



Statement of Voluntary Commitments of Organizations Working on Disability-Inclusion for the 6th Asian Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction

22- 26 June 2014

Bangkok, Thailand

The Stakeholder Group of individuals and groups concerned with disability are represented by:

- Disability-inclusive DRR Network (DiDRRN),
- Rehabilitation International (RI) and
- The Nippon Foundation.

Disability is an evolving concept. Disability is now understood to result from the interaction between persons with impairments and attitudinal and environmental barriers that hinder full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others. (UNCRPD, 2006)

In terms of disaster risk reduction (DRR), disability is a cross-cutting issue that amplifies risk across all groups including those already at high-risk, such as women and children. Persons with disabilities face a disproportionate impact from disasters and disasters contribute to increases in incidences of disability among communities and populations.

Disability did not receive adequate attention, or representation, under the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) with reference to 'the disabled' limited to 'social safety nets' under Priority for Action 4. This, in turn, has contributed to limited attention to disability in DRR practice and policy under the HFA.

The disability stakeholder group is concerned that DRR post-2015 must be aligned to commitments to Article 11 of the *UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*(UNCRPD) on situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies and to Goal 7 of the *Incheon Strategy to 'Make the Right Real' for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific*, 2012 on disability-inclusive disaster risk management. The Incheon Strategy was endorsed by all 62 Governments of the ESCAP membership in May 2013.

Further regional commitments to disability-inclusive DRR include Article 16 of the *ASEAN Bali Declaration on the Enhancement of the Role and Participation of Persons with Disabilities in the ASEAN Community*, 2011. The need and importance of disability-inclusive DRR is emphasised further within the *Sendai Statement to Promote Disability-inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilient, Inclusive and Equitable Societies in Asia and the Pacific*, 2014.

The individuals and organisations concerned with disability stakeholder group note:

- The inclusion of disability in DRR is critical for the creation of resilient, inclusive and equitable societies.
- Disability-inclusive DRR increases the resilience, and chances of survival, of all persons in a community and minimises collective damage and loss.

1. *Actions related to evolving HFA2 priorities:*

- As disability is a cross-cutting concern that amplifies risk across all groups and sectors, disability stakeholders are concerned that due, and considered, attention to disability is integrated into and across all HFA2 priorities.
- All actions described herein will be advocated for and conducted according to available resources and constraints and in the spirit of the commitment outlined.

2. *Each action to specify:*

- I. Contribute to fostering inter-ministerial, inter-departmental and multi-sectoral engagement to ensure that disability-inclusive DRR is mandated and implemented.
 - a. Levels:
National and sub-national.
 - b. Target:
Quantitative increase in disability-inclusive DRR policies and practices under HFA2 (N.B. Corresponds to Incheon Strategy indicator 7.1).
 - c. Indicators:
 - Increased engagement with government and other key DRR stakeholders by persons with disabilities and their representative organisations.
 - Increase in disability-inclusive DRR policies and practices at national and sub-national levels.

- d. Means of verification:
 - National level reporting on HFA2 by member states.
 - UNCRPD and Incheon Strategy progress reporting by member states.
 - Stakeholder group reporting to member states in country and within the HFA2 consultative mechanism.
 - e. Timeframe:
Long term.
- II. Empower persons with disabilities, and their representative organisations, to actively participate in, and report on, the development and monitoring of disaster risk reduction plans, programmes and actions.
- a. Levels:
Regional, national and sub-national.
 - b. Target:
Progressive qualitative and quantitative increase in the active participation, and representation, of persons with disabilities within DRR under HFA2.
 - c. Indicators:
 - Number of workshops and support initiatives provided to persons with disabilities and their representative organisations, to widen participation within regional, national and sub-national DRR strategies and HFA2 relevant international framework reporting processes.
 - Increased meaningful participation and self-representation by persons with disabilities, in regional, national and sub-national reporting and monitoring processes.
 - Increased meaningful participation and self-representation by persons with disabilities in regional, national and sub-national DRR platforms and forums.
 - d. Means of verification:
 - Sub-national and national reporting on HFA2 progress.
 - UNCRPD and Incheon Strategy progress reporting by member states.
 - Stakeholder group reporting to government in-country and within the HFA2 consultative process.

- e. Timeframe:
Short to long-term.

III. Extend the principles of universal design, in combination with assistive technology development and reasonable accommodation, to ensure the delivery of risk reduction related infrastructure establishment and service delivery for equal participation of persons with disabilities at all levels of disaster risk reduction.

- a. Levels:
National and sub-national.
- b. Target:
Improved access and reasonable accommodation to better address the needs, and to ensure the meaningful participation, of persons with disabilities within DRR policy and practice under HFA2.
- c. Indicators:
- Quantifiable increase in improved access for persons with disabilities within DRR related infrastructure provision (universal design). (N.B. Corresponds to Incheon Strategy indicator 7.3).
 - Qualitative improvement in access to DRR information and services for persons with disabilities.
 - Quantifiable increase in advocacy activities towards realising disability-inclusive DRR, such as towards the provision of universal design for DRR infrastructure and DRR information and service accessibility.
- d. Means of verification:
- Sub-national and national reporting by government on HFA2 progress.
 - Member state reporting on progress on implementation of the CRPD.
 - Stakeholder group reporting to government in-country and within the HFA2 consultative process.

- e. Timeframe:
Long term.

IV. Strengthen community-based inclusive DRR initiatives to empower all persons with disabilities, including women, children and older persons, to realise their full participation in, and contribution to, all phases of disaster risk reduction within their communities.

- a. Levels:
Sub-national.
- b. Target:
Progressive quantitative increase under HFA2 in the number of persons with disabilities actively participating in, and contributing to, community-based DRR initiatives.
- c. Indicators:
 - Increase in direct contributions to DRR practice in respective communities by persons with disabilities.
 - Increase in the number of persons with disabilities acting as DRR resource persons, trainers or similar within their community.
 - Increase in the number of community-based DRR adaptations to ensure the participation and reasonable accommodation of persons with disabilities.
- d. Means of verification:
 - Sub-national and national reporting by government on HFA2 progress.
 - Stakeholder group reporting to government in-country and within the HFA2 consultative process.
- e. Timeframe:
Short to long term.