**GLOBAL DISABILITY SUMMIT**

**"Participation and action, the key for inclusion".**

**June 6, 2019, Buenos Aires, Argentina**

**Civil Society Statement**

On June 6, 2019 in the city of Buenos Aires, Argentina, the following met in the Latin American region, organizations of persons with disabilities –DPOs-, other civil society organizations, governments, multilateral organizations, and the private sector, with the purpose of supporting the implementation and monitoring of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) as well as the 2030 Agenda, in order to fully and effectively achieve our rights. This is how, in a collaborative way, we have adopted the following statement:

We are committed to work with all key actors, in particular with governments present at the Summit, to ensure that all persons with disabilities fully enjoy their rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis with others, as set forth by the CRPD.

We are convinced that the 2030 Agenda is an important opportunity to promote the rights of persons with disabilities throughout the world, and that the CRPD should be its guiding framework.

We recognize although, that some progress has been made following the ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in the Latin American countries, these advancements have been of small significance for changing the life conditions characterized by marginalization and poverty due to their unequal impact, insufficient to effectively realize the achievement of the rights of persons with disabilities within the region.

Today, we call on states, governments, private sector, and other human rights organizations to elaborate measurable, ambitious and lasting commitments, that will become a reality and not only remain on paper.

It is time to fully implement the CRPD so that all persons with disabilities can exercise their rights and can fully participate considering their geographical, both rural and urban, political, economic, multi-ethnic and pluricultural contexts.

All of us, all of you, the world leaders in this room, have a unique opportunity, but also a great responsibility!

We call for:

1. To guarantee the participation of persons with disabilities, especially women, girls, children, indigenous, migrants and displaced persons with disabilities in all decision-making processes and in the follow-up of the Summit, so that states ensure their right to participate and be consulted.

2. To urge states to increase investment on disability, allocating specific budgets, partnering with the diversity of DPOs, private sector and other stakeholders such as academia, to support the disability movement in order to progressively achieve and mainstream the implementation of rights of persons with disabilities. All rights for all.

3. To commit in developing and strengthening the capacities of all key actors (governments, multilateral organizations and the broader civil society) to implement the CRPD, 2030 Agenda and other regional advocacy tools.

4. To strengthen existing organizations at all levels, emphasizing on the thematic and cross-cutting areas of the Summit.

5. To fight for states to comply with the adoption of reasonable accommodation measures in line with the CRPD, within all political practices and legislations at national, regional and global levels, considering its denial as discriminatory and urge that they be appropriately budgeted and have enough resources for its enforcement.

6. To support the collection and use of appropriate, reliable and comparable data; in partnership with experts in the field, and persons with disabilities.

7. To Increase efforts to guarantee quality inclusive education, promoting transitioning from, and eliminating special education to inclusive education; States must ensure inclusive and virtual educational environments for all persons with disabilities, especially for indigenous persons with disabilities, persons with intellectual and multiple disabilities, deaf, deafblind persons and persons with communication barriers. Recognizing communicative diversity such as sign language for deaf people and communication systems for deafblind people, and others as augmentative and alternative communication; to also put into practice laws and plans that guarantee the existence of trained teachers, including those with disabilities; that the necessary supports and accommodations are available to ensure learning processes, socialization and development of capacities of all students in the general education system, inclusive virtual environments as well as materials, equipment and texts for all students.

8. To promote that public and private economic actors be more actively engaged in the implementation of affirmative measures so that persons with disabilities exercise their right to work and avoid their exclusion, which implies creating more and better quality inclusive employment, providing social protection without discrimination, making work environments accessible; promoting the recruitment, continuity and career advancement of persons with disabilities in their jobs.

 9. To guarantee connectivity and technology to enable all persons with disabilities to acquire digital skills, mainly in rural areas and indigenous communities, optimizing the availability and affordability of adequate assistive technology, including digital technology, to allow persons with disabilities to fully participate and contribute to society; simultaneously ensure the availability of educational and enabling services for all persons with disabilities to access technology, accessibility to web pages, and guarantee the use of technology.

10. States must commit on the implementation of support systems so that persons with disabilities, especially persons with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities, deaf and deafblind persons, have qualified and appropriate interpreters, guide-interpreters and well qualified human supports to enable them to exercise their right to access to justice and to ensure processes that require communicational support.

11. It is urgent that States undertake legislation reforms on legal capacity to advance in the harmonization of human rights standards, particularly the right to make supported decisions with autonomy, and enjoying respect for their will and personal preferences.

12. To ensure the provision of necessary supports for the enjoyment of sexual and reproductive rights of persons with disabilities, especially of girls and women with disabilities.

13. That States ensure mechanisms for prevention and protection against torture and deprivation of liberty due to disability, and adopt plans for deinstitutionalization to enable persons with disabilities to exercise their right to live in the community. States must guarantee the implementation of appropriate measures that allow independent living in the community of all persons with disabilities, especially persons with multiple, intellectual and psychosocial disabilities.

It is not enough to say that we, persons with disabilities, are already included in the 2030 Agenda, we need to work intensely, for those of us who are present at the Summit but also for all those who are not here, so that the results of our work be for all. Let´s make in reality that intersectionality to which we refer, live in each of our actions, and in the organizations and governments, so that our work nourishes the path, and we leave no one behind.