I speak on behalf of the International Disability Alliance that coordinates the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities and their participation at the High-level Political Forum. At the 2017 HLPF, the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities was active with more than 50 participants attending from around the world. Overall, we had a positive experience and we would like to share the following lessons learned from our participation in this important global follow-up process.

First, we strongly applaud the accessibility at the HLPF for persons with disabilities, which was incredibly positive compared to the 2016 HLPF and keeps in line with the leave-no-one-behind principle of the 2030 Agenda, and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. We welcome the real-time captioning, the International Sign interpretation, access to remote listening devices, appropriate seating and space, modifications to rooms, and online accessibility features on the HLPF website.

Second, allow me to address some concerns regarding the Voluntary national reviews. While we recognize that compared to the 2016 HLPF, the multi-stakeholder approach has significantly improved, yet we remain concerned at the lack of *meaningful* stakeholder inclusion in the Voluntary National Review process. Our concerns are two-fold. First, very little time was allocated, which was insufficient to engage in a meaningful dialogue between stakeholders and Member States. Second, the mechanism to gather inputs for the Voluntary National Reviews from stakeholders was confusing, badly coordinated and entirely inaccessible. We urgently recommend that this process is reviewed and replaced with a proper mechanism established by UNDESA in collaboration with Stakeholders.

Thank you and we look forward to participating in future inclusive and participatory HLPFs.