



2010 Holiday Greetings!

2010 has been an extraordinary year in moving forward the international disability rights agenda in development - a step closer toward “Keeping the Promise: Realizing MDGs for Persons with disabilities towards 2015 and beyond”.

We at the Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (SCRPD) in the United Nations Department of Economics and Social Affairs (DESA) would like to express our deepest appreciation for your professional and personal support of the programme of this year. It has been a privilege to work with you and your colleagues from Governments, UN agencies, civil society, especially organizations of persons with disabilities and all other partners in the international community throughout the year.

Thanks to our combined efforts, much new ground was broken in advancing disability-inclusive development within and outside the UN system in 2010.

For the first time, disability was expressly included in the MDG Progress Report as well as in the Outcome Document of the High-Level Summit of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) held September this year.

Furthermore, the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session adopted the resolution on *realization of MDGs for persons with disabilities for 2015 and beyond*, another momentum for mainstreaming disability in all aspects of development. The resolution also calls for convening a High-level Meeting on disability and development during the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly in 2012.

The Third Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (1-3 September) saw more progress and challenges in translating commitments to policy, practices and action in implementing the Convention.

DESA continues to promote accessibility as a means and goal of the international development agenda through its partnership with expert communities. Together with OHCHR and DGACM, DESA initiated the Secretariat-wide Inter-Departmental Task Force on Accessibility to develop policy guidelines to ensure a more accessible UN to all, including its documentation, websites, buildings and human resources.

New efforts in 2010 captured the attention of the international community to disability as a cross-cutting development issue. DESA and its global partners “mainstreamed disability” through a series of panels and events on topics ranging

from disability-inclusive development cooperation to accessible post-disaster relief and reconstruction, mental health and empowerment of women with disabilities in peace-making and security. The International Day of Persons with Disabilities this year (3 December) ended with a renewed emphasis on the importance of strategy for inclusive development, such as community-based rehabilitation and the need for the integration of HIV/AIDS and ageing issues into disability and development.

DESA together with the UN colleagues was proud to see that the UNDG endorsed the Guidance Note on including the rights of persons with disabilities in United Nations programming to provide a tool to support the UN Country Teams around the world, bringing the vision of the UN to all countries.

We look forward to working with you in the coming year, building on our achievements in 2010. Wishing you all the best for a very prosperous New Year.

SCRPD/DESA