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Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Second Session of the Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022

2-3 March 2015 New Delhi

> Report on the First Session of the Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022 Incheon, Republic of Korea 25-26 February 2014

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I. DECISIONS

- 1. At its inaugural session held at Incheon, Republic of Korea, on 25 and 26 February 2014, the Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, adopted the following:
 - (a) Rules of procedure of the Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, as contained in annex I.
 - (b) The draft road map for the implementation of the Incheon Strategy to "Make the Right Real" for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific.
- 2. Concerning disability inclusion in the post-2015 development agenda, the ESCAP secretariat shall:
 - (a) Keep the Working Group informed of updates on disability inclusion in the post-2015 development agenda, specifically through the work of the General Assembly Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, and revert with information on the intergovernmental processes that remain open for advocacy of disability inclusion;
 - (b) Include this matter in the agenda for the second session of the Working Group.

Second session: 2015

3. The Working Group shall meet in India in February 2015, further to the offer of the representative of the Government of India to host the second session, which was warmly welcomed and appreciated by the Working Group.

II. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4. The following recommendations emerged from Working Group discussions:
 - (a) Working Group members should:
 - (i) Express their commitment by mobilizing funds to finance their own participation in Working Group sessions.
 - (ii) Support the ESCAP secretariat in its efforts to achieve a more even spread of its donor portfolio across the ESCAP region, including through mobilizing contributions of funding and in-kind resources for a range of regional cooperation activities in support of Incheon Strategy implementation.
 - (iii) Strengthen strategic networking with each other and with allies in New York, to ensure the retention of disability inclusion in seven of the 19 focus areas of the draft framework for the post-2015 development agenda,

and to persevere towards increasing the number of focus areas that reflect disability inclusion, bearing in mind that this was still a draft with scope for amendment.

(iv) Explore the viability of e-communication for sharing information and conducting intersessional dialogue, to foster clearer mutual understanding on issues of common concern before decision-making at the next Working Group session.

(b) The ESCAP secretariat should:

- (i) Prepare an operational guide to the provision of reasonable accommodation that would be useful for the hosts of Working Group sessions. The guide should cover, inter alia:
 - a. The definitions of "reasonable accommodation" and "accessibility", as contained in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD);
 - b. A list of what has thus far been provided as "reasonable accommodation" in ESCAP disability meetings, along with cost implications and with attention to enable communication between deaf persons and deaf-blind persons and others, as well as to address overall accessibility needs of participants with disabilities, with information and tips to be provided by civil society organization (CSO) members of the Working Group;
- (ii) Draft a standard format that is aligned with the road map for every Working Group member to use in preparing a structured and concise report on Incheon Strategy implementation and other actions in follow-up to Working Group sessions, for transmission to the ESCAP secretariat at least 80 days before the next session;
- (iii) Upload, at least 60 days prior to a session, all reports received for web uploading with analysis of the reports, to facilitate results-focused discussion and decision-making at the session;
- (iv) Provide audio captioning of film clips or other graphic material shown at a session, resources permitting, or alternatively arrange for a personal assistant to provide audio descriptions during the session;
- (v) Draft ESCAP project ideas for promoting regional cooperation on accelerating Incheon Strategy implementation (reference to 1.2 above);
- (vi) Attach the list of winners of the Global IT Challenge to the report on the First Session (annex V);
- (vii) Include India as an ESCAP partner in implementing its project on disability statistics, further to India's request.

III. VOTE OF THANKS

- 5. The Working Group expressed its deep gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Korea for funding the participation of all members in its inaugural session.
- 6. The Working Group also appreciated the effective preparations for and servicing of the session by the secretariat, including the provision of session documentation in an accessible format for blind participants, and the hospitality extended by the ESCAP Subregional Office for North and North-East Asia, where the inaugural session was held.

IV. BACKGROUND

- 7. The High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012, held at Incheon, Republic of Korea, from 29 October to 2 November 2012, adopted the Ministerial Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, and the Incheon Strategy to "Make the Right Real" for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific. The terms of reference of the Working Group (annex II) are contained in the Incheon Strategy.
- 8. The objective of the Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities is to provide technical advice and support to members and associate members, to promote the full and effective implementation of the Decade, 2013-2022.
- 9. The terms of reference stipulate the composition of the Working Group: 15 from ESCAP members and associate members and 15 from CSOs. The High-level Intergovernmental Meeting noted the interest expressed by 17 ESCAP members, as well as 19 CSOs to serve on the Working Group for the first term covering the period 2013-2017.
- 10. The Commission, through its resolution 69/13 of 1 May 2013 endorsed the above-mentioned Ministerial Declaration and the Incheon Strategy.
- 11. Further to Commission Decision 69/4 of 1 May 2013 on the membership of the Working Group (annex IV) and in pursuance of Commission resolution 69/13, the ESCAP secretariat convened the inaugural session of the Working Group at the premises of the ESCAP Subregional Office for North and North-East Asia.
- 12. The Government of the Republic of Korea contributed funding support for hosting the inaugural session in Incheon, Republic of Korea.

V. OBJECTIVES

- 13. The objectives of the First Session of the Working Group were to:
 - (a) Consider and adopt its rules of procedure;
 - (b) Review and adopt the draft roadmap for the implementation of the Incheon Strategy to "Make the Right Real" for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the

Pacific, following which the roadmap would be submitted to the Commission, at its seventieth session for final adoption.

VI. OPENING SESSION

- 14. At the opening session, statements were delivered by the following:
 - (a) H.E. Mr. Younghyun Park, Assistant Minister, Office for Social Welfare Policy, Ministry of Health and Welfare, Republic of Korea;
 - (b) Ms. Nanda Krairiksh, Director, Social Development Division, ESCAP;
 - (c) Mr. Kilaparti Ramakrishna, Director, ESCAP Subregional Office for North and North-East Asia.

VII. BUREAU

15. The Working Group at its inaugural session elected the following as Bureau officers:

Chairperson: Mr. Park Yong Hyun, Assistant Minister, Office for Social

Welfare Policy, Ministry of Health and Welfare (Republic of

Korea)

Vice-Chairperson: Mr. Awanish Kumar Awasthi, Joint Secretary, Department of

Disability Affairs, Ministry of Social Justice and

Empowerment (India)

Vice-Chairperson: Mr. Setareki Seru Macanawai, Chief Executive Officer, Pacific

Disability Forum

VIII. ATTENDANCE

The representatives of 14 ESCAP members and 14 CSOs attended the First Session (annex V). The ESCAP members were: Bangladesh; Bhutan; China; Fiji; India; Indonesia; Japan; Malaysia; Mongolia; Pakistan; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; and Thailand. The CSOs were: ASEAN Disability Forum; Asia-Pacific Development Centre on Disability; Asia-Pacific DPO United; Asia Pacific Disability Forum; Central Asian Disability Forum; DAISY Consortium; Disabled Peoples' International Asia-Pacific; Inclusion International Asia Pacific; Pacific Disability Forum; Rehabilitation International Asia Pacific Region; South Asian Disability Forum; World Blind Union Asia-Pacific; World Federation of the Deaf Regional Secretariat for Asia and the Pacific; and World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry Asia-Pacific.

IX. AGENDA

- 17. The Working Group at its inaugural session adopted the following agenda:
 - 1. Opening of the First Session of the Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022.
 - 2. Election of officers.
 - 3. Adoption of the agenda.
 - 4. Consideration and adoption of the draft Rules of Procedure of the Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022.
 - 5. Review and adoption of the preliminary draft ESCAP road map for the implementation of the Incheon Strategy to "Make the Right Real" for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific.
 - 6. Other matters.
 - 7. Closing of the Session.

Annex I

Rules of Procedure of the Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022

As drawn up and adopted on 26 February 2014 by the Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, (hereinafter "Working Group") at its first Session held in Incheon, Republic of Korea, from 25 to 26 February 2014.

Rule 1 Sessions

The following principles shall apply as regards the convening of sessions of the Working Group:

- 1.1 Regular sessions of the Working Group shall be held annually.
- 1.2 Sessions shall be convened by the secretariat of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (hereinafter "ESCAP").
- 1.3 The ESCAP secretariat may also convene ad hoc sessions of the Working Group, if requested by more than half of the members of the Working Group in consultation with the Chairperson.
- 1.4 The ESCAP secretariat shall transmit a written invitation to each regular session of the Working Group, together with a provisional agenda, at least sixty work days in advance of the start of the session, and, whenever practicable, a written invitation to each ad hoc session, together with a provisional agenda, at least thirty work days before the start of each session.
- 1.5 An invitation to a session shall be sent to the senior official designated to represent the member of the Working Group at the correspondence address conveyed to the ESCAP secretariat for official correspondence. Responses to invitations shall be sent via electronic mail to the ESCAP secretariat within the requested time frame, that is, no later than thirty

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