persons with disabilities their provisions guaranteeing the protection in various legal bodies such as the code for childhood and youth. The family code the civil code, the labor code and criminal code. We have to date implemented three plans of action for persons with disabilities from 1995‑2016 so it is currently underway. These plans are part of a compendium of actions and strategies and programs and to ensure the full social integration of this group. And to enhance their quality of life from a coordinated perspective. The national action plan includes as a priority the fostering of positive attitudes towards those with disabilities and there's a training on awareness of persons with disabilities and focusing on their functionality and not limitations. And based on social insertion and involving sports events, employment, culture, science, and involving associations of persons with disabilities. The national health system has developed a broad network of services that goes from primary health care services, hospitals, and highly specialized centers, rehabilitation services are provided free of charge and it's the responsibility of the state to provide care and he habilitation to persons with disabilities and at different levels and throughout the process. Another of the key measures is early diagnosis of disabilities. This measure has enabled providing specializes care in an early and preventive way to children who display systems of developing some kind of disabilities and to conclude, sir, Cuba has shared its experience with other nations in dealing with persons with disability especially in the Latin America and Caribbean region we have implemented various plans and programs based on the Cuban methodology in this region. We reaffirm the willingness of Cuba towards the full enjoyment of rights of persons with disabilities and the effect of implementation of the relevant convention. I thank you.
>> (APPLAUSE).
>> Thank you very much and now I would like to give the floor to representative of Saudi Arabia. The floor is yours.
>> Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the kingdom of Saudi Arabia we are happy to participate in this conference my best greetings to everybody and my thanks and gratitude to the United Nations for having held this conference that is focusing on the rights of the persons with disabilities and the exchange of appearances in this domain. Any society or any sustained development cannot happen without the full participation of persons with disabilities in all aspects of life. Whether economic, social, political or cultural. This is indeed an international option, an international choice, and commitment. The convention on the rights of persons with disabilities is indeed main cornerstone of our work in this regard. And I would like to share with you some of the activities that we have done since the KSA has ratified the convention on the rights of persons with disabilities in 2008. We have started a number of measures to promote the rights of persons with disabilities. Including the establishment of committee within the ministry of social affairs. This committee is responsible for the coordination of services provided to persons with disabilities in implementation of the convention. The committee has members of many stakeholders including the social ‑‑ the civil society and also representatives of the persons with disabilities. This year, the KSA represented in the ministry of social affairs and in the KSA human rights commission ‑‑ have started to monitor the implementation of this international convention. The government of the KSA gives due attention to the development of the performance of the persons with disabilities. There is also a new panel of experts that was formed in 2014. This panel has presented a number of recommendations to promote the rights of the persons with disabilities. Among these recommendations are, first of all, the establishment of a committee of experts within the cabinet that would be comprised of legal experts in this regard so that they would review our regulations and laws related to persons with disabilities. The second recommendation is to establish committee within the ministry of social affairs with the participation of stakeholders. They would elaborate a comprehensive strategy to promote the rights of persons with disabilities. With clearcut vision and with the aim of giving the consultancy to the ministry of economy and planning regarding the measures that would be taken to help the persons with disabilities. The third recommendation is to elaborate a plan for the media experts and for the educational experts as well. This would be based on a strategy for the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities. And with due recognition that people with disabilities are indispensable component of our society we would also work with the aim of expanding the services provided to persons with disabilities. And to establish centers for the diagnosis and for the early intervention in terms of any behavioral disorders that would be detected. We also have started the monitoring and supervision process and we would be starting soon the process of the preparation of reports regular reports to be centered to the stakeholders and the kingdom of Saudi Arabia knows of the challenge that we face in the convention and in the protection of the right of the persons with disabilities. We are always happy to listen to the experiences of other countries in the implementation of the convention on the persons with disabilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
>> (APPLAUSE).
>> Thank you very much. We've please limit to three minutes. Our list of speakers is very long. Now I would like to give the floor to the representatives of Uganda.
>> I wish to congratulate you on being elected. Uganda are on the rights of persons with disabilities in September 2008. We provide the basis for the enactment of law and the development of policies that addresses their concern. Uganda reaffirm its commitment to the implementation of the convention on the right of persons with disabilities and has made positive strides in the area of legal policy framework toward persons with disabilities. Uganda has reviewed the national council for disability act and persons with disability act to incorporate the current development at the national and international level to eliminate all forms of discrimination. Government has formulated guidelines on disability to guide the implementation on the right of persons with disabilities and other national frameworks. The guidelines are in conformity with a joined community rehabilitation. Guidelined by the World Health Organization, international labor organization, and UNESCO. Chairperson, in the 2014 national housing and population census carried out in Uganda. It has been made to come out with desegregated data on persons with disability to help in official policy formulation and planning. Governments through the ministry of sport specialized needs and policy to express challenges faced by persons with disabilities in education. Furthermore, Uganda has adopted this as a major strategy. For service delivery for the rehabilitation and ensuring full participation of persons with disabilities in all development programs. The community base program include reaching out to create awareness, capacity building of service provider and community. To manage disability. This program is currently being implemented in 26 districts. In addition a special grant is being provided to engage in incoming generating activities to improve their livelihood. Furthermore government advocates for the mainstreaming of disability issues into sectoral plans and programs. Chairperson, government in collaboration with other stakeholders has completed a study on the situation of children with disability. And is currently developing a national plan of action for intervention in that regard. Chair, despite these positive strides, major challenges still remains in the following areas. Creation awareness on the right of persons with disabilities in their communities. Dissemination of legal and policy instrument. Building capacity of service providers for effective service delivery for person with disability. Active participation in development initiative. Inaccessible information. In conclusion, chairperson and distinguished delegates. As we move forward, in a building capacity to meet the challenges of the post‑2015 development agenda through different interventions, government of Uganda will ensure that persons with disabilities gain access to opportunities to participate effectively in all the gainful social economic activities. This building and decision‑making in the society. I thank you.
>> Thank you very much and now I would like to give the floor to Nigeria.
>> I thank you for giving me the floor. My diligent commands your leadership of the conference of parties on the rights of persons with disabilities. And we assure you of our support and cooperation for this year's session the rights of persons with disabilities in the post‑2015 development agenda is timely and prepares a platform for the inclusion of all international agenda. We always organized the CRPD and work towards its completion into national law. We are putting all the measures in place to assure it's full operation. We are looking in the field of disability with a view to opt in the report on activities relating to the domestication of the convention. As well as creating further awareness about it. The government has defined the collaboration with local and international organizations including people's organizations at federal, state, and local government levels to formulate policies and plan issues with people with disabilities in the agenda. The government is also establishing new structures and improving existing ones to mainstream perspectives across all ministries, departments and agencies at the federal level. Mr. Chair, realizing the importance of mainstreaming persons with disabilities in the agenda the nominated persons with disabilities representing the different categories of disabilities in the conference this forum is not only going to bring them issues to national discourse but also contribute to the discourse of our nation. Accessibility is backbone of CRPD and relevant to carrying out advocacy campaign on the need to make services and all infrastructures and activities accessible to persons with disabilities. Mr. Chairman, what contributions, Nigeria implements robust empowerment programs for persons with disabilities among others. Furthermore, the government of Nigeria is astute in policy measure to empower persons with disabilities through the adoption of affirmative action for the implement of persons with disabilities in the service. As part of our commitment to the CRPD we support the persons with disabilities at international and regional floor. Mr. Chairman, my delegation looks forward to this conference to truly address these possibilities. We call on these party to activate and engage each other towards a successful outcome that will result in the inclusion of issues pertaining to persons with disabilities in the post‑2015 development agenda. In conclusion, Nigeria has the commitment to continue to work assiduously in line with these obligations under the national instruments. I thank you.
>> (APPLAUSE).
>> Thank you representative of Nigeria for his statement and now to Bangladesh.
>> Thank you Mr. Chair. Being one of the first country to ratify CRPD we have the highest value of promoting persons with disabilities. While the constitution guarantees equality and social justice for all citizens subsequent acts and laws offer legal platform for ensuring the rights of disabilities. The speed on the convention guide us to advise our disability welfare act in 2001 adopted years before the convention. The revised act a result of extensive consultation among different stakeholders including the persons with disabilities fully aligns with the convention. Our interventions aspire the post‑2015 development agenda. The national strike that enters the sixth five year plan have been made adequately inclusive of persons with disabilities. In Bangladesh we have this as an effective tool for empowerment for those with special needs. This promotes inclusive and special education as well as vocational and technical education for students with disabilities. In line with the policy a number of specialized schools have been established. Students with disabilities are being provided with stipends. The new disability law of the country recognizes work and employment as an inalienable right of persons with disabilities and this right has been issued to specific provision of quota in different jobs including in garment services these programs are tailored for persons with disabilities particularly women and children. The country has set up 103 one stop service centers in 64 district to provide counselling. Physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy and also assistive devices. Each center has a corner to support children with autism. From our national experience we have seen that family as a fundamental unit of society is the best place to ensure the development of persons with disabilities. Our traditional society is based on strong family bonding. Which provides important care to persons with disabilities from birth throughout their lifetime. However, we cannot ignore the fact that sometimes people leave the family in order to break the stigma associated with disabilities outside the family. Extensive program is underway. Translation to the CRPD to a home language with the special program with the disabilities on TV channels, national arts and drafts exhibitions, national festivals. Mr. Chair, a country brought to frequent national disaster we have planned the national disaster response to cater the need of persons with disabilities from all equations from shelter and relief. The government has initiated a nationwide survey to identify the types extent of disabilities prevalent in the community. Our vibrant civil society and developing partners are partnering with the government in all these efforts. Mr. Chair, we have many challenges like my others. This is a big challenge for us. We believe that to a strong partnership with different stakeholders, especially our developing partners we can overcome this challenge. Mr. Chair the might is taking place at historic moment when the committee is finalizing this. Our call for leaving no one behind must go beyond any rhetoric. We need a strong partnership and cooperation to make our vision a reality. Let's seize the moment for the betterment of all of us. I thank you Mr. Chair.
>> Thank you very much and now to the representative of Togo.
>> Thank you. Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman Togo is pleased that this conference of states parties to the convention on the rights of persons with disabilities is being held it provides us with the opportunity to take stock of the efforts made at the international, regional and national level regarding the protection and advancement of the rights of persons with disabilities. The world report on disability in June 2011 in New York by the WHO and the World Bank has cited a growing number of persons with disabilities and this raised among Togo's leader some questions regarding prevention measures and support measures which should be set up in order to ensure that they have a fair life thus civil society assisted by national organizations have been developing strategies to advance this social strata. Since we ratified the convention, on the first of March 2011, the following steps incorporating the needs of disabled persons have been taken. At the legislative level preparation of an initial report on the implementation of the convention is currently at a very advanced stage. A draft law that has been revised pertaining to the social protection of persons with disabilities in Togo is being adopted to bring it in line with the convention the 2015‑2017 program budget of the social action and advocacy and literacy ministry takes into consideration the concerns of persons with disabilities. In particular in the area which strengthens access of these vulnerable people to a protective supportive environment and it strengthens access of a vulnerable people to basic social services the drafting of an ‑‑ social economic program of persons with disabilities whose financing needs help from bilateral partners is key too. We also have the national community based action policy that has been revised in 2015 and it focuses on community‑based rehabilitation of persons with disabilities. A sectoral policy on education has been adopted in 2013. At the operational level, 100% subsidy of specialized care centers for learning disability children has been provided. We have implemented a rehabilitation community based program for disabled children in two regions. In particular this has provided for 80 access ramps to be built in rural clinics and schools. We trained 644 teachers including 105 women. By providing village based savings and loan scheme. We are also promoting the employment of deaf and hard of hearing in those municipalities. Mr. Chairman, the emergence of a total society of persons with disabilities and those not participate equally is what the highest authorities of our country are really focusing on in all sector strategies all in all Togo is open to all good practices in this area so we can improve how to care for and harness and potential of persons with disabilities. This requires more assistance for these developed states so we properly implement the convention. Thank you very much indeed.
>> (APPLAUSE).
>> I thank you very much and now to Grenada.
>> Thank you, chair. Excellencies. Delegates. Ladies and gentlemen. Grenada became a state party to the convention and the rights of persons with disabilities in 19 ‑‑ in 2014. Upon ratification of that international human rights treaty of the United Nations the government of Grenada reaffirmed its intention to protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities. The ministry of social development in Grenada is mandated to effectively spear head the implementation of the convention. To raise national consciousness for public education and information, the month of May is recognized as the month of awareness for persons with disabilities with Grenada. The theme for 2015 is working towards a society that is inclusive for all. A public private partnership model has been established through collaboration with the Ministry of Social Development and the Grenada national council for the disabled the main objectives for the national council are to advocate on behalf of persons with disabilities to provide guidance and direction for persons with disabilities and to focus on taking responsibility for the well‑being and access to meet development needs. The management operation and program development for the national counsel for the disabled is funded in part by the government. The consul also relies on charitable donations from the general public and fundraising under her excellency the general of Grenada. On June 2015, that is, next week. We will host the World Health Organization initiated Caribbean rehabilitation conference at the St. George's University of Grenada. The training for persons with disabilities is among the highest priorities of the government. We seek to broaden the scope of opportunity to include vocational skills training and to ensure that persons with disabilities can be productive and empowered to be so. The government of Grenada recognizes the need for legislation and policy in support of the convention and will be exploring best practices with friendly countries to facilitate this process. Government seeks to improve regulations to include access and less restrictive environments for the disabled. The ministry of social development seek to make more effective use of existing database for informing all policy decisions. The government of Grenada expresses its appreciation to UNDP for its assessment ‑‑ and recommendations pertaining to the need for capacity and organizational development at all levels in order to utilize and update and maintain disaster preparedness data for persons with disabilities. The government is in the process of reviewing the organization structure aimed at objectives and programs that would make it inclusive for more organizations within the country such as agencies working together with persons with disabilities. Today, we call on international community and all partners and donors and state parties for their support in an engagement to establish an office of persons with disabilities elderly and probation services. To ensure that all obligations under the conventions are met. A mandate to uphold human rights for persons with disabilities by making more progress towards the implementation of the convention which we ratified in 2014. I thank you.
>> Thank you very much ambassador for a very deep and interesting intervention and thank you for the achievement in this field. And now the floor to representative of Malaysia.
>> Thank you Mr. President. On the outset let me congratulate for the convention on the rights of persons with disabilities. We are confident that under your able leadership the deliberations of the conference will be a productive and fruitful one. Let me tell you about our cooperation. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the newly elected members. Malaysia ratified the CRPD on 19th July 2010. The ratification of CRPD is a clear testament of Malaysia's commitment towards advancing the rights of persons with disabilities. Culminating from a string of domestic policies including the enactment of the persons with disabilities act, 2008 and the formulation of the policy and plan of action for persons with disabilities in 2007. To this end, inclusive development has been the theme of the national development agenda. Better known as Malaysia's five‑year plan. The our plan was evidence of this inclusive development where this information system for persons with disabilities had allowed for an improved provision of services to the community. As many as five hundred thousand persons with disabilities registered to the system have benefitted from 25 villages and services provide by the government and the private sector. This include international passport facility, hospitalization benefits, financial assistance, subsidies on public transportation, exemption of excise duties. Free driving license. In addition to privileges and services the government is also committed to improve the live of persons with disabilities through vigorous implementation of programs and activities across the countries. These programs were designed, implemented and monitored by the ministry of women, family and community development and the department of social welfare and two of wish I which to highlight today. Are initiative to productive welfare and with civil society organizations. Some of the highlights of the initiative through productive welfare include one, job coach. Support services for persons with disabilities on which the government via its strategic partnership with Japan international cooperation agency had introduced employment support services tailored for persons with disabilities in preparation for future employment. The job coach's train under this program provide the necessary support to persons with disability with their fellow workers and facilitate their acceptance into an organization. In addition, the job coaches play an important role to convince employers of the capabilities of the persons with disabilities. Two, business launch grants. In encouraging persons with disability to venture into small businesses the government provides business launching grants up to two thousand for seven hundred for business expansion. Three, business encouragement assistance scheme for persons with disability. In addition to the business launch grant the ministry of human resources had introduced business encouragement assistance scheme for persons with disabilities for those who had established their business to expand their venture. With grants amounting to a maximum of 100,000 one of the prerequisites of the scheme is they would be required to employ those with disabilities. Fourth. One program is AM as part of the government transformation program. This was income generating project with an end to eradicate poverty and raise the standard of living of the people adopting a productive welfare approach the program provides skills training and income generating opportunities for low income household including person with disabilities. That said, my delegation recognizes the importance of full compliance of CRPD and the key element for ensuring compliance with CRPD is the full effect ‑‑ and effective participation of person with disabilities and their respective organization. It is also essential to ensure the international cooperation and development programs including the post‑2015 development agenda are inclusive to person with disability. In conclusion Malaysia reiterates its commitment to improve the welfare of persons with disabilities in line with its obligation to all relevant instrument including the CRPD at the international level and in the strategy. Make the right real for persons with disabilities in issue. At the regional level. I thank you, Mr. President.
>> Thank you very much.
>> (APPLAUSE).
>> Thank you very much for six minutes intervention. I would like to remind you that we still have roundtable. Now I would like to give the floor to ambassador of Palau, please.
>> Thank you very much for giving us the floor. We enjoy others in congratulating you. Mr. Chairman, we rectified the CRPD on 11 June, 2013 but even before that time we had already strong national program to address rights and needs for persons with disability including those suffering from mental illness through partnership of the government with a non‑governmental organization which was founded by a person with disabilities in the mid 1990s. The vision of the organization is through ‑‑ is persons with disabilities are accorded equal dignity as any valued member of the community. This is to advocate for persons with disabilities and promote disability awareness in the Republic of Palau. These actions are taken with the national policy for persons with disabilities. Which is to improve society's view and impart choices to a quality lifestyle that is free from barriers and discrimination in all aspects of life and human interactions. Mr. Chairman, through legislation and administrative prerogatives the needs for person with disabilities including mental health and well‑being are addressed and met. These are ‑‑ include education and health services that are provided free of charge accessibility to all public facilities and a monthly stipend substantive stipend. The NGO and the government of Palau recognize much work needs to be done to achieve a truly rights based and inclusive society and have mapped out the required actions in the 2011‑2016 strategic plan. In this respect, we'd like to acknowledge with gratitude the assistance rendered by the U.N. economic and social commission as well as the forum. I thank you for your kind attention.
>> (APPLAUSE).
>> Thank you very much and thank you also for doing exactly three minutes so this was ‑‑ this was great. Ladies and gentlemen now I would like to give the floor to the representative of Honduras.
>> Mr. Chairman, I will give a summarized version given time constraints. I am pleased to welcome you and thank you on your election. And welcome the states party to this convention on the progress made in addressing persons with disabilities in Honduras. We have been working jointly between the government, NGOs and civil society in my country to advocate for persons with disabilities. We have about 800,000 persons suffering some sort of disability and this is according to the Pan American Health Organization in my country more than half are in rural areas. And disability and poverty are the main barriers to the labor insertion and social insertion. We respect the rights of persons with disabilities. And this convention that was approved by the general assembly of the United Nations in 2006 and ratified in 2008 and we have ratified our commitments to this. In dealing with Hondurans who have a disability. We have ensured a radical change in how disability is viewed. We recognize that the state has the responsibility, the basic responsibility to improve conditions for prevention and to tackle the consequences. Mr. Chairman, in 2013 we adopt a public policy and plan of action on human rights. This focused on human rights seeking to radically change the image and situation for persons with disabilities and we do this through empowering them, ensuring their rights are guaranteed and the aim is to ensure that persons with disabilities, all of them, can fully enjoy their human rights. We have a public policy for the exercise of rights of persons with disabilities and their social inclusion. This was adopted in 2013 this seems to radically change the position. Through their empowerment and their respect for their rights and in line with their rights this public policy is part of diagnostic in line with the reality of the situation for persons with disabilities. We have a law for equality. And comprehensive inclusion for persons with disabilities companies. There is a provision that says that companies must hire a minimum number of persons with disabilities. This should be proportionate with the size of the company. We have a national plan for universal accessibility. The overall aim of this is to clarify public institutions and private ones responsibilities to guarantee persons with disabilities have access to information technology and media and communication. The challenges the persons with disabilities face as a priority, Mr. President, we know that this has economic aspects as well and we have a voucher program, a presidential program, to deal with persons with physical disabilities. And this includes persons who were disabled when trying to board the train called the beast. Which was bringing persons to the United States. We have endeavored to bring about the social inclusion through a program which involves cash transfers based on conditions for shared responsibility in dealing with health and nutrition and other aspects. In addition, through the monetary voucher system, studies are paid for and we are trying to implement an agreement on training for vocational training and through the ministry of labor. Mr. Chair, in Honduras through various projects, consisting in bringing jobs to rural areas this is already helping persons with disabilities and endeavors for their social inclusion. This is improving their quality of life and that of their families and helps to enhance their self esteem. As we look back and on the progress we have done we can say we have made progress. We are aware that this matter should be addressed and we, therefore, would advocate for a post‑2015 development agenda that is more comprehensive and socially inclusive. Our focus under our president in Honduras is one based on humanism. Focused on the most vulnerable groups in our country and to make sure that persons with disabilities and their families are not forgotten. Thank you.
>> (APPLAUSE).
>> Thank you very much and now I would like to give floor to representative on.
>> This is translated to approximately 1.27 million% living with disability or one in every ten households. We therefore share the view that we need to ensure protection of the rights of PWD should occupy its rightful place in the post‑2015 development agenda. My country has seated to this convention on 7th 2011. Since then the government has take an number of steps to protect the rights of persons with disability. Our constitution, the state's constitution of 2008 in its article 32A stipulate that the union shall take care of mothers and children, orphans, fallen defense service personnel, children and the aged and the disabled. The article 349 of the constitution also ensure that all citizens shall enjoy equal opportunity in conducting the functions in such area as public employment, occupation, trade, technical know how and vocation. In our country, the ministry of social welfare is acting as a focal point for protecting vulnerable groups including the persons with disabilities. We are now drafting a domestic law on protections and promotion on the rights of disabilities in this regard, I wish to highlight the article 17 of this law which includes provisions regarding to the protections of the rights of women with disabilities as follows. The right to participate in as a woman with disabilities shall be insured in the area of decision‑making in society, health, education, economy and business and effort on advancement of the living standards of all in equal measures. Woman should have the equal right as man with disability. And their insured right to take part in any programs and projects imat improving the lives of people with disability. Women with disability shall be protected from various forms of violence and discrimination. The article emphasized that every efforts we made for aiming at reductions of the cost of disability in the country. Since becoming a party to CRPD, a number of conferences and seminars have been organized in my country to emphasize the participation of people with disability at all levels. The ministry together with the association with disability NGOs and to the network of women have come together last year to organize a forum on ‑‑ towards inclusive development enhancing credibility and status of woman. In addition, the national strategy plan for the advancement of woman, 2014‑2022 has already been put in place. Furthermore is strategy plan was also adopted in 2014. This plan covers protections of plan for the disability of all ages in the area of social assistance in terms of disability allowances. Social insurance in terms of work disability have been in effect for those in the former sector. Health coverage in terms of universal health coverage as part of health sector reform. In terms of social welfare services for those with disability. And also disaster risk management and social protection in terms of services targeting for those with disabilities. There remain a lot of work to be done to effectively protect the and promote the rights of the persons with disability. At the national and international level. However, we firmly believe that with the assistant we can collectively build better society where equality and harmony flourish by reinforcing social protection amidst rapid reforms taking place. I thank you, Mr. Chairman.
>> (APPLAUSE).
>> Ladies and gentlemen, we are going very, very late. We have a panel to round table discussion to start so with your permission tomorrow's another meeting of the conference which will be lead by my colleague from Italy and the following interventions will be delivered tomorrow. So now I would like as a last intervention today I would like to invite the nip upon foundation to present their position and all others who are on the list will begin tomorrow in the morning as we did today as first part of the conference. So now the nip upon foundation and ‑‑ please.
>> Thank you. Thank you Mr. Chair. Your excellencies, distinguished delegates and guests, thank you very the opportunity to address this body on behalf of the foundation who coorganized yesterday along with others a side event entitled accessible global governance. The participation of persons with disabilities in the U.N. system and broader processes. At this event I represented the institute on public policy and American university and our network of 20 universities and four outreach partners throughout the region. IDPP was developed through the long‑term support of the foundation. We had just recruited our fourth cohort all of whom are either blind or visually impaired. Deaf or hard of hearing or mobility impaired from Southeast Asia. This cohort of students are pursuing their master's degree in public policy, political science at three of our partner institutions in Malaysia and the Philippines. Our side event yesterday included a delegation of twelve students and three faculty who are deaf and three who are hearing from The National Technical Institute for the Deaf. At the side event I presented the draft preliminary findings from the first phase called accessible global governance the invisibility of persons with disabilities. In this study we are trying to better understand the social, political, economic, and technological factors that inhibit and enhance the ability for persons with disabilities to participate effectively in U.N. conferences, meetings and events. The key preliminary findings from the study can be found in the processes, the nature of the civil society participation and three, the organizational and institutional structure of the international disability community. I will summarize these preliminary findings very briefly. First, our steady approach to U.N. processes in three areas focusing on information access, physical access, and transportation access. We have found that while there have been improvements, access to U.N. buildings and meetings continues to be a challenge both in New York and Geneva but also countries hosting U.N. meetings around the world. The third world disaster risk function was an interesting model of how to enhance the overall accessibility of a U.N. meeting in Japan. We have made 50 recommendation to enhance the persons with disabilities within the U.N. system. Because of the elite nature of conferences and events enhancing access to the process is not efficient. There needs to be much more attention paid for persons with disabilities to engage in a substantive manner with the long and expensive process of prep COMMs for a wide range of U.N. conferences including those that go beyond disability issues. Finally, if the major groups framework is going to be used for engagement with civil society most of our study participates believe that the major group's framework should be expanded at the tenth major group we also believe that there's tremendous opportunity for deep and cooperation and collaboration amongst the disability community including advocacy networks. Research organizations, donors and other to come together and create an effective mechanism to capitalize on any possible expansion on the framework to include persons with disabilities. Thank you and we look forward to any follow up and questions.
>> (APPLAUSE).
>> Thank you very much for your intervention and your noble work in this field. Now I would like to invite all panelists for our round table. And we will take three minutes break. Three minutes break so please use this three minutes and then we will start immediately our round table discussion and the general debate will be continued tomorrow at 10 a.m. this morning under the very able leadership of my Italian colleague. So three minutes break.
>> (Break).
>> It is my great pleasure to begin our round table discussion improvement of disability data and statistics objectives and challenges. Well, we have gathered today to talk about the importance of data and statistics. Although it may sound very technical we are perfectly aware that without disability data situation it would be almost impossible to move forward in our activities in this field. So I'm very glad that today we have five panelists to talk about this issue. Let me introduce Professor Kim from the committee on the rights of persons with disabilities who will focus on the human rights dimension in regard to data collection. Ms. Francesca from U.N. statistical division will provide us with the U.N. background on this method Dr. Sophie here from New York who will share with us some observations from the academic perspective. Dr. Jennifer. From the United States national center for disease control. And last but not least Miss Diamond from the international disability alliance who will be the civil society voice in today's debate. Ladies and gentlemen we are planning that each intervention will be about seven to eight minutes and then we hope to have forty‑five minutes for discussion for debate and there are important questions to be asked and which will be discussed. Let me just mention before we give the floor to the first panelist. The first one is what measures should be taken to improve collection and analyze of disability data and statistics. Second, how to strengthen national capacities to improve and mainstream disability data collection. Third, what are the main challenges that state parties to the convention face while implementing and reporting standardized collection methods and last, how to involve persons with disability in the process of collecting and disseminating disability data. There are just four questions which can be discussed today. So I very much hope that our round table today will be important platform of exchange of experiences and good practices on the issue and may provide us with some concrete ideas and solution. How to face the challenges of disability data statistics. Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to now to give the floor to the first panelist. And this will be Miss Francesca is chief of the statistical service branch of the U.N. statistical division. She has done work on SDGs and between 2002‑12 she was responsible for the program on the global monitoring of the MDGs. Well, the floor is yours.
[Pause].
>> Okay. Thank you so much. I'm sorry. I wasn't trying to confuse you just setting up my PowerPoint and good afternoon, everyone, and, again, thank you so much to organizers of the panel to ‑‑ for giving me the opportunity to speak a little bit about the work we are conducting for the preparation of the framework of indicators for the post‑2015 development agenda. So I will probably not answer all the questions that were put on the table but I'd like to just provide a little bit of background on what the work is what the main challenges are and possibly, you know, some ways to address the challenges and give some ideas for the way forward and what needs to be done both at the national level and the ‑‑ by the international community. So the first slide ‑‑ I got distracted. First of all why are we talking about framework of indicators? The ‑‑ we see the exercise as comprising a set of global indicators for global monitoring and then a set of indicators that can be applied more specifically at the national ‑‑ some national level. And a set of indicators that we call thematic indicators those are the ones that can be used for more in depth set of progress or lack of progress in specific areas. Now we'll focus on the global indicators as these are the ones that are now being discussed and where we can also see opportunities to address some of the policy priorities that are being discussed this week. In the area of disability statistics. So why global indicators? First of all, global indicators help to inform the global political decisions. So to keep the priorities, you know, well visible on the agenda and in the political discussion, to also provide a sort of a structure, a framework so you'll have the goals, targets and indicators to complete the framework and they're used to inform the public, the media and very often indicators are a powerful tool to raise awareness to advocate. So, you know, the power of numbers if you don't have very visible what your priorities are it's hard to advocate for those issues and some of the important issues might become invisible or forgotten. So then of course from the point of view of statistics indicators are very important because once you have a set of global indicators you set up the metadata, the principles behind the indicator it helps ensuring consistency across and having a more rational set of indicators and also it's important to use indicators to reiterate the principle that statistics has to be policy‑driven so indicators are tied to the targets and to the goals and so statistics we produce should be tied to the targets and the goals we are trying to achieve. So the framework of indicators on the next slide, here you see the blocks of indicators and what I want to highlight is all this four groups of indicators are very much interrelated but an important element from the point of view of disability statistics and addressing the challenge of including indicators that are fully disability inclusive, the element in common is really the element of desegregation and we'll see in the next slides that's not the only element that we need to address when it come to disability inclusive indicators or statistics. But I want to highlight the fact that the elements of desegregation are now going to be covered only on the national level in production and analysis but we'll have to be included to the extent possible at the global level. Those elements have to be visible and that is why I want to recall what the main principle of this new development agenda is and this is that nobody will be left behind. So if we don't translate into the ‑‑ into having the adequate data and indicators to really measure all groups in society and really make sure that everybody's visible then, of course, the basic principle of the agenda will not be fully reflected and will not be able to reflect, you know, in all these issues and whatever goes in for the monitoring of reports so that's a fundamental issue that we will have to address and addressing that basic principle of course we need to make sure the data is desegregated to the level we need to and they relate to all levels of the population. We need to make sure that the indicators are relevant to all the groups of the population. If you want to move to the next slide? Next. Now I just extracted a few of the targets where I feel, you know, there are opportunities for disability inclusive indicators and a lot of work has been undertaken we have colleagues even in our own department who have been looking at the possibility to address these targets with indicators that are disability inclusive so, again, these are some of the independent ‑‑ the targets under here and on the next slide you can see there are targets that specifically refer to persons with disability under goal ten and eleven so those are the ones where you see sort of some of the opportunity to at least cover the ones that are explicitly mentioned in the target but, again, you know, the issue of desegregation can also be applied across and other targets will be extremely important to be looked through the lens of the different groups of the population. And desegregate to the extent possible. We also have to make sure that there are some indicators that are part of the priorities that are particularly important for some of the groups of the population. So I also want to show that there is ‑‑ if you move to the last slide on the targets, yes, there is a target among the means under goal 17 refer to the need to improve the data. The capacity building to support the countries and implementation of the new development agenda and of course, when we look at the data desegregation we also look at disability as one of the elements that have to be included. But, of course, this is part of the means of implementation because we all very well aware that there is a need for capacity building in this area as many of the other areas where we need to have data at a more desegregated level. So now the challenge is on the next slide. How do we go from there? You know, all the needs we have and the challenges to really having some data on which we can base the indicators starting as soon as possible because we really would like to address and match all the targets with the indicators that we need from the very beginning. We have the main data sources of course as most of you are familiar with. A census ‑‑ population census. Household surveys. Registration systems. The data source that perhaps is more comprehensive from the point of view of covering, you know, the ‑‑ the whole population and so allows for better desegregation is the population census but those are rare and only taken every ten years so an alternative data source to be explored and hopefully will be increasingly considered over the next few years including for some of the household survey programs that are already ongoing are those household surveys that cover especially the health and demographic aspects where there is room for perhaps expanding the sample size, adding questions, etc. I just want to recall that the population census on the next slide I'm showing the recent resolution proposed on the 2020 world population program stresses the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the way the questionnaire is designed because the census of course is the key source of data to generate statistics for all groups of the population. Now I would also like to mention that a review of census of the past round has shown that out of 124 countries around the world and also the geographical distribution because it's really across all regions these 124 countries 76% have already included the recommended questions on disability and those are the question that are contained in the manual. And 32 of these countries also adapted the Washington Group short set of questions. Disability questions which I'm sure my colleague panelist, Jennifer will present. In some of these questions some were reduced but some were expanded and went well beyond the set recommended and very quickly I just want to show that some of the questionnaires on the mix survey that is the international survey program carried out by UNICEF in very large number of countries also has questions on child disability so, again, this is a tool that can be adopted and can be expand and explored even further to address some of the data challenges that I presented in the beginning. And, yeah, very quickly, if you want to go to the next steps because I appear mindful of time. Just want to show that if you click all the way down to the full slide this is the process for the preparation of the indicator framework and I think that it's important to look at this for a moment in terms of, you know, what the opportunities for dialogue, for discussion, with the experts from both the national systems and the international statistical systems from the relevant agencies and the group that is now overseeing the preparation of the work on the indicators is the interagency and expert group on SDG indicators the so called IAEG on SDGs and that group will report to the statistical commission and make a proposal for the global indicators and that's ‑‑ it's in their proposal that the expert should make sure they make the recommendations and the suggestions on what they see, you know, the space for disability inclusive indicators and last, the timeline, the proposal will be submitted to the scope commission for its next session which will be in March 2016. So the final report to the commission will be submitted by the end of the year so this is the space we have between now and the end of the year to work on the preparation of the indicators and really engage as many stakeholders as possible to collect the recommendations and suggestions and thank you very much.
>> Well, thank you very much for your remarks. And now I would like to turn to our second panelist. Dr. Jennifer. She's an associate director for science at the United States national center for health statistics and is responsible for the overall plan and development of centers data collection and analyzed program. Let me also add that she's a founding member of two U.N. sponsor initiative. The Washington Group on disability statistics and the Budapest initiative on the measurement of health statistics and she has chaired the steering committees of both groups as ‑‑ since their creation. The floor is yours.
>> Thank you. Thank you and I want to thank you organizers for inviting the Washington Group because I feel I represent that group. To present at this very important meeting. If there's one thing you remember from this presentation it is that because of the work of the Washington Group which represents national statistical offices there is now a tool to desegregate. If these questions are added to any of the surveys that will be used to monitor the indicator. So any of the population‑based indicators that are coming from surveys. If you add the short set of questions which these questions have been validated. Translated. If you do that you will be able to disaggregate any indicator. So you will be able to determine whether persons with disabilities are participating to the extent that they are not. If I be so bold to say that this is a relatively efficient easy way for countries to meet their obligations under the U.N. convention. So very briefly about the Washington Group. I would assume many have not heard about it. It is called the Washington Group because it is a city group organized under the U.N. statistical coalition and they are named after the city they meet in. The first time was in Washington but it has nothing to do with Washington. NCHS where I work has taken on the role for secretariat for the group since its inception. I think it was set up after a U.N. seminar on disability data whereas all of you know the main message there is we don't have very good data and so the statistical commission asked a set of countries if they would please address this issue and come up with a better way and the Washington Group was born. Next slide. I just want to mention that the membership of the Washington Group or national statistical offices but we work in close collaboration with other organizations interested in disability and also other NGOs. But the fact that it's a group of NSOs important because I think most of the these will come out of these offices so the fact that the statistical offices already involved in the development of this is one way to ensure that these tools will be adopted but we are statisticians and we do get kind of concerned about data quality. And we have spent a fair amount of time addressing those data quality issues. The next slide, please. The importance of standardizing data collection is that it allows you to make comparisons over time and across place and many of the problems with past information on disability is that it was not standardized but by having a standardized set it allows countries to look at their own progress, determine the extent to which they have met the objectives and to compare themselves with like countries so the standardization is important because disability like many other statistical issues is sensitive to how questions are asked and how response categories are treated so it is important if we all agree on how to ask the questions, deal with response categories how we translate that information into some kind of indicator disability if we all agree to do that in a standardized way in a sense we're speaking the same language and can do comparisons in the same way. Next slide please. You can skip this one. Now as I said disability is complicated if you do data collection the first thing you have to do is take that definition, that concept and operationalize it. The Washington Group spent several years working through how to operationalize the concept of disability so it would be able to ask questions that were valid and comparable internationally. There is no single operational definition of disability. The choices you make about how to do that operationalization will affect your outcome and I can show you multiple examples of that time does not allow it but if you're interested we can do that. So the Washington Group early on said we are going to make a decision of how we're going to approach this because we think it will give us the best data internationally and the most conceptually valid data. We will understand those choices and we will be very transparent that we are making that choice. That we are not answering all questions about disability. We are going to look in certain areas and get good information in that area and move onto try to deal with other aspects of the concept but often when we are worrying about data it turns out we're talk about different ways of operationalizing a concept and this is a particularly complicated concept. Next slide, please. So early on the Washington Group decided that it would approach this through what we were calling equalization of opportunity which turns out is similar to what you're talking about for desegregating data for the SDGs in the U.N. convention so we are defining disability status. The characteristics of a person who would be put at a greater risk of not fully participating in a society as the convention requires if accommodations are not made and so what you have then is chart as I've shown here. Our outcome is the percent employed and I'm sure that's about employment. If there is equalization of opportunity by disability status then those employed should be the same as those without a disability. We would like that percent to be quite high but what ‑‑ however high it is it should be the same within the country for those groups. When we have achieved that then persons with disabilities will have the same opportunities as those without and will be participating in the same way and you can do this graph with education, poverty, use of transportation, social activity, civic engagement. You pick and you can advocate it. The questions were written to be very straightforward so they could be asked in censuses which is the hardest place to do data collection. They can also be asked in development programs and anywhere. They don't use the word disability and they don't ask about service use. They ask about universal aspects of functioning. They are easy to administer, very straightforward. Translation is an issue. You want to make sure you get the translation right and we spent lot of time on that. I'm not going to go through the questions. Just to mention though there are six of them the first four are the most important which deal with vision, hearing, mobility and cognition but there are four answer categories not a dichotomy. If you ask these six questions with four answer categories you actually have a lot of information by which to disaggregate. On that survey you're going to ask about gender age and perhaps urban rural place of residence. You can then look at persons ‑‑ women with disabilities who are middle‑aged who happen to live in rural areas and compare them to men without disabilities who are young and live in urban areas you can cross cut. As we say slice and dice the data a lot of different ways. Next slide, please. So we are ‑‑ have the ability to look at disability as a continuum because we have various levels of functioning but we can also preset cut offs that are going to be important for us to determine whether persons with disabilities are participating at the same rate again to meet that disaggregation of the SDGs, where you make the cut off makes a huge difference and so our kind of rule of thumb is to identify people who have at least a lot of difficulty in a particular area and identify those persons as having a disability and compare them to those who do not. You will see very different differentials and outcome. But we all have to be clear and open about how we're doing the definition and agree to that in international forum and for data it's often statistical commission. And so here, again, this is creating this one dichotomy that we agreed on as a group but, again, different countries used different dichotomies. Next slide, please. Again, and I guess my take home message again is if you add these six questions to any ongoing data collection whether it's a national survey, the census, a labor force survey, a transportation survey, a housing survey, all of these as we have done in the U.S. or one of the international surveys like mix or the demographic and health surveys once they become integrated you will have a monitoring tool that you can use in an ongoing way. You will have mainstreamed the collection of an important part of disability data and you can cross classify by other key variables. Next. I will go quickly. That's the short set. The Washington Group has also done an extended set to get more domains. We have also done something on children for the mix survey and we are looking at inclusive education and I'll stop there.
>> Thank you very much for your intervention and now I would like to give the floor to the doctor who is an associate professor at Fordham University with research interest in disability, health, development and economics. The doctor is also a senior research associate with the social justice and public policy. She has published many journals. In social science and medicine and world development. Madame, the floor is yours.
>> Thank you very much for inviting me to be part of this important panel. I'm going to be continuing the conversation about disability data collection and I think the floor is perfect. I'll try and continue with the logic that was started broadly with Francesca and more narrowly with Jennifer on disability management. So ‑‑ next slide please ‑‑ so I'm going to talk about the data needs briefly as I know that I think ‑‑ the needs are well‑known and then I'll try and go over the progress that's been made in the past decade and then identify some opportunities for collecting disability data globally. Next slide. Okay. So what do we need for disability data? Well we need at the global level we need quality and comparable data to monitor countries' progress on the convention. We need ‑‑ also data to evaluation specific programs and policies for instance if your country is putting a lot of resources towards inclusive education you would want to be in a position to evaluate the policy. We also need longitudinal data. This data is data where you follow the same individuals, the same families over time. So if we have longitudinal data the advantage with respect to disability is that we can start studying the dynamics of disability. It's not a permanent status. It can vary in intensity over time. It can be associated with aging. So these are things that we have very little knowledge about especially in low and middle income countries. We need qualitative data that's complimentary to qualitative data. Not every feminine is quantifiable. I say that despite having qualitative background myself but we need to put resources towards qualitative data and participatory data. The research that's been put together by researchers and data collectors. Next slide. Now the needs are well‑known. But I think before we move onto looking forward at what more can be done to fulfill those needs, let's take a minute or two to actually acknowledge the progress that's been made and much of it in the past decade. So there has been a lot of progress in measurement. It used to be the case that we were not very good at measuring disability prevalence. It's ‑‑ disability is a very hard complex ‑‑ and complex concept. It's even harder when you move onto the applied level and try and measure it. We're in a better position now. Thanks in part to the work of the Washington Group on disability statistics which as Jennifer explained has given us some tools so collect disability data in a short set or in a long set of questions. There is also some ongoing work to measure disability among children. Some joint work of the Washington Group and UNICEF. And, finally, there is also work done as part of a model disability survey where the World Health Organization and the World Bank are leading this effort which is a complimentary effort where it's about developing a survey that is going to give very in depth information on disabilities on the environment, barriers in the environment so this is underway but this is another area where progress is ‑‑ has been made recently and is ongoing. Next slide. Now there has been also progress made because more data has been collected. For instance, the World Health Survey more than ten years ago collected data recently to develop the global disability prevalence. If you've heard the one billion one in seven disability prevalence that comes from the World Health Survey from the World Health Organization. The World Health Organization has continued this effort through the survey which is more focused to older add on then of course there's progress at the national level with a number of countries that have improved their questions on disability included by adopting the group in some organizations they have collected disability focused surveys. So, for instance, the World Bank has done a number of surveys in India, in Bangladesh with a focus on disability that provided new and useful data to profile people with disabilities in low and middle income countries so there has been progress on that front as well. All right. So what are the opportunities for global data collection? Well I see many of them but ‑‑ I see three datasets that offer major international sources of data that could be used for disability data collection. And these are the DHS, the demographic and health survey, the LSMS and the MICS. So these are well‑established survey tools they've been around for a long time. They provide sound statistics at relatively low cost. They are flexible. There's opportunity to adapt the content. Depending on the countries specific issues or priorities. And they have been used towards monitoring of the MDGs or international goals so these are the three datasets that I'm going to focus on in terms of opportunities for global and data collection. So let's start with the MICS. This is designed to collect data on children and women. It was developed by UNICEF in consultation with expert and interagency monitoring groups. It is implemented at the national level by government organizations so it's a way to build capacity. It's been collected in more than 100 countries. This was used as part of MICS but is being revised in the UNICEF Washington Group effort for children and disability statistics. Next. The demographic and health survey is another major global data collection effort and it provides national representative data on a number of issues including child health, gender, malaria, nutrition. It's funded by the U.S. agency for international development. It's been collected in many countries which you see highlighted here on this map. And is unique dataset when it come to monitoring international goals related to poverty or public health. And, finally the LSMS the living standards measurement study. This gives technical assistance to statistical offices. To design household surveys on different topics. It's been collected in dozens of countries since the 1980s. This is ‑‑ in terms of monitor ‑‑ studying economic well‑being for instance it's very in depth information collected at the household community and individual level. Okay. So for these three datasets I think they offer unique opportunities when it comes to collecting disability data. Globally. I think these ‑‑ with these datasets we have an opportunity to include systemically a short set of internationally tested disability questions. In their core questionnaires, just like we include questions on gender, age, rural and urban status we wouldn't think of connecting a survey without asking about male, female, age. In a similar way we could include the short set of questions of the Washington Group. Also, we could include occasionally special module, perhaps to have an in depth study of disability issues in a country. And, you know, depending on the country's policies the needs the interest so these three interests the DHS, MICS, with limited additional cost including a few questions in the core questionnaire, could improve technical capacity of the national statistical offices. And as well as provide some of the data that is needed to monitor international commitments such as the convention. Thank you.
>> Well, thank you.
>> (APPLAUSE).
>> Thank you for your interesting statement and now I would like to hand the microphone to our expert from the U.N. committee. The professor Kim. Apart from being a member of the CRPD, is also professor maritus and also an adjunct professor of human rights right at the University of technology in Australia. Professor Kim served as national secretary for rehabilitation international and the national human rights institute of Korea. The floor is yours.
>> Well, thank you. I won't begin by expressing my gratitude with this panel for inviting me to be a part of this program. Very comforting to sit next to a very flamboyant chair too. I tend to confine myself to the context of monitoring, the implementation with the convention. That means, I will be stressing the importance for collecting data for purposes monitoring the implementation rather than collection in a very or more traditional classical statistical sense. In article 31‑40 deal with implementation. That means fragmentation on rural reforms or legal measures are not sufficient unless they are set up by a set of data. In particular article 31 requires state party to collect data to ensure the implementation of the state's obligation to identify and address various facing persons with disabilities. Since inauguration the committee had its thirteenth session in April 2015 and reviewed 79 state reports. Quite a lot. Actually. The review on any state party begins with concentration of the prevalence of the disability and what base has been used to guide the forms and policymaking. How far invariably many state parties fail to submit facilitator, sex, age, the stereotypes and gender. And subsequently, the committee recommends them to come up with the desegregated data. By the way, we are struggling in many state parties are struggling with the term desegregated. We need some training in that area actually. National facilitator should be relevant and robust enough to serve the needs of monitoring the convention however it is most concerning to observe the overall scarce but credible data and information. The low level of data on persons with disabilities. Despite the fact that they have invariably ratified the convention with good intention to implement it. So there's an enormous gap between data and the convention. One of the major tasks in collecting this data is come to terms with the human rights based rather than over the lines on medical concept disability. Math logically this is crucial since the community needs datasets which are methodically coherent, consistent, credible for purposes of monitoring the progress of implementation or implementing the convention. However, we have to recognize the fact that disability is essentially a social construct. Which makes it inevitable to allow for wide ranging divergence in respective national definitions and, therefore, prevalence of disability. This inconsistency poses a challenge to the committee. It has to make assessment and make recommendations in a broad contextual convention. Here, one might attest the WHICF and the way of moving away from the medical or impairment motor disability and to achieve some consensus in disability data collection. Still collecting data on a particular definition with disability may not necessarily provide much information required for purpose of monitoring the convention. Apart from statistical data we need to develop indicator to assist medically, monitor the implementation. Implementing article 4 on general obligations require a systematic and desegregated database these direct stage parties to take the task of the data collection to enable them to formulate the law firms and policies and to identify address areas faced by persons with disabilities. Rising to this challenge the states have accurate data collection in a variety of areas, education, employment, income, shelter, use of social services, public amenity, infrastructure information, technology, I can go on. We have to deal with, as the professor previously mentioned the issues of qualitative and quantitative data as well. Although there is a tendency to argue for quantitative indicators even in the overall human right treaties there should be a balance of quantitative and qualitative indicators. They should be seen as complimentary to each other since some articles of the convention demand qualitative and quantitative data. For example article 8 on awareness, and ‑‑ on awareness ‑‑ excuse me. And article 12, legal capacity my require qualitative indicators while article 24 on education and also 27 work in employment may require quantitative indicators. It is not perhaps liquid data as search but recognized enormous variations from region to region as in 4.6 in Asia Pacific and Australia or EUs 17%. The simple observation like this forces me to make a plea for standardizing data collection. Such as UNESCO has done. Let us accept the mutual challenges for data collection. My concluding position is that disability collection data should be adhered to strengthening the process of implementing the convention and consistent with post‑2015 development agenda. Still we have to keep in mind the importance of maintaining the balance between quantitative and qualitative collection. There is need for data on legislative reform. Policymakers and also programs as well as other measures directed to the link of the convention. To be more specific it may be useful to adopt a twin track approach through data collection. I'm afraid a twin track has become very fashionable in many areas but the first track could be redirected to monitoring the implementation of the convention that would best reflect the overall principle and monitoring of comments with the convention. The second track is to monitor the implementation with the post‑2015 development agenda. We may have to begin with implementing the immediate task of collecting data for purposes of monitoring implementation for the post‑2015 development agenda. Once specific goals are finally adapted so these are my observations. And there are some others but effective indication should be relevant. Each understand will give you reliable and accessible principles. Thank you.
>> (APPLAUSE).
>> Thank you very much professor for your very interesting and valuable remarks and now our fifth speaker. And last before questions. Is Miss Marianne diamond. The chair of the international alliance. She has held the position at the international bodies. And committees for more than thirty years. She has spoken on behalf of civil society at a number of U.N. conferences and has presented and moderated sessions here at the United Nations events such as the commission on the status of women or CRPD committee.
>> Excellencies, distinguished guests, colleagues, I am representing the international disability alliance. Who represents and advocates and is the largest collective voice for civil society run by and for persons with disabilities. I would like to start my presentation by welcoming these very timely and important discussion on disability statistics and data collection. Today, we cannot talk only about obligations spelled out in the U.N. CRPD. But we have to seize the moment and time and work towards a U.N. CRPD implementation strengthening through the post‑2015 development agenda. Persons with disabilities will lift out of the millennium development goals and as a result the one billion strong population of persons with disabilities often remained excluded from national, regional, and global development policies and programs. Which sought to eradicate poverty. The new global agenda which intends to transform the world by 2030 needs to strengthen the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities in line with the U.N. CRPD. Consequently, the new indicator framework must be driven by measuring the progress achieved for persons with disabilities. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to call on governments, the U.N. statistical commission, and national statistic office to include persons with disabilities in consultation processes, leading to develop a new indicator framework at all levels. The interagency and expert group on sustainable development goal indicators must declare that the desegregation of data by disability is not only a priority but a principle. Lack of desegregated data but disability status is one of the significant barriers to the inclusion of persons with disabilities. In the past many quantitative instruments especially in developing countries employ methodologies that greatly undercounted persons with disabilities. Only through desegregation of data will it be possible to measure the inclusion of persons with disabilities across the development agenda and, thereby, ensure that no one is left behind. As a result, we are calling for a clear and ambitious commitment that all indicators should be desegregated by gender, disability, and age however, desegregation of data by disability is not enough in itself. In addition, to measure the progress achieved for persons with disabilities, specific indicators must be included in the framework to track key issues affecting persons with disabilities. If sustainable development goal targets will represent the aims agreed to by all U.N. member states. And I believe that it is essential that the indicators clearly measure the targets in full. As such, the recognition of the specific challenges faced by persons with disabilities in the targets should be reflected in the indicators therefore all targets which reference persons with disabilities must be matched with an indicator. In addition, there are a number of targets that we'll need a disability specific indicator if they are to inform effective policy solutions and ensure no one is left behind. These include indicators on poverty, eradication, target 1.1, access to health services, target 3.8. Access to primary and secondary school. 4.1. Elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls five point two and access to safe and affordable drinking water. Target 6.1. Data collection and interpretation is important in order to make educated decisions, design policies that address challenges and gaps within society. The U.N. CRPD provides guidance on the collection of ‑‑ and maintenance of appropriate information including statistical and research data on persons with disabilities. It even goes further and it stipulates a number of safeguards that must be compiled within the collection and use of statistics. These include legal established safeguards such as legislation on data protection, confidentiality and respect of privacy of persons with disabilities as well as ethical principles and accessed norms to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms. Accordingly many member states who have ratified the U.N. CRPD have some kind of mechanism in place to collect data on disability. The new post post‑2015 development agenda will only strengthen the progress we need to achieve for person with disabilities. Let me emphasize we recognize the real challenges faced by the national statistic offices to fully desegregate data. We believe that the post‑2015 development agenda should set out a progressive agenda for statistical collection and analysis. In addition, the Washington Group on disability statistics recommends that principles and standard forms of indicators of disability be developed and used in census. This has been endorsed by the statistical commission which is ‑‑ and recommends to all member states. To include these who have not ratified the CRPD. Further, there is recent advances in the methods of identifying persons with disabilities in census, surveys, and administrative data systems that have improved the ability to develop, monitor, and evaluate priorities aimed at promoting inclusion at an internationally comparable way. Data collection and desegregation of data is possible and of course to the Washington Group a growing number of population has questions of rounds of disability. Finally, let me elaborate briefly on an emerging new concept the data partnership. Currently, national statistical offices have concerns about working with civil society organizations on data collection. Critics assert that civil society organizations do not have the same standards and their methodology is questionable, therefore, data they produce are often misleading. It is clear that the new global agenda will significantly multiply the work of national statistical offices and evaluate their role in society all stakeholders recognize and emphasize that the implementation of the post‑2015 framework will need collective efforts at all levels. Therefore, it is time to stop fearing data partnerships instead, civil society organizations and national statistical offices should address the underlying issues and work together. Proper governance, proper mechanisms for collecting data aligned with the work of the NGOs and DPOs with the guiding principles of the national statistic office is the solution. Civil society including organizations of persons with disabilities cannot only contribute to data collection but they are very often the source of data themselves. These should ‑‑ we should include opportunities for organizations of persons with disabilities to engage as active contributors. At the same time reflecting the guiding principles of the disability movement. Nothing about us without us. We are ready for data partnerships. Thank you.
>> (APPLAUSE).
>> Thank you very much for your speech and sharing with us civil society perspective. Well, ladies and gentlemen, this concludes the list of panelists for today. I would like to express my thanks for keeping with the time limits and this gives us about thirty minutes for questions and answers. The whole point of the conference is to have a dialogue between the panelist and the distinguished delegates so now I open the floor. Who would like to start. Our debate. Our discussion with questions? I see that the first is representative of Nepal.
>> Thank you, chair, first of all I would like to thank the speakers for their wonderful speech. Data collection is very important in order to fulfill and implement policies to give full effect to the convention. In Nepal, we have national data act but some age related projects collect separate data for the projects and later when we compare data collected from a different source we cannot compare. So it's important to see the national authorities of the data collection. Due to the recent earthquake in Nepal around 17,000 people are disabled. The number is increasing and the real data is yet to come and if we are able to get the exact data due to this earthquake from the disabled people then it will be very easy for us to plan. So data collection is really important and I hope the international community will have its fellow support for us. Thank you.
>> Thank you very much. If you will allow me I will take three or four questions. So now I would like to give the floor to my colleagues from the European Union.
>> Okay. Mr. President, improving data collection of disability related statistics, it's periodicity and comparability is one of the priorities of the European Union strategy. Currently Europeans are identifying persons with disabilities in the level of functioning and experience. This data is also regularly collected in relation to employment, and poverty reduction. This data shows up between persons with disabilities and those without. Now here come my question. Particular efforts have been undertaken to gather data barriers encountering with persons with disabilities for social acceptance and did we would like to ask the panel if they can give us examples of methodological guidance on the barriers encountered zero and how to gather data on human rights based questions. In ‑‑ so that we can get more information on the barriers encountered on each of the rights of the convention. Thank you.
>> Now Canada.
>> Thank you to all the panelists for sharing their knowledge on this very important subject today. Canada recognizes the importance of collecting data and particularly desegregated data on persons with disabilities that can be used to monitor the progress of initiatives aimed at those with disabilities. Over the past 30 years, Canada has used a number of surveys to collect disability related data. In 2010 the government of Canada launched the information strategy to better help the disability community. Under this strategy the 2012 survey was developed. Data was Canadians aged fifteen years or older who experienced a limitation in their daily activities. Data collected from the survey are used to develop a number of analytical products. For example, a profile of persons with disability was recently developed that includes sociodemographic characteristics such as age, sex, education, employment and disability characteristics such as severity of disability the use of aids and assistive devices and barrier to transportation. Since 2013 the new questions of capacity are included in surveys among the general population. Thus a general information on persons with disabilities can be done at more frequently. This also enables us to establish direct comparisons between persons with disabilities and other groups within the population for each of the surveys. The Canadian government is currently studying the possibility of incorporating questions ‑‑ the ability and capacity into the other survey in 2016 in order to survey Canadians with disabilities. More work is underway for 2017 too. Thank you.
>> Thank you very much and now I will give the floor to Turkey.
>> Thank you Mr. Chair. First of all as the representative of the Republic of Turkey I would like to express that these statistics was put on the agenda of the 8th session of states parties of CRPD and plenary sessions at international and national levels. This is based on the principles of recognizing disability rights as an integral part of disability rights in all fields of life without facing any discriminatory facets. This can only be possible through the service provisions. It's significant to adopt a holistic approach in policymaking and service prohibition regarding disability both at national and international level and also to obtain this data for monitoring purposes. Being aware of these problems and significance of international cooperation, we carry out a project titled supporting the CRPD in cooperation with U.N. in the last two years as part of this project activities we develop indicators sets on eight priority areas on persons with disabilities that will facilitate the monitoring of information process with the cooperation of public institutions, civil society organizations and academics. In the light of these indicators and question sets we aim at getting this in order to set up a systematic system. This was in the housing survey which was carried out by the Turkish national statistical institute in 2011. The question of this model were based on ICF and United Nations lead Washington Group recommendation and then from the coordination from the focal point of Turkey and the Turkey statistical institute. Despite all these efforts Turkey still work to address outstanding challenges with regard to obtaining reliable data. Lack of understanding the importance of desegregated data and neglect of mainstreaming. I believe this in this field of disability will a fruitful result of leadership of the United Nations and finally I hope that this meeting will shed light on permanent solutions. I thank all participants.
>> Thank you very much and now I would like to give the floor to representative of Chile.
>> Thank you very much. Yes, I wish to thank the participants and experts that are here for their outstanding presentations on the technicals a pecks and the work that they do. It is important to have updated data that is reliable indeed this would enable us to know whether we are in fact making progress and implementing public policy, fostering the inclusion of persons with disabilities of course that's very important. And with regard to the WHO model of disability survey together with the World Bank we, as a country with respect to that we have adopted this instrument. It's an important tool and it helps us to have a very reliable picture and have a reference point on the characteristics and to see whether we have made progress and how fast we have compared with other countries. And to see whether we need additional services and another comment I have, I wonder how the participants, the speakers here, see the aspect of prevalence and characterization of disability, how they see the participation of civil society in that respect. In our instrument, more than one thousand eight hundred members of civil society participated in picking out the themes and we ‑‑ the slogan nothing about us without us. We have strongly advocated this and there's a technical aspect where civil society should ‑‑ we, in fact, went to civil society in the firsthand to have their input and we hope that we will be I believe to share this experience with all other countries here to share the methodology that we have adopted in this respect with that instrument. Thank you.
>> Thank you very much for your question and comment and now Guatemala.
>> Good afternoon. I wish to thank the speakers here for providing this information and laying out the issues on this matter which is one of the main needs and countries of the world but especially in countries lacking the resources in order to conduct national censuses, surveys on disability. That would be very useful for formulating public policy. Yesterday our chairperson ‑‑ our president noted that in Guatemala, like in my other countries we have official registries on disability. In my country, the most up‑to‑date info deals ‑‑ dates back to 2006. And so I wonder whether especially the colleague who referred to the proposal of the Washington Group, with the Christopher mission which is an organization that deals with the Washington group. These two are working together for the coming year and we hope that here we can give a clear message to our governments to provide due support to this kind of collaboration and for international organizations to provide the necessary support in this respect because this type of data as was indicated will be very useful for the formulating of public policies. Now on article 31 of the convention, which relate to data on disability, here, too, there should be clarity about those countries that have possibilities for cooperation with other nations that are disadvantaged. It's not that we don't want to implement such efforts. It's that it's a matter of capacity and so perhaps countries that have a greater capacity and this cooperation would be useful in this respect because when we talk about cooperation in our countries, we regularly hear that the issue of disability is not included in such efforts. So it would be useful to for ‑‑ the assembly to appeal to governments. To look into providing support to these other nations. Thank you.
>> Thank you very much for your question. It looks like we have fifteen minutes and five questions so to give our chance to the panelists to answer your questions and comments I will ask if you can limit to two minutes. Now Malta.
>> Thank you. This is an effective tool and therefore, it is certain to say that without reliable empirical data we cannot ensure that we are targeting or sufficiently engaging persons with disability and even more so subgroups of disability which are potentially more vulnerable than others in having to face multiple discrimination due to the concurrence of various factors. Malta welcomes the state of the European Union calling for integrated data collection from 2010‑2020 and we totally agree that this is a far cry and this requires concrete action not only at EU level but also the global level under the lead of the U.N. itself. This not only to ensure the data is collected but that it is collected accurately to ensure that the convention is truly being implemented and, therefore, for serving as a monitoring tool. In this regard Malta is setting up a national database for the visibility sector which already administered by the initial service provider and therefore in the position to have a tracer study on each and every person to ensure continuity. Therefore not only having data but also qualitative data including narratives of persons with disability themselves which will also render us in a better position to target specific needs and tailor made policies and services. Also following the launch of our policy in 2004 the strategy requires collection on each and every pillar to ensure they are targeting the affected sectors and under this mechanism in place you will be in a position to monitor the progress of the implementation in realtime and instantly identify the barriers and shortcomings of this whole exercise. We, therefore, welcome and encourage more data sharing between all parties concerned to ensure that the lives of persons with disabilities are improved on a global level and the rights are respected. Thank you.
>> Thank you very much and I will immediately go to you. You may take the floor.
>> You have the floor.
>> The floor is yours.
>> My name is Chris. And I'm president for the legion of the blind I'm from Nigeria. I've been listening to all of this. In Nigeria we have two million people who are disabled. That is according to the data we have from the census. It's all the same. Where people have a lot of challenges. But we're trying our best to see how we can bring these people together. People who are challenged in order to see how we can help them out. So all the information we got out here is really very relevant. To see how we can go in order to implement it in Nigeria. Thank you so much.
>> Thank you very much for your statement and now Australia.
>> Thank you Mr. Chairman. The government is committed to playing a national and international role in supporting people with disabilities including through our international development programs. We believe that without data it is too easy for decision makers to overlook the inclusion of persons with disabilities in policies and programs and makes it impossible to benchmark data globally. We want to improve the data analysis. In Australia we've been collecting comprehensive national data for about 30 years and in recent years we've increased our efforts by increasing the data collection to every three years. Australia strongly supports disability inclusive development and we want to highlight that this data has significant barriers to inclusion. Australia supports action on improved data and analysis by encouraging the use of the Washington Group question set. Australia has this week entered into a new partnership with the Washington Group to provide technical training to national statistic officers. We entered into a new partnership with the United Nations statistical division to fund the establishment of a new statistics team. We look forward to working with other member state to identify solutions for challenges faced in integrating the Washington Group questions international data collection programs. Given the growing profile in support of this issue at this conference I would like to know from the panel what's the one thing that they want to be able to report back as an achievement as next year's conference.
>> Thank you very much for a very interesting ‑‑ strangely interesting question. Now I would like to give the floor to representative of VENWATU.
>> Thank you Mr. Chair for emphasizing the importance of data collection. In the census disability was not one of the questions where the results showed that 12% of the population have some form of disability. The Ministry of Health contacted the latest survey and in 2014 is ministry of justice and community services contacted the disability survey. In 2014 the UNICEF in collaboration with the statistics office used the above report to see the monograph. The report shows that only 5% of the population have some form of disabilities my question is why the discrepancies of the census and the disability monograph. This will assist us in the development of the national disability survey which will inform policy development, program development and the implementation of the CRPD article 31 strategy. To make the right move for persons with disabilities. Thank you.
>> Thank you very much for your statement and the last is representative of India.
>> Thank you. Not the least I hope. Thank you for those very interesting presentations. My two questions are for Ms. Jennifer one is the statutory definitions like in India we have seven categories but it's only recognized when it's to the extent of 40% so how does your set of questions address that. Secondly right now for instance we have demands that these are declared as a disability. So how does the set of questions take into account these kind of disorders which are not reflected in those questions. Thank you.
>> Thank you very much ladies and gentlemen. I don't have any other requests for intervention so now I will ask our members of the panel to answer the questions and maybe we will go now with the reverse order starting with Miss Diamond and please choose the questions or comments or remarks to comment and we will go with the reverse order. The floor is yours.
>> Okay, I will be very brief thank you. Thank you thanks for all the information gathered by the comments made by you. I found that very interesting. I was going to use Australia as an example of a country that has done a lot of work in collecting data and in our country we have one in five persons living with disabilities. So because of our extensive data collection over many years we found the number has increased now you might think that's a bad thing but it's the reality. It's a good thing because then our policies and programs can be developed and based on using the principles of universal design to make everything accessible to the greatest number of people but that has been a successful program and because it's been over many years. In answer to my Australian colleague's question what I would like to see in a year's time I would like to see in March next year a post‑2015 development agenda include desegregation of data by disability, age, and gender and determining what indicators are finalized and that is done in consultation with persons with disabilities and their organizations but I will leave my other panelists to answer the remaining questions because of time.
>> Thank you very much.
>> Thank you, Chair, I want to give two brief comments. I just want to echo what Marianne said about data partnership. I want to make comment that the experience with data collection has been controlled ‑‑ I don't want to say controlled dominated by highly trained statistician. It's daunting for ordinary persons with disabilities to be part of a data collection. So it's an open challenge for us to ensure persons with disabilities do make contribution as actors not just merely respondent to questionnaires and things like that and commenting on the Chile representative on resource implications and Australian representation mentioned three parts of data collection. I know many developing countries postpone data collection or delay the frequency of a data collection because of the cost involved. This is where your ‑‑ you can make use of article 32, international cooperation under the ring of technical assistance. I know some countries have used that so that we really have to use all sorts of opportunities available to under convention to make sure that international cooperation does work and we transfer resources or enable countries with the resource difficulties to be able to come up with being able to collect the data they need for purposes of monitoring. Thank you.
>> Thank you very much. Professor and now I will go to the doctor. The floor is yours.
>> So for a year from now I would like to see that the global surveys ‑‑ so the ones that I described before so the DHS and others commit to the questions in the core questionnaire. Yeah.
>> Thank you. And now Dr. Jennifer. Please.
>> I second Sophie's wish. For next year. We've been talking a lot about data desegregation and I want to address some of the other questions saying we need to talk about data collection desegregation. There are various ways that countries get information about disability and that is appropriate and should continue. There is no one set of questions or one approach what I think we want to make distinctions about though is data we are collecting that we are collecting far purpose we're doing that in an international context and where the data collection has to be focused on the ability to have comparable data. Countries will do their own data collections to meet the these of their own countries like Canada, the U.S., Australia, many other countries have long data collection histories and will continue to do so and those should be targeted to the particular needs of the country. That does not preclude countries from also collecting information from would be used in an international comparable way to monitor the convention or to monitor the SDGs and what the Washington Group has tried to do is present tools that actually are quite cheap in the data collection world this is quite cheap and I don't think it's too much to ask all countries to invest a little bit. Now, I only can talk about the short set the Washington Group is also working with the NSOs but also disabled persons organization, civil society to go further, to look at extended sets of questions that get more information and particularly to look at the barriers question. Now some barriers cross cut all kinds of domains. Some are specific to domain such as education or employment. And UNICEF has partnered with the Washington Group to develop inclusive education models. We are working on unemployment module so I think that work is going and will come. To answer my colleague from India, countries that have specific legal definitions will probably have to collect that information through their own data collection. It doesn't translate. Sometimes you can make it work. Sometimes you can't. In the U.S. we found a way. We tried to incorporate that by adding questions to the core. About diabetes, very quickly, we do not want to make the collection of disability data about conditions. Many people have diabetes and it has no impact on their functioning. When it start to have impact when it's mobility or something else then we pick them up it is not necessary to get information about the cause. In order to deal with the implication of that disease through functional limitation and then through inclusion and improved quality of life for all people.
>> Thank you very much. And the last one. Francesca.
>> Thank you Mr. Chair. I would like to address the issue that was mentioned about the leadership of the U.N. and I think the leadership in this particular case lies with statistical commission. The U.N. statistical commission. I think think will play a very important role in this area of work forward and we, in the statistics division have a tremendous opportunity now thanks to the partnership with the government of Australia because we'll be able to have a full team with resources of this area of work for the development of guidelines that are very much needed as we heard but also to create this partnership with countries and provide some technical assistance at least starting to provide technical assistance and workshops, etc., engaging the national statisticians and the last issue I would like to mention is the fact that yes, civil society has to engage, has to be involved and we've seen that, you know, with the work of the development of the indicators framework is very important. It's crucial that they come on board and fully involved in the selection ‑‑ and the discussion around indicators. Thank you.
>> Thank you very much ladies and gentlemen. It looks like I have one minute so I will suggest that my very far reaching and ground break summary of the debate will be put to the records and will be available to all the ‑‑ to all of us. And I would like to use this one or thirty seconds to express thank to all the panelists and all the people who participated in the debate with question, remarks, comments, I think this was very deep and engaging debate. Very, very important exchange of experiences and let me conclude with one sentence will impart new ways of thinking about the approach that should be taken when considering the rights of persons with disabilities and the challenges of the data gathering. Ladies and gentlemen, thank you very much. And we are meeting tomorrow 10 a.m. in this room and, well, so this concludes this part of the session. Thank you very much. Again.
>> (APPLAUSE).