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**Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**  
**High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the**  
**Implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of**  
**Disabled Persons, 2003-2012**

29 October-2 November 2012  
Incheon, Republic of Korea

**Beijing Declaration on Disability-inclusive Development**

**Adopted by the Beijing Forum: “Removing Barriers,**  
**Promoting Integration”, Beijing, 6-8 June 2012**

**Note by the secretariat**

In its resolution 66/11 of 19 May 2010 on regional preparations for the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012, the Commission, inter alia, requested the Executive Secretary to encourage the participation of all key stakeholders, including organizations of persons with disabilities from Asia and the Pacific, in the preparatory process leading up to the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting. Accordingly, the China Disabled Persons' Federation held the Beijing Forum under the theme “removing barriers, promoting integration” from 6 to 8 June 2012. The ESCAP secretariat provided the Federation with support in the planning for and servicing of the Forum, which was attended by representatives of international and regional organizations of and for persons with disabilities. The Forum adopted the Beijing Declaration on Disability-inclusive Development, which is submitted for the information of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting.

## **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.

1. *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,
2. *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 CRPD, in which persons with disabilities are recognized as both agents and beneficiaries in all aspects of the development process,
3. *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,
4. *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,
5. *Emphasizing* the importance of the full participation of persons with diverse disabilities and their organizations in decision making at all levels,
6. *Noting* that, while the MDGs provide an important international development framework, they make no explicit mention of disability,

7. *Noting* further 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,

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, including in capability building, 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 accessible hardware and software;
- (4) Mandate that all information and websites for the public are made fully accessible in a gradual and step-by-step manner;
- (5) Incorporate the teaching of universal design and universal accessibility in 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, inclusive 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;
- (7) Incorporate training on special needs education and inclusive education in the pre-qualification and professional continuing education curricula for training teachers;

#### **Livelihood**

- (8) Establish anti-discrimination legislation which must include the provision of reasonable accommodation in the workplace;
- (9) 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;
- (10) 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)**

- (11) Establish a national CBR policy and programme to support the implementation of the Community-based Rehabilitation Guidelines, a joint document of the World Health Organization,

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