

Beijing Declaration on Disability-inclusive Development

Adopted by the Beijing Forum:

“Removing Barriers, Promoting Integration” †

6-8 June 2012

We, leaders of international disability organizations and organizations of persons with disabilities, researchers of leading academic institutions, as well as representatives of the United Nations system, met in Beijing from 6 to 8 June 2012 at the Beijing Forum: “Removing Barriers, Promoting Integration”, hosted by the China Disabled Persons’ Federation (CDPF).

The Forum deliberated on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and progress concerning the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), focusing on the removal of barriers faced by persons with disabilities and promotion of equitable and inclusive development for all.

PP1. *Reaffirming* that the rights of persons with disabilities are indivisible from human rights in general and it is the common responsibility of society to realize the rights of all persons with disabilities, respect their dignity, recognize their value and promote disability-inclusive development,

PP2. *Recalling* the sustained efforts of the United Nations in promoting the rights of persons with disabilities over the past decades that yielded, among others, the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, and culminating in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in which persons with disabilities are recognized as both agents and beneficiaries in all aspects of the development process,

PP3. *Appreciating* the significant contributions of the Government of China, and CDPF, to the advancement of the participation and equality of persons with disabilities, and their equitable sharing of development benefits, as well as to international cooperation, particularly through its catalytic role in initiating the world’s first regional decade of disabled persons, namely the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002, as well as in convening the World NGO Summit on Disability in March 2000 that generated the first international clarion call for concerted action leading to the adoption of the CRPD,

PP4. *Recalling* the path-breaking nature of the regional blueprints for realizing the rights of persons with disabilities, namely, the Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002, reinforced by the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and

Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific, 2003-2012, which provided substantive foundations for drafting the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,

PP5. *Emphasizing* the importance of the full participation of persons with diverse disabilities and their organizations in decision making at all levels,

PP6. *Recognizing* that, while the MDGs provide an important international development framework, they make no explicit mention of disability,

PP7. *Noting* with concern that persons with disabilities are over represented among the poor, and face attitudinal, institutional and physical barriers to information, the physical environment, public transportation, education, employment, rehabilitation, social protection, and other aspects of daily living,

OP1. We hereby:

1. Urge governments to:

- (a) Accelerate the ratification and implementation of the CRPD and establish the necessary legal frameworks and institutional mechanisms;
- (b) Strengthen measures to counter discrimination, particularly the provision of reasonable accommodation, and foster an enabling environment for implementation of the CRPD;
- (c) Ensure explicit incorporation of the disability dimension in the post-2015 United Nations development agenda in diverse sectors;
- (d) Ensure adequate financial resource allocations for disability-inclusive development are explicitly identified in annual budgets;
- (e) Promote regional decades of persons with disabilities, such as the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022;
- (f) Strengthen support for persons with disabilities and their organizations to facilitate their equal participation in decision-making at all levels;
- (g) Provide opportunities for persons with disabilities to assume leadership roles in the development process at all levels;
- (h) Intensify efforts to improve internationally comparable and disaggregated disability statistics, and research and analysis, to provide evidence for strengthening disability-inclusive policy and planning and for assessing government performance;
- (i) Accord particular attention to diverse disability groups among children, youth, women, older persons, persons living in slums, and rural and remote areas and islands;
- (j) Accord priority attention to the following areas:

Accessibility

- (1) Review, establish and update legislation, regulations and standards, to ensure equal access to the physical environment, to public transportation systems, and to information and communications technologies and systems, and to other facilities and services, in line with the principles of universal design and international good practice;
- (2) Accelerate the construction of accessible physical environments and public transportation systems, including through effective regulatory mechanisms and enforcement, as well as incentive measures;
- (3) Mandate that all procurement using public funds for information and communications technologies, products and services is made with full consideration of accessibility needs;
- (4) Mandate that all information and websites for the public are fully accessible in a step by step manner;
- (5) Incorporate inclusive design and universal accessibility into the mainstream curricula for tertiary education and continuing professional development, particularly for planning, construction and ICT-related professionals;

Education

- (6) Commit to the establishment and implementation of laws, policies and national action plans to achieve quality education for all and guarantee the enrollment and retention of all school age children with disabilities, with provision of the necessary resources and support, and clear milestones towards 100 per cent completion of education;

Livelihood

- (7) Establish anti-discrimination legislation which must include the provision of reasonable accommodation in the workplace;
- (8) Ensure effective measures for both decent work for persons with disabilities, and achieving parity of work force participation between persons with disabilities and other groups in society, with data to track progress;
- (9) Recognize and promote the contributions of persons with disabilities who are not in employment, but which are important to the economic well-being of their families and communities;

Community-based rehabilitation (CBR)

- (10) Establish a national CBR policy to support the implementation of the WHO CBR Guidelines, and train sufficient CBR personnel to meet service needs in rural and

urban areas;

- (11) Develop and strengthen referral systems to promote coordinated multi-sectoral responses to meet needs at the community level;
- (12) Encourage private sector participation in supporting community-based services;

Social protection

- (13) Provide equitable access to quality social services for persons with disabilities, and ensure sufficient resource allocations for full social protection coverage, and bridge rural-urban gaps in provision;
- (14) Develop support schemes for persons with extensive and multiple disabilities to live independently in the community;

2. Call upon the United Nations system, development cooperation agencies, international and regional civil society entities, and all development partners to support governments in pursuing the above-mentioned actions, through intra- and inter-regional cooperation;

3. Encourage organizations of persons with disabilities, as well as disability organizations and other civil society entities at all levels, to:

- (a) Support governments in pursuing the above-mentioned actions;
- (b) Contribute actively to implementation and progress tracking of regional decade initiatives, including the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022;
- (c) Work in solidarity to advocate for the inclusion of the disability dimension in the post-2015 development agenda in diverse sectors;

We hereby adopt the Beijing Declaration on Disability-inclusive Development for submission to the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012, to be held in Incheon, Republic of Korea, from 29 October to 2 November 2012, and the United Nations Secretary-General to advocate for disability-inclusive development by the United Nations system and all member states.

Beijing, 8 June 2012