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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)

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>> Please take seats. Please take seat. Ladies and gentlemen, please take seat. I call to order the second meeting. Please take your seats. Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, we will continue the general debate under item 5a of the agenda. I was informed we still have a rather long speakers inscribed and we are behind our schedule and as your president I would appreciate all speakers observing the 3 minute limit for your statements. That way you will help all of us and this is not just the inscribed list of speakers within the timeframe. With this, I would like to invite her excellency, minister of foreign affairs of Estonia.
>> Mr. President, excellencies, distinguished members of delegation and civil society Estonia aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union and would like to offer some additional remarks in our national capacity. Everybody has the right for self realization and thereby, for happiness and well‑being. Nobody deserves to suffer hunger or need. Disabled persons are one of the risk groups for poverty as they often have to cope with a significant to lower income than the rest of the population. Instead of wages and salaries their main source of income is often social allowances and pensions and encouraging, enabling people with disabilities to work. Helps them to emerge from poverty. Throughout war and regaining independence Estonia has been attentive to the rights of persons with disabilities. The general awareness about the rights of disabled persons has significant rise in the recent years. The problematic publics are being widely discussed which certainly provides solid ground for the best possible solutions. However, the statistical data proves that much still remains to be done to improve the standards of disabled persons. And this is why the Estonian newly formed government has put the concern of widespread poverty among disabled people high on our agenda. We are about to undergo reform which is to disabled persons more integrated into the labor market and the reform is aiming to provide better labor market services to improve the employment possibilities for persons with disabilities. Also educational structure has to be adjusted accordingly inclusive education is one of the principle preconditions ensuring equal opportunities for people with disabilities and in entering the labor market. Thus, the government has set focus on promoting a smooth transition of young people with disabilities to educational training and then to the labor market. This would be supported by a combination of social work together with various forms of social entrepreneurship. Now in order to make better decisions, precise data, and the information is always needed, on the national level, statistic boards of Estonia and the minister of social affairs are the two main institutions that collect respective data and conduct special analysis and also regular researches. And just to give you an example, the minister of social affairs in Estonia is about to conduct a periodic survey on disabled persons and the care burden of their family members which allows us to monitor and also evaluate the information concerning the current situation of persons with disabilities in Estonia. So we are monitoring the progress but also the shortcomings of implementing the convention and we will use this information to take appropriate actions to meet the obligations under the convention. The ratification of convention has provided a new item for Estonia for inclusion of persons with disabilities in social life. Let me stress that we strongly support the idea that disability matters. Must be addressed in an effective way in the post‑2015 development agenda we should all aim towards the goal of the convention to promote, protect, and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all person with disabilities and to promote respect for their inherent dignity. Thank you.
>> (APPLAUSE).
>> I thank you for your statement. And I now give the floor to her excellency, the state secretary for equal opportunities and persons with disabilities of Belgium.
>> Thank you very much Mr. Chair. Belgium is pleased to share with you the stake to further implement the United Nations convention on the rights of persons with disability. The first Belgium report has been examined in September 2014. Dialogue between members of the Belgium delegation was constructive and the final observation as well as alternative reports of civil society and of the independent mechanism reserve as guidelines for the further implementation of the further CRPD in Belgium. We align ourselves with the statement of the European Union. This year, again, important topics are on the agenda and we would like to share the following views. With regard to poverty reduction, recent Belgian studies indicate that more than one out of three persons with disabilities who receive benefits are living below the European poverty threshold. In line with the mainstreaming principle also known as handy streaming it's aimed at combatting poverty should integrate the context of persons with disabilities including among others expenses, mobility issues and other factors at all stages of their lives. For persons with disability means access to education, adaptive housing and employment. Persons with disabilities not only risk living in poverty, they are also often excluded from society due to lack of access to places, information, and services and they face multiple and intersecting form of discrimination. This is even more so for women and girls who are twice as likely than women without disabilities at risk of becoming victims of violence. Later this week a panel debate will address this. There's sexual and reproductive health rights including the right to family planning for women with disabilities. Social protection is a priority for Belgium in the post‑2015 development agenda in this context, Belgium organized in April this year in cooperation with the international labor organization a conference on the team social protection in the post‑2015 development agenda. To make a clear case for the important role, social protections placed in all policies. Investing in social protection for all including persons with disabilities makes economic sense. When people are allowed to actively participate in society, they make a positive and meaningful contribution. Social protection for all must remain a priority in the implementation of the development agenda at the national and international level. With regard to drafting of the global development agenda for post‑2015 Belgium welcomes the work carried out to ensure appropriate inclusion of persons with disabilities and by showing respect for conventions principles. The maximum number of objectives integrate the disability perspective. We need, therefore, to commit ourself to ensure that the context of persons with disability is taken into account and the implementation of these objectives. Monitoring those objectives in the field of education, employment, poverty reduction, urban development of gender. It is essential to integrate these objectives subject to regular review. Mr. Chair, to make the agenda truly inclusive of persons with disabilities let me highlight three guiding principles. One, let us make better use of data. We need to consolidate the participation of civil society in a structured way and, three, let us strengthen international cooperation pursuant to article 32 of the convention. Mr. Chair, Belgium looks forward to future debate on furthering the rights of persons with disabilities. My delegation will be in two side panel events this week. Thank you for your attention.
>> (APPLAUSE).
>> I thank secretary of Belgium for her statement and now give the floor to the primary representative of the United Arab.
>> Thank you Mr. Chairman, at the outset I would like to thank you and thank the members of the bureau for organizing this meeting and I extend my congratulations for the elected members of the committee for all wishes for success in the future. We meet this year as the international preparation for outlining a comprehensive development agenda are being finalized. In this context we believe that we have an important opportunity to direct global attention to the issue of persons with disabilities and approaches to ensure that this issue is given serious attention at all spheres of development at the national, regional and international levels. Persons with disabilities constitutes 15% of the world's population and must be integrated in the development process but with their own communities and globally. That is why we affirm the support of disability shows in all aspects of the post‑2015 development agenda. And supports efforts to advance the issue by undertaking the political commitments. We call for greater participation of people with disabilities in decision‑making. You, in the constitution ensures the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities to live in dignity as equal citizens without fear of discrimination. Article 12 of the federal law number 29 of 2016 amended by the federal law number 14 of 2009 stipulates that disability as such does not constitute any barrier to admission to any education institution whether public or private. The efforts have been focused on the provision of equal opportunities for persons with disabilities in all fields. Including education, employment, social participation, and so on. These collaborative efforts have started to yield tangible results in terms of raising awareness and improving the conditions of persons with disabilities across the country. For example, within the past five years the number of students with disabilities who have been fully integrated in mainstream schools has doubled and persons with disabilities are increasingly engaged in meaningful employment in public and private sectors. These efforts strengthen the commitment to implementing holistic programs as specified in the CRPD. Our commitment to ensuring that persons with disabilities are included in all aspects of life. We have taken on more international legal obligations and in the process of ratifying the convention on the rights of persons with disabilities signing its optional protocol and joining the treaty for the blind. We find that this is gaining momentum and much wider support through all segments of our society. The institutions lead by the federal ministries and local executive councils are taking all the legislative steps to implement the provisions of the international convention on the rights of persons with disabilities in accordance with global standards. These efforts will be highlighted during the side events that we are sponsoring this week. For example, policies for empowerment and effective inclusion of persons with disabilities are now an integral part of key national and local strategies such as the UAE version 2021 Abu Dhabi 2030 and the strategy plan 2021. All of these efforts stem from the UAE leaderships decision to move from a culture of social care to a culture of social development. In this regard the cabinet has recently approved national plan for persons with disabilities in order to further enhance inclusion of the rights in the national development agenda and with the aim of UAE becoming a leader in barrier free developments. Our rights for persons with disabilities extend beyond our national borders. As part of our commitment to the CRPD we join nations from around the world in constructive dialogue. We have global conferences on these issues. And our own issues as the world mobile hospital demonstrate our commitment to the programs that raise the quality of life of persons with disabilities at home and around the world. In conclusion, I am pleased to reaffirm the commitment of our leadership to ensure that the UAE continue to advance the principles of the CRPD through sustained local regional and global efforts. The circulated copy of this statement contains more information on the initiatives taken by the UAE to fully implement the convention and transform us into the most disability friendly inclusive country in the world. Thank you for your attention.
>> (APPLAUSE).
>> I thank representative for our statement. I would like to appeal to all speakers to shorten their statement because we have more than 60 speakers left and we only have two and a half hours so if someone speaks long that means that the last ones will not have time to speak so please keep three‑minute time limit when you make statement please. I'd like to give the floor to the representative of the European Union.
>> Mr. President. I have the honor to speak on behalf of the European Union. This is a key year for the implementation for the convention. In line with article 36 of the convention the rights of persons with disabilities will consider a report in August and preparations are well on their way. Currently with the list of response to the issues identified. The report that was sent last June was complimented by eight reports with information from civil society organizations including European level organizations of persons with disabilities. They're the EU report contains examples of importance in initiatives contributing to EU. For example, the compulsory character of accessibility in the revised procurement legislation. The support with the transition to the community based services that require the respect of the convention. A constructive dialogue was held during the annual work forum in April this year on implementation of the convention in EU. Between the focal point representatives of the member organizations of the EU framework, EU national focal points, monitory mechanisms on the issues they raise in their reports. The work forum provided an excellent opportunity to discuss challenges and propose suggestions for improvements. In addition two formal meetings were held to discuss the regional integration of the convention and, second, the construction and functioning of the EU framework. Both meetings were aimed as preparations for a successful dialogue with the committee. The concluding observations of the committee will come in September. At a very timely moment. Halfway through the implementation of the European disabilities strategy 2010‑2020. The strategy is complimented by national and regional strategies and plans. Both EU and member states are part of the convention and the three member states that have not yet ratified the convention are expected to finalize the ratification process soon. This year, 2015 is the European year for development. This that context EU continue to pay attention paid to those with disabilities and will continue to do so in the post development framework. We welcome the progress achieved making reference to disability when dealing with key goals and recognizing the needs to gather the data. In relation to that, a flagship project is under preparation. To support the effort of a number of lower income middle countries to implement the CRPD through the capacity government and organizations. In addition, discussions are ongoing to explore the possibilities of these project to contribute to monitor the implementation of the CRPD in the context of achieving the sustainable development goals. It is suspected that the project will begin in 2016. This project is the commitment to the convention and to the willingness to fulfill the new obligations sharing knowledge and resource to that end. Let me finish by indicating how relevant the topics selected for the 8th conference to advance on the implementation of the convention. This will spell out EU actions on the statistics and risk. And are complimented by the side event that we organized today together with the European disability forum on disability inclusive fairness and response. Thank you for your attention.
>> (APPLAUSE).
>> I thank representative of the your pane union and now Japan.
>> Thank you very much, Mr. President. Let me begin by congratulating you on assuming the presidency of this important conference. I'll keep my three minutes time limit. I will speak only the salient points and circulate the full text to the members later. Negotiations on post‑2015 development agenda are now underway. Japan strongly supports the idea that the post‑2015 development agenda should stand upon human centered approach of leave no one behind. Which we believe leads to the concept of human security. This inclusive approach is crucial for sustainable development. At the third U.N. world conference on disaster risk reduction held on Sunday. This much. Prime minister expressed his intention to work on disaster work reduction as persons with disabilities with active participation. According to the U.N. secretariat they gave this wide range of accessibility to persons with disability among those held in national conferences. Total of 200 persons with disability participated at the conference. We welcome the theme chosen by you, namely, mainstreaming the rights of persons with disabilities in the post‑2015 development agenda. We are also pleased to find references to persons with disabilities throughout the report of the open working group on the sustainable development goals which was agreed upon in July last year. The 0 draft of the outcome document for the U.N. summit of September was recently circulated among member states. It also includes references to persons with disabilities. We believe it is important to keep these references in the final outcome documents. In order to realize the mainstreaming of persons with disabilities in the field of development it is essential that persons with disabilities are themselves. Empowered to become independent. And autonomous members of the society. They should also ‑‑ participate as contributing agents in governance at all levels including local, state, and international. Mr. President, allow me to share with you one example of participating in policy planning by persons ‑‑ with disabilities. Which is crucial for realizing the mainstreaming of persons with disabilities. Today, professor June who is blind, sits behind me as a member of my delegation. He's the chairperson of the commission on policy for persons with disabilities which is Japan's monitoring mechanism set up in accordance with the convention on the rights of persons with disabilities. Half of the members of the Japanese commission are themselves, persons with disabilities, or have family members who is disabilities. Mr. President, the call for realization of an inclusive society in which persons with disabilities can participate has been increasing in recent years. In response, my delegation is cosponsoring various side events this week with the foundation. We have just concluded a side event during the lunch period when ‑‑ where we discussed the participation in the U.N. conferences like today's accessibility and the other problems. They found out this room for at least in the U.N. headquarters is best equipped for persons with disabilities. With these words I thank you very much, Mr. President.
>> (APPLAUSE).
>> I thank representative of Japan for his statement. And I'll give the floor to the representative of Chile.
>> Thank you, chair. Chile would like to express our thanks to the 8th conference including the human rights perspective of persons with disabilities in the post development agenda. And recent ‑‑ this is extremely important issue for the delegation especially for those who make up the committee of the elimination of all forms of discrimination under the organization of American states. With an enormous amount of work to eliminate all forms of discrimination. Sir, I would like to point out that as a country, here in the United Nations we've stressed the huge debt that we have with persons with disabilities. A debt to which in the current government program of our president, they're working hard to confront structural historic discrimination against persons with disabilities. The most difficult point of this is rendering the crosscutting issue of disability. Joint work that we're carrying out with the various entities of the state and incorporating the disability variable although there's a public policy is vital bolstering institutionality, seeking the creation of a new organ which is the under the secretariat for disability will undoubtedly be a key body at the national level with particular capacity to promote the issue of the rights of persons with disabilities. The work that we carry out to link to normative adjustment with a view to adapting our internal framework of legislation and standardization being in line with the convention on persons with disabilities also a key element. Together with ongoing social dialogue, and we believe in dialogue. We've been carrying dialogue out therefore by the end of this year we'll be issuing the second study to collate data to allow us to come into line with the convention on persons with disabilities and it states ‑‑ so we can evaluate how much progress has been made in terms of inclusion. We need proper measuring tools to do this. As one key factor that needs to be highlighted is to highlight local development as a substantive development. Sign social contracts to allow us to include local strategies where the territories can play their part to guarantee inclusive spaces and to turn this issue into a priority. So once again I thank you again for this opportunity to share some of the actions that we've been carrying out as a state. And this statement will be submitted and posted and we offer all technical assistance that might be required. Thank you.
>> (APPLAUSE).
>> Thank you, Chile. Now the representative of Canada.
>> Mr. President, distinguished delegates, it is an honor for me to represent Canada. Canada's proud of its long‑standing commitment to persons with disabilities and supports the work done on the post‑2015 development agenda including efforts for the inclusion of persons with disabilities. Domestically we improve the labor market of persons with disabilities. For example, the government of Canada has supported Canadian business sensibility. An organization created by business leaders to promote the advantages of promoting people with disabilities. Another example is The Province of British Columbia's assistive technology program. The government of Canada also provides financial security for persons with disabilities through various savings programs and tax measures. The registered savings plan is a long‑term savings plan to help persons with disabilities and their families save for the future. Since December 2008, over one thousand plants have been established into which the government has paid 1.3 million dollars. Together with earn e earnings, as sets held are worth ‑‑ I will continue in French for one minute. The Canadian government collects data on persons with disabilities and has been doing so for more than thirty years through a number of surveys in 2010 the government of Canada developed a new strategy on data and frequent information for researchers, governments of all levels, the disability community and to the public in general. Mr. President, I'd like to stress the fact that Canada will become one of the first countries of the G 7 to become a part of the treaty once enforced will give Canadians with print disabilities, create opportunities to fully participate in social and economic aspects of society. I look forward to working with the representatives of fellow member states to share best practices and work together towards the common goal of building an inclusive society for all. Thank you.
>> I thank the representative of Canada for her statement. And now give the floor to the representative of Czech Republic.
>> Dear Mr. Chairman, excellencies, dear participants. It is an honor to represent the Czech Republic on the 8th session. To do our CRPD. At ‑‑ at outset I would like to stress that the Czech Republic government overall policy is based on human rights at international and national level to persons with disabilities are not perceiving as mere passive recipients of benefits. They are considered as individuals making demands on equal rights. The Czech Republic is making efforts to double up policies that aim at full and equal participation of person with disabilities in the economic and in society empowerment and promotion of active citizenship of those persons. I would like to inform you about progress which has been made in the Czech Republic since the last Conference of State Parties. Firstly, early this year the Czech Republic underwent its first dialogue with the U.N. committee on the rights of persons with disabilities. Where our initial report on measures taking to give effect to obligation under the convention has been thoroughly considered. We sincerely appreciated opportunity provided by this fruitful and constructive dialogue. And look forward to following up in more detail on several issues raised including recommendations which require more detail, more in depth consideration of existing legal provisions. The context of their application as well as the existing jurisprudence of the European courts of human rights. We believe the transparency of the review would have been farther enhanced by a more comprehensive list of issues prior to the review. We thank two members of the committee under persons with disabilities for their commitment to improving the lives of persons with disabilities in the Czech Republic. Secondly, a very important step forward to improve the situation of the persons with disabilities in the Czech Republic. I would like to underline the adoption of a new disability strategy, national plan on promoting equal opportunities for persons with disabilities 2015‑2020 and interdepartmental task force composed of representatives of the ministries expert and the representatives of DPOs defending the interests of persons with disabilities had been set up to develop the plan. This plan since 1992 was approved by the Czech government in May 2015. Both the contents and the structure of the national plan are based on the very same general principles as the CRPD. Most notably the creation of equal and nondiscriminatory environment for persons with disabilities. In reference to the individual articles of the convention and with respect to the principle of progressive implementation, additional plan is divided into chapters dealing with equal treatment and prevention against discrimination, awareness‑raising activities, accessibility of buildings, transport and routes. Access to justice accreditation before the law. Independent living. Personal noble. Education. Health care and health. Rehabilitation, employment, social security and social protection statistical data and monitoring evaluation of implementing measures of the national plan besides a quotation of the relevant articles of the convention each chapter contains a concise description of the existing situation and a group of fixed term and continuous measures. Goals to be achieved by these measures. As well as an indication of the ministry or relevant ministry in charge of their implementation.
>> Would you please wrap up your statement?
>> Yes. Yes. I would like to underline disability issues are one of the priorities of Czech government and there is a strong political and commitment and will to improve the lives of persons with disabilities on the ground the Czech Republic will continue to take measures to eliminate barriers which hinder citizens with disabilities enjoyment of their full participation in society. Thank you very much for your attention.
>> (APPLAUSE).
>> I thank the representative of the Czech Republic. I would appeal again to all speakers to respect three minute speech time. Next is representative of Maldives.
>> Thank you Mr. Chairman. Excellencies, distinguished delegates and colleagues. The delegation of the Maldives welcomes the rights of persons with disabilities. Let me take this opportunity to congratulate you and the bureau members of the conference as well as the secretariat for all their efforts including the provision of papers and the round tables and the fulfillment of the rights of persons with disabilities. We are happy to be here today and to contribute to the work aimed at improving attitudes and approaches to persons with disabilities. Mr. Chairman, with around 15% of the world's population subject to discrimination due to disability, the Maldives believes that strong policies and practices are essential to address the vulnerabilities of disabilities. The constitution of the Maldives guarantees the full enjoyment of rights for persons with disabilities. To further strengthen we enacted the disability act five years ago. Establishment of the disability council under the Act has become a defining moment in advancing the rights of persons with disabilities. The Act established disabilities register providing persons enlisted with monthly subsidies. This allowance together with comprehensive health care has eased their live to a certain extent especially for those living in poverty. Currently, the government is in the process of formulating a national disability policy in accordance with the disability act. This policy will go as far as to allocate social housing options to persons with disabilities to ensure the provision of an accessible home to this population. The government has also finalized measures for special schooling accessibility for children with disabilities. Despite these efforts we recognize that our job is far from done. We still face challenges in developing and implementing effective measures to combat inequality among persons with disabilities. This is in part attributed to the unique challenges and vulnerabilities or to the geography and size of the Maldives making it extremely to serve a high population of persons with disabilities. Ensuring a proper health care, mobility and accessibility of our service to our two hundred islands still proves to be extremely difficult yet the government remains certain to achieve this. In order to achieve this goal we require the support of the international community. In the face of the numerous challenges faced to us. We, as a global community, should acknowledge the remaining gaps and ensure the safeguards for persons with disabilities are incorporated into the new agenda and the new population in society are of most importance. We must find a way to mainstreaming disability and realize our disability inclusive 2015 development agenda. This should guarantee nondiscrimination and include a policy approach that empowers those most in need. The Maldives believes it is most important that these groups will be empowered and create an enabled environment which allows them to exercise their right and responsibilities in order to be active members of their communities that allows them to optimize their capacities and resources to become productive. One billion people live with disabilities. The international community needs to once again reinforce this commitment to the growth approach and therefore we call for the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities in the implementation and monitoring of the new agenda. Thank you very much.
>> (APPLAUSE).
>> Thank you, represent of Maldives. Now the floor to the representative of Colombia.
>> Thank you very much. Chairman. The convention on the rights of persons with disabilities and the commitment of the state to its implementation has generated substantive changes in the lives of persons with disabilities throughout the world. Colombia wants to reiterate its commitment and recognize there's still a long way to go and that the assistance of everyone will be needed to make process towards a truly inclusive world. A world with guarantees of rights for those people. The post‑2015 development agenda is a unique transcendental moment as was stated this morning by Madam Solidad who will have challenges before us. We have the third conference on development, the summit in September and the conference of the parties to the framework convention for climate change. The outcomes of those three summits will lead to great benefits to all people. For those ideas contained in the outcomes of those conference to be practice it's vital that in implementation that we generate the capacity to have reliable segregated data which contributes through indicators for each target ‑‑ to build through each target and headed by the statistical commissions. We should also point out the relevance of including within registers information with regard to gender, age, and disability state amongst other factors. Colombia was the 100th country to ratify the convention on the rights of persons with disabilities. We recognize that the ratification of this instrument was crucial in bolstering and better focusing national policy and it was based on that ratification that in Colombia important developments took place in the normative fields such as the passing of 2013 law through with which we defined measures for inclusion affirmative action and reasonable adjustments for the guarantee of the rights of persons with disabilities. Similarly, there was definition of a new national public policy for disability for the period 2013‑2022 with five strategic pillars. First public transportation, legal guarantees, participation, development of capacities, recognition of diversity. That policy adopted with the participation of all entities of the national government already has the necessary resources for its implementation. For ‑‑ to facilitate the implementation of this political framework the national government adopted in 2015 in March this year, presidential plan for social inclusion of the population of persons with disabilities. That plan was established with a purpose of bolstering state action in this field and to facilitate interinstitutional coordination under crosscutting disability. Respect the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities plays a key role in development policies in our country especially when it ‑‑ in terms of negotiations on a peace process that seek to put an end to the armed conflict and to promote greater equity among those groups. To do this they established that care and compensation of the victims of this conflict should also have a differentiated priority perspective to guarantee effective compensation of the victims. It's important to stress that one of the main challenges that also is shared by a number of countries is to have information systems allowing access of documents to be documented as well as with having systems for managing, assisting, and monitoring and providing follow up and assessment to ways in which these violations have dropped through the various programs and policies. Chairman, in conclusion, I'm certain that the work underway here in this meeting will lead to tangible measures that can strengthen guarantees for the rights of persons with disabilities and create spaces for their voices to be heard so that their needs can be met and that their potentials can be built on for the benefit of all society. I thank you, chairman.
>> I thank representative of Colombia. We will also hear represents of NGOs in between state parties. The three minute time limit is also applied to representatives of NGOs as well. I now give the floor to the representative of the disabled peoples international.
>> Thank you, I'm here somewhere in the back of the room. I'm in a wheelchair so I need to define myself more than I have done. I am the global chair of disabled peoples international. We are a global organization of people with disabilities. We are a cross disability organization meaning that we have representation and membership of all the various disabilities in all the different countries. It's my honor to inform you that we have members in 153 countries across the world in almost all the regions that you can think of. I'm happy to inform that between last year and now we have expanded into the CIS region. Those of you who were there last year would recall that until then, we were limited only to five regions. That is Asia Pacific, Africa, North America, Caribbean and Europe. Last year we were able to set up membership in the Arab region, the chair of Arab region is here with us in this house. And at this conference. And this year, we was able to set up membership in the CIS region. We are extremely grateful to ambassador Oh Joon's leadership for the recognition that has been given to us for the support that has been given to us. And, of course, to the entire bureau and all the member states for the support that you give for the civil society global forum for us today. We also express our gratitude for the amazing work that people do if I start mentioning names, all of them have been extremely supportive and if we want disabled people to benefit across the world, this partnership between the DPO community, between the governments of the world and between the U.N. system is extremely important. We cannot exclude one from the other. On substantive issue I will limit myself and also considering the time limit that we have only the one issue that is of most importance in all of our minds is post‑2015 development agenda. We have made extremely good progress. The disabled community is extremely grateful to all of you for supporting us and to ensure that we are mentioned at various places as many as eight or nine references in the various places and various targets. Our one concern remains and that is to do with rule number one. One of our colleagues, Mr. VARKRISHNA spoke this morning. If we are talking about the ratification of poverty and if we believe that there are one billion disabled people on earth, 80% of them are in the global south. 20% of the poorest people in the world are persons with disabilities. Then I don't see how we can eradicate poverty without mentioning disabled people by name. We are grateful that you have included us in the definition on vulnerability but that is not enough. We would like to be mentioned by name. Once again, thank you very much, sir, for your leadership and for giving us this opportunity this afternoon. Thank you.
>> (APPLAUSE).
>> I thank representative of DPI and I now give the floor to the representative of international disability alliance.
>> Thank you. My name is Marianne and I speak on behalf of the international disability alliance. An alliance of seven global and four regional organizations of persons with disabilities and their families. Our organization include down syndrome international, international European disability forum, inclusion international, international federation of hard of hearing people, Latin American network of non‑governmental organizations of persons with disabilities and their families. Specific disability forum. World federal union. World federation of deaf/blind and we have just welcomed the African disability forum to our network. These organizations consists of in our alliance our networks themselves with hundreds of members covering over 180 countries worldwide. Members of the alliance were influential in drafting the convention on the rights of persons with disabilities and since 2008 have worked tirelessly with you, the 154 member state party to the convention to ensure the full and effective implementation of our rights. We stood with you in 2008 and adopted a framework, unique in it and ‑‑ in its essence both as a human rights and development tool. Let us take the opportunity now in 2015 to understand together again and adopt a post‑2015 development agenda which is truly universal, applicable to all people and all countries. Including persons with disabilities. The post‑2015 development agenda represents states parties first opportunity since the adoption of the U.N. CRPD to publicly reaffirm and embrace and principles enshrined in the convention. We persons with disabilities urge you to remember your commitment to our rights and fight for inclusion in this future framework. We urge you to ensure that question are not left behind or left until last. In turn, we persons with disabilities commit to our promise of nothing about us without us. Persons with disabilities of all constituencies from all regions of the world are ready to be part of the implementation process starting from design and planning through to the monitoring and implementation stage. Let us collaborate with you on the creation of an inclusive society, let us work with you to ensure our rights are realized through the future framework. Let the call of nothing without us lead the way to a future that is inclusive that recognizes the rights of all people that leaves no one behind. Thank you.
>> (APPLAUSE).
>> I thank representative for her statements. And back to state parties. I now give to floor to permanent representative of Viet Nam.
>> Mr. President. It's a special honor for me to attend the 8th convention. For the very first time representing my country, Viet Nam as a state party to this convention. Let me congratulate you. I assure you of your role you have the full cooperation of my delegation. Yesterday there was a special commemoration anniversary on social development. Looking back it was already then that the issues of disabilities was at the heart of the development discourse. The summit recognizes persons with disabilities as one of the world's largest minorities. Forced into poverty, unemployment and social isolation and already then the international community committed to actions to have employment, education, to fight against discrimination. Yet 20 years on people with disabilities around the world are still living in difficult situations particularly poverty inequality, discrimination, limited accessibility. Therefore the theme this week, mainstreaming the rights of persons with disabilities in the post‑2015 development agenda is extremely relevant. As we head towards the September summit, it's essential that the special interest in these persons with disabilities young and old, man and woman, rich and poor, are addressed in this new agenda. And so we have the mean to support those actions responsibilities, lies with each nation but global partnership is crucial. We are home to about 6.5 million persons ‑‑ about 8% of the population living with one or more disabilities. More than half of them are victims of the case of wars including Agent Orange. And explosive remnants of war. The protection of rights of persons with disabilities has been high on Viet Nam's agenda. We have put in place legal framework to this end. The national project to support persons with disabilities for the period of 2012‑2020 says specific target to promote health care and education, employment, accessibility to public services, legal services, control and support activities for persons with disabilities. Especially those in disaster related conditions. One important philosophy guiding our efforts is the recognition that people may have disabilities but they are not disabled. What is important, therefore is how to enable them by providing access to education, vocational training and employment, to credit and business opportunities. We believe this is a sustainable way of support for people with disabilities. To ensure their full and equal participation and have them escape poverty. We must see in people what they can do but what ‑‑ not what they cannot. Mr. President, Viet Nam is fully committed to truly leaving no one behind in our path to sustainable development but we know that we cannot do that alone. We thank the U.N. agencies, the development partners and many organizations and individuals for the support to people with disabilities in Viet Nam I look forward to your continued assistance. I thank you for your kind attention.
>> (APPLAUSE).
>> I thank primary representative of Viet Nam for her same. And now the Russian federation.
>> Mr. Chairman, persons with disabilities with a view to giving them equal opportunities as other citizens in exercise of all categories is relevant. Work in this area is carried out in a systemic basis and it was reinvigorated after Russia exceeded to the convention on the rights of PWDs. In September last year in compliance. Russia submitted the first report on implementation on that international treaty. Implementation of the state program and accessible environment for 2011‑2015 for creating throughout the country barrier‑free conditions for life for persons with disability is permanently monitored by the executive authorities and social disability organizations. Full‑fledged implementation of this program is geared towards allowing persons with disabilities to live their lives autonomously. Measures in this program will be delivered. In the convention, Russia is, starting on the first of January, 2016 will see the new federal law whereby significant changes will be made. Regulating priority areas of day‑to‑day life including social protection, employment, culture, health care, transport, communication, access to justice and the electrical process, the housing sector and the penitentiary system. We've seen an increase in Russian sign language and expansion of its application which has been extremely important step for the 190,000 hard of hearing and hard of sight citizens. Important for those with disabilities in life is support. Russia ‑‑ treats as priority the sport. We held the winter paralympics in March of this year. There was the 18th Winter Olympics. I take you to remind you that the death limb picks is the head of the all Russia social organization for disabled people. We've had a candidate by Russia for a member to the committee on the rights of persons with disabilities at the elections to be held next year to that committee and I trust our partners will provide support to the Russian expert on those elections. I thank you.
>> (APPLAUSE).
>> I thank the representative of Russia and appreciate his punctuality. Now the State of Palestine.
>> Mr. President we extend our appreciation to you, the bureau and the secretary of convention on the rights of persons with disabilities for the entire efforts. Among the first actions undertaken by the State of Palestine following state status was to exceed to the core international humanitarian law and international rights treaties. Some thought this was about extending our legal capacity to protect the civilian organization. Such a goal is fully legitimate and third parties had the ability to hold up these rights. But one should not fail to grasp that these successions are a clear expression of our commitment to uphold these laws and rights domestically and to fulfill our obligations in accordance with each convention including the CRPD despite the serious challenges we face due to occupation of our land and the human rights violations which affect the most vulnerable in our society including persons with disabilities. The CRPD is viewed by Palestine with the utmost importance. Education, health, and social insurance. Even prior to exemption to the convention, the disability law was enacted providing basic set of rights for persons with disabilities including, for example, creation of a disabled card providing access to services for persons with disabilities ensuring accessibility, establishing centers, designated for rehabilitating and employee those suffering. The law also stipulates that government organizations must employ those with disabilities provided that the number is not less than 5% of what's in staff. Also needs of persons with disabilities including our labor law. This was established by presidential decree and includes the ministries for social affairs and the private sector. With the independent commission for human rights as an observer. This council points these efforts to ensure the rights and inclusions for persons with disabilities and has the power to monitor plans and propose amendments to ensure effective enjoyment by persons with disabilities of the rights guaranteed by the convention. The ministry of social affairs will coordinate closely with the higher council while preparing the final draft by the State of Palestine on the implementation of the CRPD. We are also proud to be cosponsoring a CRPD side event by the Arab regional bureau along with other Arab partners. While Palestine has undertaken a series of steps to ensure the persons with disabilities rightful place in society it also continues with gaps to be addressed including on the legislative front to reinforce a rights base approach and on the policy front identifying priorities and setting benchmarks for greater inclusion empowerment and opportunities for persons with disabilities. As we undertake to implement the CRPD we have an obligation not only towards the 7.2 percent of the people with disabilities but towards the society and its entirety as allowing every member to take their place in our national community would state the advancement of our nation and in conclusion, Mr. President for the sake of brevity we will provide our entire statement to delegations but Palestine as a state party will do our utmost to promote its respect. I thank you Mr. President.
>> (APPLAUSE).
>> I thank representative of the State of Palestine and now the floor to his excellency the representative of Albania.
>> Thank you very much. We have ratified the persons with disabilities in 2012. Two years later the department adopted the action plan for the implementation of the convention and in July 2014 it adopted a framework law on inclusion and accessibility of persons with disabilities. The law provides for important new and detailed obligations for all at the categories of persons with disabilities. As we all know, a law makes sense and brings change not just because it is adopted but only when it is duly implemented. Let me, therefore, mention here shortly, some of the most important and concrete steps taken by the government in this respect. A group has finalized the sign language which will enable access of this category to all public services. The government has established the national council of disability, a consultative mechanism to assist in the process of drafting policies with an impact on disability issues in order to ensure better cooperation amongst state institution and groups of interest. The council composed of ten ministers and seven representatives of disabled persons held its first meeting last April. Two important bylaws are being finalized the first on the interinstitutional group focused on the identification of barriers and levels of accessibility in public buildings in the central and local level and the second on the identification in collecting the necessary data on visibility. Another important process underway concerns the reform on the visibility system. The new systems allows for a new evaluation which is based on disabled persons with the aid to integrate them in society. The ministry of youth implementing the fundamental principles diligently follows with a few of orienting them towards a comprehensive approach on disability issues. Mr. President, there is no doubt that these are very positive and important steps in ensuring proper implementation in Albania and they are transforming the behavior of the society as a whole has these ability, but we are also fully aware that we need to do more to ensure what we want to achieve which is full inclusion and integration of persons with disabilities in social and political life and more efforts should be done for those who cannot attend school for those who cannot enjoy proper health services with adults with disability who lack services and last and most importantly to make sure that there are no entities that can bypass the legal requirements for employing persons with disabilities. In ending, Mr. President, let me highlight that these are not small challenges but only through real commitment and concrete efforts and working with cooperation with people with disability we can make sure that persons with disabilities will not only feel part of society but also contribute with their undeniable skills. It is this this way that we can transform disability into ability and ensure human respect for all. I thank you.
>> (APPLAUSE).
>> Thank you for your statement. Now the floor to the representative of Bulgaria.
>> Thank you I make this statement on behalf of the permanent representative of Bulgaria who is on official visit in Washington, D.C. Mr. Chair, Bulgaria wants itself with the statement of the European Union. This is an important priority of the government of Bulgaria. All policies and programs on disability follow a human rights based approach. We have the intervention of rights of persons with disabilities and is actively promoting the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities in society. An initial strategy for the 2008‑2015 for ensuring equal opportunities for persons with disabilities has been devoured by the Bulgarian government and by different institutions with different plans of action. The strategy talks about the main principles of CRPD as well as the relevant recommendations of the council of Europe and the best practices of the European Union. Measures have been taken for the full alignment of the relevant national legislation with the provisions of the CRPD. A number of changes have already been introduced regard to the implementation of different articles of the convention. Including protection of persons with disabilities in disasters and humanitarian crisis. Equality before the law. Liberty and security of the person. Liberty of the movement and nationality. Independent living. The right to education and employment, etc. Progress has been made also for the full implementation of articles 21, 30 and 9 regarding freedom of expression and opinion. Recreation and sport and accessibility. Special attention is paid to raising awareness with the rights of persons with disabilities around society. The first implementation report in Bulgaria was submit on the rights of persons with disabilities in July 2014. Mr. Chair, our new national plan of action for the implementation for the period 2015‑2020 has been developed by the government of Bulgarian in close consultation with the civil society. And to other social prosecutors in the plan outlines the specific responsibilities of the government. And other stakeholders and includes eight strategic goals. Namely designating focal points of the implementation of the CRPD, adopting a long‑term implementation. And the plan of action. Launching and raising awareness come pains and finalizing the legislation with the CRPD introducing new changes in the logistics where framework is needed and speeding up the optional protocol of the convention and defending the first implementation report. In 2011 the government of Bulgaria adopted a national strategy from 2011‑2020 aiming at employment for persons with disabilities. The national program and the national strategy for reducing poverty and promoting social inclusion also includes specific measures creating employment and the vulnerable groups including persons with disabilities, Mr. Chair, Bulgaria wants to create these measures to improve the well‑being with the special focus on children and youth with disabilities with the post‑2015 negotiations entering their final stage we integrate the human rights of persons with disabilities in the different aspects of the new development agenda and for ensuring the participation of disabled people in all processes that affect their lives. Thank you Mr. Chair.
>> (APPLAUSE).
>> Thank you for your statement. Now the floor to the representative of Spain.
>> Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I wish to thank you, Mr. Chairman, the general secretariat and the bureau for their excellent organization at this 8th conference which has had an excellent response from states parties. Mr. Chairman, if I can be humorous, we are suffering from the cold air‑conditioning but that is offset by the warmth of our humanity. Mr. Chairman, I wish to share with you the main points that my government has focused on since the last conference of states party to try to continue to improve everyday the conditions of life for persons with disabilities in my country. Last year our ministers, our government adopted the plan of action for the Spanish strategy on disability which took place in September 2014. This plan, with more than 3,900 million euros and made up of 96 measures has five pillars equality, employment, education, accessibility and dynamic nature of the economy. The national council for disability follows it up. This is the coordinating mechanism in article 33 of the convention. We have also tried to improve some of our characteristics for example with regard to parking cards for persons with disability who have low ‑‑ or reduced mobility. This regulation guarantees equality throughout the territory for persons with disability and reduced mobility. They will be able to park their vehicles in designated areas. These persons can obtain these cards and they will also be able to use these cards in transportation. For the first time there are special concessions being made for humanitarian reasons. At times, there is reduction of mobility due to illness and we recognize disability and the need for these parking cards. In the reform of the penal code that has just been passed we modify the organic law of 23 November, which modifies some aspects. Which reform the rights of persons with disabilities. There are increase sentences if the victim is a person with a disability. Whether it matters such as dirigation for absolution in case of crimes among domestic crimes when there are persons with disabilities involved. And we are also regulating many new penal regulations. I must make a reference to the recent fiscal reform of my government in January of this year and which benefits families which include persons with disabilities. This reform includes social benefits as has never been the case before. These families will pay lower taxes if they have several children if they have persons with disabilities in their midst. There's also a lowering of corporate taxes when there are persons with disabilities involved. This means that in the last two years, the employment of persons with disabilities in Spain has increased in ‑‑ from 2013 to 14 ‑‑ by 20% and from 2014‑2015 by 19%. We are addressing in parliament the first law of the third sector of social action to have a legal framework which recognizing the rights of this sector such as entities which promote the participation of citizens in democracy and plays with needs of individuals at the center of the action. To strengthen the capacity of the third social action sector for the design implementation and follow up of public policy in the social sector to define measures aimed at sustainability considering it's the own principles. These are one more step which we have taken together with organizations of persons with disabilities to comply with the convention on the rights of persons with disabilities in my country. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
>> (APPLAUSE).
>> Thank you Spain. Now Switzerland.
>> Thank you chairman. Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, what does sustainable development mean for a person with disabilities. And what does sustainable development mean for all of us? Does it have the same meaning? If the objective of the post‑2015 agenda is to leave no one behind as the deputy said this morning sustainable development mean to create a world where everyone independent of any disabilities can find the rightful place in society and can exercise his or her rights without discrimination. Switzerland exceeded to protect the rights of persons with disabilities. With the positive effect of doing so are already being felt. Since ‑‑ at the same time, all concerned are still seeing what is required. This sensibility is born of Switzerland's experience in implementing national law. In the ten years since this legislation came in effect it has become apparent that the greater strides are made whenever guidelines are clear and when they are above all, backed by all stakeholders. In order to develop full potential the needs and expectations of persons with disabilities must be given concrete expression in all areas of life and law in which they are relevant. Only then will implementation become mainstream meaning that social policy, education, gender equality, and, indeed, all spheres that touch the rights of persons with disabilities take on the task of realizing those rights. Behind this background, the theme of this year's conference of post‑2015 development agenda sends out an important signal. Nevertheless, it is also an exacting task that the conference of the state parties has set itself the rights of persons with disabilities pose just as great a challenge as the development agenda. But there's no reason not to address this issue just because it's difficult. We should brace ourselves for a long process ahead. Stakeholders should continue to consider what they can best do to make the rights of persons with disabilities a lasting part of development. The convention contributes to this reflection in combining two elements. Laying down rights and obligations on the one hand and drilling down to the practical specifics on the other. On that basis the Conference of State Parties represents an ideal and unique opportunity for reflection and exchange of experience from all actors. With this in mind we are pleased to share our experience on the issues that will occupy us over the three days of the conference and to have the opportunity of us receiving insight from other countries and the knowledge of experts both to the relation of the rights of persons with disabilities and issues discussed surrounding the post‑2015 development agenda. We must take this opportunity to demand and encourage the states party to provide their support. So I return to my initial question, do we have the courage, the determination, and the political will to create sustainable development for all? Living with or without disabilities. I thank you.
>> (APPLAUSE).
>> I thank the representative of Switzerland and give the floor to the representative of Lithuania.
>> Ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues, five years passed since Spain has ratified the persons with disabilities and the optional protocol. Today we can already make some assessments of what has been achieved in the area of social integration and project the future perspective. Our governmental policy in the area of persons with disabilities is about the personal abilities promoting their independence and ensuring human rights, community involvement and responsibility. We tried to improve the labor market by implementing employment quality which targets to promote employment for all who are able to work. Active labor market. Special measures are being implemented. They aim to provide them opportunities. Support and increased social responsibility of employers. We believe that society envisions an inclusion of all people is encouraged. There's more market opportunities and promote innovation. I would like to mention a new social model which is about to be implemented in the same year. And which entails important reforms in the area of social security, employment, and labor relations. Our innovations are aimed at the single economical well‑balanced system which will ensure better employment if proven labor relations, promotion of investments and job creation. New social model which targets social exclusion and policy reduction also deals with the issues of social integration of people with disabilities. The model provides extended list of different types of employment contracts, more flexible organization of working hours not just benefit for employers but those with disabilities. These are offered for the employment of disabled people to help them be more active in the labor market. This is more effective of vulnerable social group into the labor market. And grants them as they approach active intervention and they will choose them. For example, people with disabilities who have sufficient ratification to meet the labor market demands will be the first to be offered vocational training, subsidized employment. We hope that the new, more powerful and more effective mechanism will contribute to comprehensive inclusion of people with disabilities into the employment system in the future. There are other areas that need more effort and solutions to be found. First of all, we have to ensure provisions of integrated assistance of those with disabilities and their families. Support, education, employment, and health care must be provided to be children and their families altogether by taking into consideration the life situations and needs of such persons. Some measures do not work applied individually and do not provide expected results. In order to integrate model to work, all state and municipal institutions, people with disabilities, and non‑governmental organizations who participate in the convention must take an active part. The initial report on implementation on the convention will be represented in the first round of 2016. The marks on the recommendation will help our country to become more ambitious. And the convention will be implemented more efficiently and meets the needs of all people with disability and their families. There are all this more room for improvement. Thank you for your attention.
>> (APPLAUSE).
>> Thank you Lithuania. Now the floor to Slovenia.
>> Mr. President. Let me at the outset stress that Slovenia aligns itself with the statements made by EU and make some additional remarks. By the rule of law and the state of social welfare we believe that the economic development needs to go hand in hand with social development. The principle of social state also as it pertains to persons with disabilities is defined in the Slovenian constitution. To Social Security to personal dignity and safety as well as the right to availability and physical integrity. Since its independence. We put in place a number of national programs to ensure formal and actual equality or equal opportunities of persons with disabilities. More than 70% regulations and programs have been adopted among them are the equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities. Slovenian shrine sign language act and the program for persons with disabilities. 2014, 2028, etc. It's good or best practice we would like to mention a project entitled municipality tailored to the needs of people with disabilities. Which encourages those to act to citizens with disabilities and carry this out by the Slovenian association of disabled workers and supported by the ministry responsible by persons with disabilities. The main purpose of the project follows the general principles of the convention which is full in effect participation any inclusion of people with disabilities into society. By the end of 2014, this distinction had been awarded to nine municipalities including the capital city. The municipalities which have been awarded this title help to analyze this situation together with the local organization and adopt local action programs. The awarded municipalities have to list annual reports. Mr. President, let me conclude by saying that slow Venn ya remains the at the full part of the convention and are ready to work with partners in order to achieve this important goal. Thank you.
>> (APPLAUSE).
>> Thank you slow Venn ya. Now Israel.
[Pause].
>> Thank you Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, I'm sure that all of you are concerned with the fundamental question of how to change social attitudes toward people with disabilities. Due to prejudice entire sectors of the population are opposed to people with disabilities learning with their children in school, living in the neighborhood or working with them. Our commission carries out many activities in order to combat this prejudices. I will present our accessibility awareness campaign. The campaign was also broadcast with subtitles in Arabic, English and Russian.
>> (Video).
>> As our campaign shows people with disabilities are often left out and action needs to be taken to change this situation. There is a need for a profound change in the mindset of the general public and for raising awareness of people with disabilities as to their rights. We do not only promote public awareness. We also act to enforce the law. Generally speaking, Israeli law is advanced in implementing the principle of the CRPD, for example, in the area of accessibility, our law requires all public places and all public services including those of the state, local authorities to be accessible to all people with all types of disabilities. This also applies to existing places. The principles of the law were through different representatives through a wide range of disabled persons organization we set up a system for enforcing the law and we now see the fruits of these actions as they are many more accessible places. Another example is in the area of employment. As part of the right to equality, the law requires the employer to provide accommodations. The government participates in funding those accommodations. In addition, the state operate a network of support centers that provide assistance to employers in this area. Nevertheless, many employees with severe disabilities experience difficulty getting hired. To overcome this, the manufacturers association and the national labor union recently signed an agreement requiring employers to meet, educate representations, goals and increase the employment rate of people with disabilities. Since the agreement was signed, we have received many requests for guidance. We feel that employers are interested in implementing the agreement and we are optimistic. We hope that these steps will open the door to full inclusion in society. Thank you very much.
>> (APPLAUSE).
>> Thank you Israel for your statement. And now we switch it back to organizations. And I'd like to give the floor to the representative of the world intellectual property organization or WIPO.
>> Thank you the world intellectual property organization is pleased to explore way to strengthen cooperation with other participants in this meeting in order to enhance the lives of persons with disabilities within the framework of the convention on the rights of persons with disabilities. Consistent with these goals WIPO is pleased to share the progress of a treaty. For persons who are blind, visually impaired, or otherwise print disabled. Including the projects of the accessible books consortium. The treaty was adopted this June 2013 with the goal after providing access to printed works to over 285 million persons worldwide who are print disabled. Some 90% live in the developing world. The treaty preamble recognizes what it shares with the convention. At the request of the member states we are continuing efforts to enforce the treaty. These countries support and intend to be bound by the treaty at a later date. The Marrakesh Treaty will be joined by 20 eligible parties. So far eight states have joined. Argentina, El Salvador, India, Mali, Paraguay, Singapore, the United Arab Emirates and Uruguay. Other steps are being taken and we are cautiously optimistic that it will come into force by 2016. This was launched in June 2014 to compliment the treaty at a practical level the consortium is a multistakeholder alliance comprised of WIPO, people with print disabilities and organizations representing publishers and authors joining forces for accessible books. These organizations include the world blind union, the daisy consortium, the international library associations and institutions. The council of people with visual impairment. Perkins. The International Publishers Association. Right organization and international forum. ABC carries out activities in three areas to fulfill the mandate. Capacity building in developing countries. Inclusive publishing of books and the ABC international exchange of books or tiger service. A database of accessible titles. Thanks to Australia the ABC has implemented this in Nepal, Bangladesh and also in the Republic of Korea. We have instigated a project in India. This will help 23,000 students who are print disabled in local languages not previously available. ABC's book exchange service has a catalog of information for over 290,000 titles in 55 languages and exchange of titles. Its facilitated loans to 30,000 persons who are print disabled. I would like to warmly invite all participants to a lunchtime side event that WIPO is cosponsoring tomorrow in room B on the Marrakesh Treaty of which we will be able to talk about how to adopt and support the treaty and why. We thank the committee for the interest and talk about ABC in future meetings. Thank you.
>> Thank representative of WIPO for her statement and back to state parties. I give the floor to the representative of Costa Rica.
>> Thank you, chairman. The delegation is pleased to see you chairing this conference and wishes you and the other members of the bureau every success in your functions. According to data from the 2011 census, the share of the population of persons with disabilities stands at 10.6% of the total population of the nation. Which means 460,000 Costa Ricans are living with disabilities. Since last time we have made significant progress towards improving the recognition and the exercise of rights for this group of population first of all through a new law calling the national council for disabilities whose goals and actions are supported in a human rights model in line with the provisions of the CPRD. The percentage of organizations of PWDs who have a vote in the directory general of this entity has grown. This has allowed us to have a clearer vision of the needs of this population at a time ‑‑ as the organization's have more support for providing advice in their everyday work the competences and capabilities include the powers linked to monitoring of the implementation of rights of PWDs. Correlation of public policy. Correlation of social programs and services for direct care for persons with disabilities as well as participation in the process of social change and improving the image of the population with disabilities. The government has sought to expand its action to protect women with disability, indigenous folks with disability as well as the elderly. Incorporating the needs of these groups within the state's agenda. Similarly, with the approval of the law of the creation of the national council for persons with disabilities the social council in compliance with the final observations of the U.N. committee agreed to establish a number of mechanism to promote, protect, and monitor implementation of the convention including the appointment of a national council for PWDs. As governing body responsible for monitoring implementation of the convention. The social presidential council will be the coordinating body of adoption of crosscutting implementation of the convention and the protector of the human rights defend is an independent mechanism to promote with the organizations the rights of persons with disabilities. Similarly, top of the legislative agenda is a draft law on autonomy of persons with disabilities in which aligned with article 12 of the convention shows the persons with disabilities through a provision of a range of support and safeguard services so that this fundamental right can be fully exercised. Finally the right to self‑determination, legal capacity of persons with disabilities has been recognized in the judicial sphere in resolution 404 of 2015 which marks a radical departure from resolutions and previous so‑called insanity processes in establishing a system of support of the exercise of legal capacity and acting for persons with disabilities this is done through a support system in the place of a proxy system stipulating. Persons with disabilities achieve full equality cross ‑‑ there's still a long way to go. There's significant progress to commit to and the optional protocols. Thank you, chairman.
>> (APPLAUSE).
>> Thank you for your statement and I now give the floor to the representative of Australia.
>> Thank you Mr. President. It is an honor to be here representing Australia at the 8th session to the United Nations convention on the rights of persons with disabilities. Australia is one of the first companies to ratify the convention and has an ongoing commitment to have these reforms. We have fundamental changes in our society to ensure we make our commitment to the convention. Mr. President, implementation of our national disability strategy 2010‑2020 is ongoing. We provide a framework for disability reform in Australia and is changing the way in which public policy is developed across key areas including health, education, employment, housing and transport. With this firmly in mind the strategy seek to strive a more inclusive approach to design and infrastructure so that people with disability can participate fully in all areas of Australian life. Under the strategy, Australia is developing an action plan to improve outcomes for indigenous Australians with a disability. Another key component is the insurance scheme the NDIS. The NDIS has been designed to provide lifetime support based on insurance principles once the scheme reaches full implementation it will provide support for about 460,000 people who have a significant and permanent disability. At full rollout the NDIS is expected to cost 22 billion dollars a year. The fundamental design of the NDIS puts individuals in control to empower them to choose the support to suit their individual goals and preferences and to choose the providers of those supports. Mr. President, we are also committed to the other regions. To define pathways out of poverty. Two weeks ago Australian foreign minister allowed a strategy for inclusive development in the aid program. Development is informed by the principles and inclusion in society and equality of opportunity and accessibility. Development for all the aid and poverty reduction for a sustainable economic development by creating skills, creating jobs, in the UNDP civic region. We aim to improve life through enhanced empowerment, decision‑making and community, government and the private sector. Our new strategy seek to influence and support the efforts in the governments, communities, and people in organizations. The lack of international comparable data on disability makes it too easy for decision makers to overlook the inclusion of people with disability in policies and programs and makes it difficult to benchmark globally. We will therefore support action on improving disability data collection and analysis including through the Washington Group and the United Nations statistical division which we entered this week. There is still much to do if we are to leave no one behind. We are hardened by the work already underway but more work is already needed. This is a unique opportunity to ensure development opportunities to include those with a disability. Mr. President, Australia remains firmly committed to fully implementing the convention and to assisting other countries in fulfilling their obligations. We look forward to next year's conference and maintaining our long going commitment and reforms. Thank you Mr. President.
>> Thank you, representative of Australia. Now the floor to the representative of Turkey.
>> Thank you Mr. President. I will discuss under the roof of the United Nations. This is of utmost importance to the conference of that states parties not only because it provides available opportunity for exchange of information among states parties but those are increasing the international visibility of these issues. These years conference has had a particularly important period when deliberations are ongoing on the global point in 2015. In fact, accomplishing the journey of the employment is impossible unless all potential including all women. Women and persons with or without disabilities of all age integrated to global process. We should leave no one behind. Mr. President, Turkey considers disability as a human rights issue. Therefore, we perceive disability methods through the rights, their rights, based the approach in the light of human first principle. We believe that measures taken with the wave two and a blink, persons with disabilities to enjoy their fundamental rights should not be as pervasive as religious issues. Turkey has avoided this approach and practices in the past two years we have been carrying out activities aimed in all national legislation in the line with the rights based approach effort in the convention. Within the scope I would like to mention that we have contemplated the ratification process of the optional protocol these years. As the focal point of Turkey, the general director rate of persons with disabilities and elderly. Carries out values, activities in order to promote the implementation of the convention in cooperation with all relevant stakeholders including civil society. Within this context we work on mainstreaming disability into all policy areas and practice and carry out values awareness raising activities aimed at different target groups. In order to strength the cooperation among different stakeholders we established the monetary committee of high level representatives. With the purpose of supporting the monitory and the implementation of the convention we carried out the project in cooperation in the last two years. In this framework, it's indicated on eight persons with disabilities. The real facility monitoring of implementation process. These indicators and question sets our planet to utilize it in data and statistics. Mr. President, in conclusion I would like to underline that we believe we have the tool to create a world rich where people with disabilities can live as free and independent individuals. With this understanding, I would like to express my thank to the organization and the participants of this conference. We have provided us the opportunity, to strength all national efforts with international corporation. Thank you.
>> (APPLAUSE).
>> Thank you representative of Turkey for his statement. Now give the floor to the representative of China.
>> Mr. President, we congratulate you. We are convinced you will lead the con for instance to a successful conclusion. With nearly 85 million persons with disabilities, China attaches great importance to the protection of their rights and the interests and the promotion of their comprehensive development. In recent years, our comprehensive and integrated efforts in multiple areas have produced remarkable results. First, we used a combination of legislative and administrative means to safeguard the rights and interests of persons with disabilities. In 2014, China state council issued a mandate promoting the process for prosperous society for persons with disabilities. And incorporated building accessibility in our national new type organization plan. Last year alone, various levels of government provided legal assistance to persons with disabilities in over 60,000 cases. Second, we have actively advanced rehabilitation for persons with disabilities. By the end of 2014, more than two thousand counties and cities offer community rehabilitation services benefitting 7.5 million people. 5.83 million patients with serious mental issues received rehabilitation therapy and medical treatment. Third, we have made vigorous efforts to guarantee the rights of persons with disabilities to education and employment. The rate of compulsory education for children with disabilities has kept improving. In 2014, 7,864 persons with disabilities enrolled in institutions of higher learning and 280,000 persons with disabilities in urban areas found employment. Fourth, we have further raised the level of sustainability of persons with disabilities in 2014, 21.8 million persons with disabilities enjoyed special rates for social services and joined the Social Security system. More than 11 million persons with disabilities received minimum life guarantee and over 7 million enjoyed living allowances or medical care subsidies. Fifth, the life of persons with disabilities living in poverty has been further improved. Thanks to our poverty eradication and development efforts 1.2 million persons with disabilities were lifted out of poverty in 2014 and 90,000 poor rural households have had their houses renovated in the same year. Six we have greatly improved accessibility for persons with disabilities. In 2014, the government helped 150,000 households with persons with disabilities build accessibility facilities. The Chinese administration and the ministry of transportation have all issued rules and national standards for people with disabilities. Seventh, the right of persons with disabilities to participate in sports activities is guaranteed. In 2014, more than 5 million persons with disabilities in China took part in various activities by the end of last year China has held at the national level 20 sports events for persons with disabilities. In public libraries throughout China we have established 1,616 reading rooms for persons with visual difficulties. Eighth we have actively engaged in international exchanges in cooperation in affairs related with persons with disabilities. In 2014, at the Asia Europe summit China put forward the initiative of cooperating of those persons with disabilities in the framework of Asia Europe cooperation. This year China will host the first thematic event on persons with disabilities within this framework. The Chinese government will continue to take an active part in international exchange in cooperation in the field of persons with disabilities. And we'll work with all other states parties to promote the effective implementation of the convention. Thank you Mr. President.
>> (APPLAUSE).
>> Thank you, China. Now the representative of Austria.
>> Thank you, Mr. President. Austria aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union. With regard to the main theme of the 8th session I would like to point out that the inclusion of this advantaged groups such as persons with disabilities is one of the main challenges for the post‑2015 development agenda. Their needs and rights were not taken into the account of the millennium development goals. This has unfortunately, reinforced and exacerbated their exclusion such as education, health, employment, and community development. We are, therefore, convinced that the future develop. Framework should be firmly based on human rights. The international legal framework for persons with disabilities is strong and the provisions of the CRPD need to be thoroughly implemented. Austria has taken a broad process of the implementation of the convention. The national action plan which was published in an easy to read version is the mainframe work for Austria's disability policy for the next years and provides for a total of 250 measures to be implemented by 2020. It is subtitle inclusion as a human right and a mandate. Highlights the CRPD as the basis for the national action plan as well as its human rights based approach. Also, regarding Austria's development cooperation, several steps have been undertaken to strengthen disability mainstreaming and projects and programs. This is the development of a handbook on inclusion and the establishment of a multistakeholder working group which includes is participation of DPOs. The rights of persons with disabilities figure prominently among the priorities that Austria has defined for the post‑2015 development agenda. We have to ensure that the upcoming global framework is inclusive. The associated targets and indicators must explicitly mitigate the inequalities, experienced by persons with disabilities. In a particular children and women with disabilities still bear the brunt of the world's extreme poverty. We have to make sure that persons with disabilities participate in the post‑2015 process and benefit equal to others. It's about time to recognize that potential to shaping the just and inclusive world. Also, many persons who have suffered from antipersonal minds, and other explosive remnant of war live with disability. The efforts undertaken pursuant with the antipersonal convention, and the convention on certain conventional weapons in assisting survivors, affected families and communities, contribute greatly to broaden the disability rights efforts. Further strengthening development can maximize the chances of the most disadvantaged groups in society to have the rights and needs insured and barriers overcome for the full participation and their societies on an equal basis with others. We would like also to express our appreciation done by civil society with the work of inclusion of disability into the discussions on the post‑2015 development agenda. Mr. President, we have to further increase the attention given to people with disabilities and to the challenges they continuously face in all areas of life. It is our duty to guarantee the full and equal participation in our societies without mental, physical or legal barriers. This must be our common goal. Let us tear down existing barriers that keep our societies from progressing towards a truly inclusive society and cut on human rights and make sure that people with disabilities join the center of attention in the post‑2015 development agenda. Thank you for your attention.
>> (APPLAUSE).
>> Thank you, Austria. Now the floor to the representative of Indonesia.
>> Allow me to begin by congratulating you upon your election. I share in confidence of others the parties that you will guide us toward the successful conference of state party to the U.N. conference on the right person to share this CRPD. Mr. President, we have the common standard to each and every person as a full and equal members of society with human rights and dignity and has equal opportunity to contribute to and enjoy the fruits of development. But since ‑‑ with disabilities also have equal right to participate in public life and in the government. Many progress has been achieved in the implementation of the convention yet challenges continue to manifest itself everywhere including in my country. Mr. President sweeping change haves started to evolve in Indonesia thoughts are shifting in the paradigm. There's charity, medical treatment and application. Instead, they are considered as equal members of society with equal rights, dignity and opportunities. This requires changes in legislations and government programs in related fields as wells a the chance of changes. These is not only utilized at the national live but also at subnational levels. In the plan for 2014‑2019 it is already inclusive. In that, it is not on the end at improving the welfare of person with disabilities but also at creating an inclusive and enabling environment as well as improving the participation of persons with disabilities in all aspects of development. Furthermore we have the plan of action on human rights. This is quite an improvement in terms of a more inclusiveness and strategy. The current national action plan creates these issues in each of its human rights strategies that cover various rights and various national and local stakeholders that would bear the responsibility. We are now in the process of developing a new national legislation and disability in full committee with the spirit of the conferences and reflecting the new paradigm with the right of people with disabilities. We are aware that we are still long way to go towards full implementation of CRPD. We are grateful that we have active TPOs and civil societies which are forth coming and partnering with government to sensitize the government for the friendly policies and legislations at all levels. We have also managed to have meaningful involvement of a significant contribution from the TPOs in line with nothing with us without us. In the agenda which is currently taking shape, every country should learn the development agenda that is inclusive to every member of this society with particular attention to the needs and interests to the person with disabilities in regards with policies should be to improve what is crucial and participation of person with disabilities. I would also like to put emphasis on need to further strengthen our international oppression through many avenues. Exchange of good practices. Transfer of friendly technology and capacity building. In this light to this conference of parties as well as the new work of the right of person with disabilities. Indonesia is also in the view that CRPD should continue to guide our work in the person with the disability perspective in the post‑2015 development agenda. The motto nothing about us without us should be a reminder to all of us that persons with disabilities should be taken into the equation when it come to the planning of strategies and policies that affect their lives. I thank you for your attention.
>> (APPLAUSE).
>> Thank you Indonesia and now Argentina.
>> Thank you Mr. Chairman. The Republic of Argentina welcomes the ‑‑ the holding of this 8th conference and congratulates responsible for the organization for the selection of the topics for analysis and debate. Argentina has represented reports in 2009 and made a proposal in 2010 in this forum the purpose of which was and continues to be to include indicators to monitor and mainstream the disability perspective in the development agenda so that it's presence implementation and follow up may contribute to lowering the barriers that limit equality and opportunities of access to rights, resources, facilities, and essential services for persons with disabilities. For my country, it is essential to promote and develop public policies through strategies to eradicate inequality and poverty which increase the vulnerability of persons with disabilities. And particularly to underscore the situation of persons with disabilities in rural areas, women and children with disabilities considering that they initially face more barrier to access indication, health, employment, information, communication, legal and support systems. In some, chairman, citizen participation. Without denying that much remains to be done, I'd like to mention that our national government for twelve years now has been developing public policies which based on social justice are aimed at establishing inclusive development. This political practice takes everyone into account without leaving anyone out. Assuming the risks entailed in a cultural battle against power groups. I'd like to mention two things. One, with regard to the task we are conducting. Countries in the Americas to include the persons with disabilities have acted in the committee on all forms of discrimination against persons with disabilities in the OES. We chair this committee and will conclude the second report of countries to be analyzed at the fifth regular session to be held in Mexico in November and we're working on an instructional manual on reports and safeguards for the legal capacity of persons with disabilities. The other form in the region is the protection of persons with disabilities. In the framework of the meeting of high authorities of human rights. Both practices have represented a collective project of states parties and they provide an invaluable meeting place in which to consider an exchange of views and experiences in the region. The second and last point, Mr. Chairman, is that Argentina reiterates an invitation to the states party which promotes access to knowledge for visually impaired persons. This right, no doubt, is also a necessary aspect in the development agenda. Thank you.
>> (APPLAUSE).
>> Thank you for your statement. Now the floor to the representative of rehabilitation international. RI.
>> President. Excellencies, thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of RI today. Rehabilitation international we are a multistakeholder organization of disabled peoples organizations professional organizations, service providers, and also governmental agencies. We have been working in the field of disabilities since 1922. We celebrated 80 years anniversary in 2002 and then we published a book written by a professional and the title was from charity to disability rights. This is thirteen years ago and I think now it's time to move from disability rights to the implementation of the disability rights. And I think that SDG goals and the paper that will be adopted in U.N. in September will be the most important single thing that can happen to improve access for persons with disability to services and to human rights. So in this three months who is left before the adaption of the SDGs, we must all work hard to make this goals as good as possible for persons with disability. Building and enabling environment where people with disabilities can fully effectively participate, can only be achieved through universal access to health care work and employment. The prohibition of assistive technology, education, rehabilitation and the ability to exercise their social economic and political rights on equal basis with others. I will also use this opportunity to put a special focus on assistive technology. It's extremely important in that ‑‑ promotes greater independence by enabling people to perform activities for daily living and much more. It opens a broader range of possibilities for people with disabilities. To achieve their fullest potential. Key to bringing productive members of their family and the communities. The background for SDGs is people first and leaving no one behind. To make sure that we are not leaving no one behind for the next fifteen years, it's important that we really have a big focus on disability and we feed to build quality inclusive societies to make that come true. We need to make universal coverage on health, rehabilitation, education and assistive technology. As a measurement of how successful the sustainable health goals will be in the future we will look upon what will be the situation on women with disability in 2030. If women with disability are not entitled to their rights to get out of poverty, to have the education and to enjoy all sorts of freedoms, the goals have not been reaching out to those who are most vulnerable and those who are most poor at the moment. So let us to work ‑‑ let us together, civil society, the countries, and the governments and the United Nations to make the rights real through with persons with disabilities through the SDGs. Thank you very much.
>> (APPLAUSE).
>> I thank the representative of RI to his statement. Now the floor goes to El Salvador.
>> Chairman. El Salvador is grateful this opportunity to stress and highlight the new vision that the government is implementing with the Salvadoran population. I am talking about the participation to have contributions from the groups that have been most marginalized and excluded from public policy. This being the main pillar of the work provided for in the five‑year development plan 2014‑2019 of the government and that context, chairman, through the institution that I represent which is the national council for comprehensive care for persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities meeting ongoing dialogue at the highest level with the authorities at the various ministries. Allow me to mention the most relevant efforts carried out thus far. Some in line ‑‑ in response to the final observations of the committee of experts in November 2014 national elections were held to elect representatives of civil society for persons with disabilities to the national council for the 2015‑17 period. We have a national policy whose goal is to guarantee compliance and full enjoyment of the rights of PWDs and their different dimension and different stages of their life cycle. For the development of this instrument, we've seen implementation of a process of consultations at national level. There is a bill for a new law called the law for inclusion of persons with disabilities. Based on the convention that was presented and supported by the national council and enjoys the organized participation of civil society and the support of the attorney general for the protection of here's. It's currently being revised. It's been considered by the presidency. We're pleased to state that in January 2015 the government withdrew its reservations. Here we also recognize the valuable role played by civil society. So for the first time in its history the state has been developing the first census and we hope to have the final results at the end of the year. This is a joint effort between the government and UNICEF. They also approved Salvadoran sign language as the official sign language for the hard of hearing. In 2014‑15 the parliamentary elections were held and both electoral processes we had participation of persons with disabilities and they were allowed to exercise their right to vote. So in conclusion, I should state that the comprehensive version of our statement is available on the paper smart portal. Previously as I said it highlights to promote, protect, and exercise the rights of persons with disabilities we're aware that the challenge is still greater and, therefore, we're working with the sectors involved to ensure that in the near future the ‑‑ the image of persons with disabilities in El Salvador will be entirely positive and inclusive. Thank you, chairman.
>> (APPLAUSE).
>> Thank you for your statement. We have ‑‑ we still have more than thirty speakers and we only have twenty minutes. So we will probably have to continue with the general debate tomorrow morning. At least one hour from 10‑11 a.m. tomorrow morning but today probably we can have six or seven more so we will do as much as we can and then we will continue tomorrow morning. And now I give the floor to the representative of Greece.
>> Thank you Mr. Chairman. Whilst aligning with the intervention of the European Union I will make a few short comments in my national capacity. People with disabilities are confronted with the multiple forms of discrimination which affects their full enjoyment of life and society. One out of six Europeans experiences some form of disability. This means that 80 million people in Europe cannot actively participate in the economic and social life. In Greece, this percentage makes up 10% of the population. My country, despite economic and financial constraints has already signed and ratified the CRPD and its optional protocol in 2012 and we are now working on the implementation of the conventional obligations. Greece recently submitted its first report on the implementation on the convention. In recent years especially after the CRPD's entries into force in Greece the rights of persons with disabilities were incorporated into a national comprehensive approach of inclusion, promotion, and protection of all human rights. Consequently persons with disabilities were integrated into the first national action plan from 2014, 2016 on human rights as a separate chapter. Attaching major significance to social integration Greece prepared in December 2014, the framework for the national strategy for social inclusion which is expected to address the lack of coordination, fragmentation and mismanagement which lead to low efficiency. This strategy is going to select target groups with people with disabilities. In the same line the authorities are elaborating the development of a mechanism that will effectively monitor the policies relating to inclusion. I would like to underscore that the Greek parliament adopted a law prohibiting the harassment to all persons including the disabled in the field of labor in the private or civil sector. With regard to the involvement of person with disabilities in consultation processes relative legislation provides for the participation of the national confederation of disabled people in the national employment committee and the national committee for social protection which functions under the hospices of the ministry of labor, Social Security and social solidarity. We would also like to note that with a view to ensuring the principle of equal treatment, notices of vacancies are published for persons of specific groups including persons with disabilities as well as their relatives. At the same time protection is for persons with disabilities. Additionally in line with the requirements of social inclusion, a program for supported living houses has been a priority for developing an alternative way of life for people with mental impairment who are at risk for institutionalization. Furthermore, this program safeguards families, solidarity, reconciles life and adolescents with disabilities. Special mention should be made to our national institution for the deaf people, that is primarily at the early diagnosis of deafness and hearing loss providing special care, education and any kind of assistance and secondly, at the occupational rehabilitation of deaf people through training. There is also a center for education for the blind which has the main objectives the education and training of blind children and especially their independence and gradual social integration. Mr. Chair, we would like to point out that Greece applies the social policy believing that the promotion of human rights is inalienably enjoyable to all. Let us never forget that the country's civilization index is associated with the way people with disabilities are treated. Thank you Mr. Chair.
>> I now give the floor to the representative of Guatemala.
>> Chairman. On behalf of the state of Guatemala a multilingual country in South America I convey the rights of the united greetings on behalf of the disabled population of my country. This sector is facing significant limitations when it come to effective social economic participation. This is due to a lack of strong political institutions which through governmental programs could improve the quality of life and human development of persons with disabilities. Like many countries in Latin America, Asia and Africa, Guatemala has no records on those with disabilities. Which doesn't help with policy development in line with the convention mandate to promote action to address disabilities and provide care and early detection of the cause of disability. In coordination with PWD organizations and civil society, a draft ‑‑ members of the draft law have been promoted in order to receive legislative support on approval of a proposal in the second half of this year through the emergency commission on disability affairs. A forum was created for ‑‑ to be called KONI. A national government cabinet has also sought to reach another agreement to create units for support with persons with disabilities in various parts of the government. This in order to facilitate transfer of information to directors for planning of 144 public service entities who are monitoring that is being carried out to that end. In 2015, general elections will be held in Guatemala which in article 29 with the conventions on the rights of persons with disabilities coordination is carried out with the electoral tribunal to ensure the rights to vote for persons with disabilities. In so doing, approaches are being made to the political parties to include in their plans to work with this and it's being held with candidates who are standing for election. After we find out who wins the elections, it's intended to hold forum ‑‑ coordination forums to follow up and commitments made. Guatemala is awaiting the committee on the country's first report that was presented in June 2013. Follow governmental agreement in 2009 where the state delegates the responsible for ensuring the fulfillment of the convention and coordinate the development presentation of the country's reports. To that end, process has been launched for the formulation and presentation of the second report which allows measurement of progress made towards implementation of the convention. This work has been hard, chairman, there are many challenges ahead, but efforts must continue and we must move forward with greater energy so that the people with disabilities in our country should be able to live with dignity and act as a protagonist in the democratic part of the country. Thank you very much, chairman.
>> Thank you representative of Guatemala for his statement. I give the familiar to Qatar.
>> I'd like first of all to congratulate you. On all your work. I'm sure your endeavors will contribute to the success of the conference. We are cooperating with you and committed to improving and achieving results that can meet the needs of persons with disabilities. So the problem of bolstering and protecting human rights is a strategic option for Qatar. It represents the very core of our policies. Citizens ‑‑ disabled citizens receive special protection from his highness, the philosophy of Qatar for protecting and addressing the needs of persons with disabilities is in line with Islamic legislation. The country's constitution as well as the universal human rights declaration and the principles set forth in international conventions and treaties for a ‑‑ on an equal footing with other citizens a life of dignity that can lead to full‑fledged participation in society. Qatar was one of the pioneers ‑‑ one of the first country to ratify the convention to reiterate its commitment to the commitment and goal of the convention based on which the main issue of the convention is ‑‑ protected within the constitution on the basis of the principle of equality. As a result the legislature has in recent years since the ratification of the convention, has adapted strategies and laws, state programs, with a view to making them compatible with the convention. The state of Qatar has worked steadfastly to implement the convention and the country's nation's constitution has respected and stressed the right of persons with disabilities. Qatar has undertaken constant efforts to improve and promote the rights of persons with disabilities above all as they represent a category of society that is worthy of full protection and lives through a rehabilitation program and implementation of a national development strategy. Now I would like to say that the state has gone to great lengths authentic length to train and prepare these people in order to reintegrate them into the labor market. In line with their training and capacities. So that they can fully enjoy the benefits of that society and to create conditions conducive for their comprehensive integration in society's activities. I'd also like to refer to projects, governmental project, to provide care and specifically provide care to the elderly persons with disabilities and in the field of health care, Qatar and also in terms of medical health, Qatar has sought to provide services of protection and health to elderly PWDs, be it in their homes or within hospitals. Also I'd like to refer to the constant efforts of Qatar to enable these people to live in society on an equal footing with other citizens and this in close cooperation with governmental people involved. And this ‑‑ we do this to allow persons with disabilities to fully enjoy all their rights in society. And as to the importance of sport and leisure in people's lives the state of Qatar has sought to provide and guarantee all forms of support for sport for the disabled with a view to develop and improve their capacities to integrate and to help integrate into society. Pursuant to the principle of equality, a law of 2004 was ratified to guarantee these right to persons with disabilities in this field of education. Training and rehabilitation. In conclusion, Qatar sets great store but to the protection of these people in order safeguard and promote that the right to uphold the dignity and to remove all obstacles to the comprehensive rehabilitation and reintegration into society. I thank you, chairman.
>> I thank the representative of Qatar. I give the floor to the representative of Thailand.
>> Mr. Chair. Excellency. Delegates. On the rise of person with disability. The community witness a significant focus to make the right sphere for person with disability. Nevertheless, they are still person with disability to fully the rights under CRPD. Therefore, the Thai government continues our effort to best this. And in the international labor. Mr. Chair, international labor the Thai government through the department of person with disability, under the mystery of sociodevelopment and the focal point on disability has implement laws, policy and plans for the rights of person with disability under the CRPD. This initial plan include the plan for the implement of person with disability in 2016. The second plan is on the implement of person with disability. The woman with disability in proven plan in 2013‑2016. The fund for improvement of person with disability, the community based rehabilitation programs, however, to ensure effective coordination and implementation, there is now a committee for the implementation of person with disability. Chair, by the primary focus on the national implementation of the CRPD as we ask for more public ability for person with disability under the universal eye. Mr. Chair, for person with disability, should be in this accumulation in society. In Thailand, under the person with disability improvement in 2007 and '08 and in 2013 on the implementation on persons with disabilities. So we send them to another country in order to provide services for person with more areas. This person with disability went to a center and invited two Thais. The person with the disability center set up by the central government and the persons with disabilities said by the local government can see people with disabilities at organizations. Thailand will also collaborate with U.N. this year to support effort of our additional disability data under the ten goals of the strategy indicated. This additional effort is for the significant development of person with disability in Thailand. Mr. Chair, for regional collaboration, Thailand has implemented these under the person with disability in 2011‑2020. Thailand also conducted this plan in 2016‑2020 to talk to our members. This initiative aim to empower person with disability in this committee. Thailand will host the third session of the working group of people with disability 2013‑2022. In February. 2016 in Bangkok to mobilize the strategy to make it clear for person with disability in the best way written. Mr. Chair, as an international opportunity is finally seen in post‑2015 development agenda Thailand underlie the important of streaming the rights of person with disability in the post‑2015 development agenda. Through global partnership at every level. Thank you.
>> (APPLAUSE).
>> I thank the representative of Thailand. The last speaker today will be the representative of Panama.
>> Thank you chairman. Allow me to congratulate you on your appointment as well as the other members of the bureau and to wish you every success. The Republic of Panama has an approximate population of four million within that group there are 11.3% of the population of those with disabilities which means over 370,000 people according to a national disability survey of 2015. Of these over 90,000 homes live in extreme poverty according to the poverty indicator. Our government, aware of the social debt to persons with disabilities seek to guarantee the enjoyment of rights of this population and incorporating the theme of disability in the state agenda. Chairman, as one of the achievements reached under the current administration and based on a work plan that seeks to include to grow we've launched the process for certification of disability under the principle of human rights and using the international function of classification for disability and health of 2001 we developed a protocol for a second national survey on disability to define the disabled population in the country. As to the theme of disasters we developed the second policy for the comprehensive risk ‑‑ disaster risk management which includes the disabled population and we also launched a program for secure accessible education in Panama with the goal of improving the capacity of rapid reaction for students and teachers in situations of emergency or disasters. In the ‑‑ the theme of inclusive education we support initiatives such as the holding of international Congress of inclusive education whose goal was to hold a space for reflection. The administration has also worked collaboratively with institutions designed to steer educational policy with a view to ensuring quality education for everyone. Chairman, we're pleased to note that persons with disabilities have been included and prioritized in the new development agenda. Having been referred to in goals four, eight, ten, eleven, and seventeen. We'd like to single out in particular goal eleven which seek to ensure that cities and human settlements should be inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable. Chairman, on the 17th of June, we'll see the holding of the first national consultive council on disability convened by the president Juan Carlos. As this is the driving force and ‑‑ for all social sectors who's ultimate goal is to make this disability policy crosscutting throughout the public and private sphere. At the same time outreach capacity building programs at the institutional level at private companies and in the education sphere are linchpins in the operation ‑‑ our key plans in the national secretariat for education and help us to contribute to more inclusive society. Through these actions. Our country clearly shows the commitment of the Panama state to move forward towards a just and inclusive society. Finally, just as importantly, chairman, we'd like to ask you that in the translation into Spanish you should use the right term for persons with disabilities substituting the term used in today's ‑‑ to institute the word dis ‑‑ this helps to stress the commission of disability over the people ‑‑ the person ‑‑ the situation being more severe than that of being in capacity.
>> I thank Panama for their statement. We have worked hard today but we have not been able to adjust the list of speakers. We still more than twenty speakers left in the general debate so tomorrow morning at 10 a.m. we will start ‑‑ continue with the general debate ‑‑
[Pause].
>> We will start with Sudan tomorrow. And probably we will need one more hour to hear all the remaining speakers on the list and then around 11:00 we'll be able to start round table one so one hour behind schedule but thank you very much. And today I will host a reception at the Republic of Korea mission at 6:30 so you can just wrap up here and move to Korean mission. Thank you. See you tomorrow.
>> (APPLAUSE).