



## Economic and Social Council

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### Commission for Social Development

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Agenda item 3 (b)

#### **Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly: review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups**

#### **Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Commission, Ana Marie L. Hernando (Philippines), on the basis of informal consultations**

The Commission for Social Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

#### **Mainstreaming disability in the development agenda**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995,<sup>1</sup> and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly entitled “World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world”, held at Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,<sup>2</sup>

*Recalling also* the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons,<sup>3</sup> the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities<sup>4</sup> and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,<sup>5</sup> in which persons with disabilities are recognized as both development agents and beneficiaries in all aspects of development,

*Recalling further* its previous resolutions concerning persons with disabilities and further promotion of equalization of opportunities and

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<sup>1</sup> *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

<sup>2</sup> General Assembly resolution S-24/2, annex.

<sup>3</sup> A/37/351/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex, sect. VIII, recommendation I (IV), adopted by the General Assembly by its resolution 37/52.

<sup>4</sup> General Assembly resolution 48/96, annex.

<sup>5</sup> General Assembly resolution 61/106, annex I.



mainstreaming of disability in the development agenda and the relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly,

*Welcoming* the fact that, since the opening for signature on 30 March 2007 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto,<sup>6</sup> one hundred and fifty-three States have signed and one hundred and nine States and one regional integration organization have ratified the Convention and ninety States have signed and sixty-three States have ratified the Optional Protocol, and encouraging all States that have not yet done so to consider signing and ratifying the Convention and the Optional Protocol,

*Noting* that the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities provides comprehensive coverage of the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of persons with disabilities,

*Noting also* that persons with disabilities, who face a greater risk of living in absolute poverty, make up an estimated 15 per cent of the world's population,<sup>7</sup> of whom 80 per cent live in developing countries,<sup>8</sup> and recognizing the importance of international cooperation in supporting national efforts to mainstream disability in the development agenda, in particular for developing countries,

*Convinced* that addressing the profound social, cultural and economic disadvantage and exclusion experienced by many persons with disabilities, and promoting the use of universal design as appropriate, as well as the progressive removal of barriers to their full and effective participation in all aspects of development, and promoting their equal enjoyment of civil, economic, social and cultural rights, will further the equalization of opportunities and contribute to the realization of a "society for all" in the twenty-first century,

*Noting* that while progress has already been made by Governments, the international community and the United Nations system in mainstreaming disability as an integral part of the global development agenda, major challenges remain,

*Emphasizing* the importance of the collection and compilation of national data and information regarding the situation of persons with disabilities, following existing guidelines on disability statistics, that are disaggregated by gender and age, which could be used by Governments to enable their development policy planning, monitoring, evaluation and implementation to be disability-sensitive, in particular in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals for persons with disabilities, while reiterating the request

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<sup>6</sup> Ibid., annex II.

<sup>7</sup> According to the *Report on Disability 2011*, published by the World Health Organization and the World Bank, an estimated 15 per cent of the world's population lives with a disability.

<sup>8</sup> General Assembly resolution 65/186 states that "persons with disabilities make up an estimated 10 per cent of the world's population, of whom 80 per cent live in developing countries". The figure of 80 per cent, which originated from the United Nations Development Programme, was quoted widely in a discussion paper entitled "Disability and poverty: a survey of World Bank poverty assessments and implications" (Jeanine Braithwaite and Daniel Mont, SP discussion paper No. 0805, World Bank, February 2008).

to the United Nations system to facilitate technical assistance within existing resources, including the provision of assistance, in particular to developing countries, for capacity-building and for the collection and compilation of national and regional data and statistics on disabilities,

*Underlining* the importance of mobilizing resources at all levels for the successful implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and recognizing the importance of international cooperation and its promotion in support of national efforts, in particular in developing countries,

*Stressing* the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships and international cooperation in combating discrimination based on disability and mainstreaming disability in the global development agenda for the promotion of the linkages between disability and global development priorities, including, inter alia, poverty reduction and sustainable development,

1. *Welcomes* the decision of the General Assembly to hold a one-day High-level Meeting, at the level of Heads of State and Government, at the sixty-eighth session, with the overarching theme “The way forward: a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond”, in order to strengthen efforts to ensure accessibility for and inclusion of persons with disabilities in all aspects of development efforts;

2. *Notes with appreciation* the report of the Secretary-General on Mainstreaming disability in the development agenda;<sup>9</sup>

3. *Welcomes* the work of the Special Rapporteur on disability of the Commission for Social Development, and takes note of his report;<sup>10</sup>

4. *Also welcomes* the establishment of the Trust Fund for the United Nations Partnership to Promote the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and encourages Member States and other stakeholders to support the objectives of the Trust Fund, including by providing voluntary contributions;

5. *Calls upon* Member States and United Nations bodies and agencies to include disability issues and persons with disabilities in their efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and, in reviewing progress towards the achievement of the Goals, to assess the extent to which persons with disabilities have benefited from those efforts;

6. *Encourages* all Member States, concerned intergovernmental organizations, international and regional organizations and civil society, in particular organizations of persons with disabilities, and the private sector, to engage in cooperative arrangements and strategic partnerships to facilitate technical cooperation to advance disability-inclusive development;

7. *Also encourages* stakeholders at the regional and subregional levels to include the perspectives of persons with disabilities in all forms of development cooperation, including South-South and triangular cooperation,

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<sup>9</sup> E/CN.5/2012/6.

<sup>10</sup> E/CN.5/2012/7.

in order to build collaborative frameworks for mainstreaming disability, including the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities, at the national level;

8. *Further encourages* Member States, the United Nations system, within its existing resources, and other stakeholders to improve data and statistics on disability, taking into account existing guidelines published by the United Nations, as a basis for strengthening evidence-based policymaking, and to share good practices and experiences in order to overcome barriers and further advance disability-inclusive development;

9. *Urges* the United Nations to enhance partnerships for international cooperation between the United Nations system and regional and subregional organizations and to enhance its role in forging partnerships with a wide range of stakeholders, in particular with organizations of persons with disabilities, and the private sector, to provide opportunities and forums, within existing resources, for promoting linkages between disability and the mainstream development agenda;

10. *Calls upon* the international community to seize every opportunity to include disability as a cross-cutting issue in the global development agenda, and also calls upon the United Nations to ensure that disability is included in the emerging post-2015 United Nations development framework, as well as in the dialogues and outcomes of relevant United Nations development conferences and in the quadrennial comprehensive policy review process;

11. *Emphasizes* the need for measures to ensure that women and girls with disabilities are not subject to multiple or aggravated forms of discrimination or excluded from participation in the implementation of the international development goals, and to eliminate existing inequalities between women and men with disabilities;

12. *Encourages* the Special Rapporteur on disability of the Commission for Social Development to collaborate, as appropriate, with all relevant stakeholders, including special procedure mandate holders of the Human Rights Council in accordance with his or her mandate;

13. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to submit to the Commission for Social Development at its fifty-first session an annual report on his activities on mainstreaming disability in the development agenda;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the implementation of the present resolution for submission to the Commission for Social Development at its fifty-first session as a contribution to the upcoming High-level Meeting of the General Assembly.