**Olga Montúfar’s Statement English Version**

*\*Introduction in Nahuatl\**

*Cuale tonale, yol tlapalolistle ; neki in tlaltekpaktle tech maca se tlanechicole tlamochiua*

Good morning, I greet you fraternally; i wish that the universe can give us a productive meeting.

I want to thank the Disability Rights Advocacy Fund and The International Disability Alliance for giving me the oportunity of raise the voice of the indigenous girls and women with disabilities.

The term “Women empowerment” has been used constantly in different national and international documents; The concept of empowerment is pleasing to me because it is very useful in talking about indigenous women and girls with disabilities because it emphasizes the conception of women as active agents and not passive beneficiaries of development strategies designed by others.

Nowadays empowerment is not only possible if it is driven by indigenous women and girls with disabilities, it requires the important collaboration of organizations, external actors such as development agencies or government agencies that can provide financial resources, information materials, human support , Alliances, and opportunities for participation in power spaces.

An example of how the collaboration of organizations strengthens empowerment for the fulfillment of human rights; It is the Fund for the rights of people with disabilities (DRF); That in 2008 started a round of financing in Mexico, where Fundación Paso a paso been an organization of people with disabilities, was encouraged to compete, this being the first time we apply for a grant that later fruit in two more national projects. While we were filling the form, we faced a terminology that meant for us different things to those that were required, we had to make several crosses of information, DRF always supported us with training that culminated in an adequate empowerment that was not only a basis for Strengthening our leadership capacities in our communities, we also managed to position our theme at the international level in two areas, such as the elaboration of a parallel report presented to the Convention Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and our participation for the first time in a delegation of Indigenous People with Disabilities at the Permanent Forum on Indigenous issues, in the middle of this great alliance, the DRF adapted several of its internal processes to provide us equal conditions with other non-indigenous disability organizations, during the development of the project we both walked in a wonderful learning opportunity, while they empowered us on advocacy strategies, understanding the interpretation of the convention on the rights of persons with disabilities, we empower them on how to understand legal pluralism? How are two legal systems being dialected and intersected? Different and autonomous; that can coexist in our same social field with the same validity and legitimacy, to make possible to exercise our rights established in international treaties; But respecting and recognizing the existence of our own indigenous rights.

It is very emotional for me to share our beginnings; Because taking a look back it makes me see how much we have grown; and that we still need to do a lot !!! Our dialogues as indigenous women with disabilities today are others; Before we looked too shy and we always showed the amount of vulnerability we were facing, we were afraid !!!

We were afraid of not getting the right way, our demands did not have a road map, now we have experts on various topics and different political levels, We are developing how to use the purpose of Convention 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples; Of the International Labor Organization (ILO) in order to assimilate the Declaration of Indigenous Peoples and to stimulate dialogue between goverments, indigenous and tribal people to improve our situations. Convention 169 is of use to us and to defend rights that are not covered by the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, such as territorial rights, the right to be consulted for the exploitation of minerals or other resources located in our territories, Or the right to free prior and informed consent, for any displacement of the indigenous population of our traditional territories.

We now insist on being part of the local formulation, national and global policies, especially when they relate to investments in infrastructure, mining and extractive industries, trade in environmental goods and services that affect livelihoods and the well-being of our lives, our indigenous peoples and our comunities.

Nevertheless; There is still a need to continue strengthening in order to conceive the empowerment of indigenous women and girls with disabilities as a process that implies a change on the paradigm and that includes the recognition of the power that we as women already possess; And initiate a questioning to the structures that marginalize us.

Now we also insist on considering our traditional knowledge and practices as a key point from which as indigenous women and girls with disabilities we can empower ourselves.

We also request that resources be provided to organizations of indigenous women and girls with disabilities; To promote individual and collective empowerment processes that span various dimensions of life, such as education, capacity building, leadership, production, economics, sexual and reproductive health, communication and new technologies, organizational strengthening, partnership formation and participation in Spaces of decision, among others .... Because we affirm that the full and equal inclusion of any indigenous woman or girl with a disability in the world can be achieved.

We need to get together to work on identifying and promoting ways of empowering and mobilizing of indigenous women and girls with disabilities in the world; For their full participation according to the specific customs and customs of their communities, for this its necessary to stop considering the language as a barrier that prevents their participation.

The women's groups and the CEDAW itself must make the greatest effort to include in their mission; Specific actions directed at indigenous girls and women with disabilities, such as laws, politics and budgets in favor of them.

I consider of great importance that the annual meetings of the Women's Legal and Social Commission, where its mission is to monitor and review the progress and difficulties encountered in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Action Platform; We need to ensure that all indigenous women and girls with disabilities can achieve full citizenship, as well as the incorporation of greater participation of indigenous women with disabilities in their sessions.

Finally I manifest myself for a planet in full harmony and mutual agreement where violence has no place, where indigenous women with disabilities can say yes!, yes to a full life, to respect our territories, the waters, the mountains, our bodies, we say no! To violations in any space where there is life in the sacred universe.

Thank you