**Summary and recommendations made at the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development**

*Note compiled by the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities*

The Chair of the third Session of Africa Regional Forum on SD addressed about inclusive and sustainable growth and prosperity for all and overall success in the implementation of Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063 by making strong recommendation that Member states should strengthen their  follow-up and review mechanisms by collecting adequate inputs from Major groups and other stakeholders, including private sector and civil societies.

 The Parallel Panels held during the  African Regional Forum on SDGs were held on the goals under review (1,2,3,5,9,11 &14) in 2017 HLPF. The key recommendations and messages that explicitly mention persons with disabilities, vulnerable and marginalized groups incorporated on the final document include;

* Expanding social protection programmes & targeting appropriate schemes to the poor and most vulnerable including indigenous, aging, children, women youth, and persons with disabilities.
* Formulating and implementing policies that address poverty requires an understanding the different and multiple dimensions of poverty and inequality going beyond income. This includes rural, urban, age, disability and gender-based intersectionality of inequality towards eradicating poverty.
* Investing in capacities of people, communities, economies, cities and countries to prevent reduce and mange risks arising from climate changes and natural hazards, conflict, economic, political and social instabilities, is critical to build resilience and broad based SD.
* Week data systems and data gaps in some member states pose serious challenges for effective monitoring and evaluation of progress in eradicating poverty. To monitor, there is a need for disaggregation of data by income gender, age race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics
* It is important that African Countries and Civil Society Organizations receive the necessary international support, including through appropriate partnerships, to ensure that no one is left behind and to achieve eradication of poverty, sustainable development and Stronger resilience, especially for those in extreme poverty (people living on less that $1.25 a day), vulnerable groups, youth, women, persons with disabilities and older people, also in the context of rights-based approach.
* Africa has adopted regional frameworks and initiatives that demonstrated political will and commitment and should be pursued to realize the regions vision of harnessing its demographic dividend to achieve the health related goals. The regional strategic framework referring to persons with disability include  Maputo Plan of Action for the operationalization of the Continental Policy Framework for the SRH and African Disability Protocol
* Special attention should be given to women's economic empowerment by harnessing their entrepreneurial talent and opportunities and guaranteeing full enjoyment of productive employment and decent work for all women, especially those in vulnerable situations.
* Inclusiveness of infrastructure and services should be properly addressed, accessible and affordable for all including most marginalized people and people with disabilities and the poor.
* Inclusive and sustainable industrial development is a significant source of income, which allows for rapid and sustained increases in living standards of all people, including women and young people to attain leaving no one behind.