

**High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the
Final Review of the Implementation of the
Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012
Incheon, Republic of Korea**

**Ministerial Segment Closing
2 November 2012**

**Closing Statement
Deputy Executive Secretary**

Your Excellency, Mr. Chairperson,

Your Excellencies, Mr. Vice-Chairperson and Mdm Rapporteur,

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Dear Friends and Colleagues in the Disability Community,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today is a very important and memorable day.

You have made history by adopting the landmark Incheon Strategy to Make the Right Real for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific.

The Incheon Strategy is a timely contribution to the global discourse on the post-2015 development agenda.

You have shared your vision and plans for shaping a disability-inclusive, rights-focused development agenda that will transform the lives of 650 million persons with disabilities in Asia-Pacific.

I am inspired by the solidarity demonstrated for promoting action on the CRPD to achieve development and human rights goals.

While there is no room for complacency concerning the CRPD, it is gratifying to note the many ministerial statements expressing intent to move forward on the signing, ratification and implementation of the.

As a citizen of the region with the fastest pace of ageing in human history, I am encouraged by the commitment you have expressed to addressing the complex dynamics between ageing and disability.

And, in a region which is most adversely affected by disasters, I am comforted by the recognition you have accorded to the need for disability inclusion in disaster risk reduction.

Excellencies,

ESCAP, as the parliament of Asia-Pacific, is your platform for strengthening this region's voice on the world stage.

You are using it well towards building our common disability-inclusive future.

It is the secretariat's distinct privilege to serve you in this noble endeavour.

As we embark on our new 10-year journey, let us re-dedicate ourselves to our moral duty to champion the rights of persons with disabilities in Asia-Pacific.

Let us find creative means of engaging all groups – not only policy makers and civil society, including persons with diverse disabilities, but also the private sector, and international organizations – to achieve the social transformation that would protect and reinforce the economic gains of this vibrant region.

On behalf of ESCAP, I thank the Government of the Republic of Korea for its generous hosting of this epoch-making meeting, with the wonderful support of Incheon Metropolitan City.

And, I thank you all.

Let us make the right real!

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