**Forum of Latin American and Caribbean Countries on Sustainable Development - Mexico 2017,**

**Report of Dean Lermen, attending on behalf of the International Disability Alliance - IDA**

The Secretariat of Foreign Affairs of Mexico and ECLAC invited the Social Civility Organizations-SCO to attend the meeting held on Tuesday, 25 April. Work methodology organized two groups, as follows:

1) Persons in charge of writing the Declaration of Civil Society, and

2) Persons in charge of designing the CSO mechanism for implementation, monitoring and follow-up to Agenda 2030.

I attended 5 working sessions of Group No. 2 and I may say that the 3 first working sessions were held among discussions between two positions initially shown as opposite and excluding. Some people suggested the need of a mechanism with a minimum of institutionality to guarantee that different sectors or stakeholders group of civil society, have guarantees for their participation and to influence the process of implementation, monitoring and evaluation of Agenda 2030. It is very important for groups of people with disabilities to have this mechanism and this minimum of institutionality so we have the opportunity of being a stakeholders group with a legitimate dialogue. However, I must clarify that at no time my position was radical, on the contrary, I participated in the negotiation recognizing the disagreements and from those points of disagreement, I start to identify common points and build a negotiated solution.

The first common element that I would like to highlight was that the two positions agreed that the forum should be plural, democratic and transparent, where SCO should be guaranteed on their full participation unconditionally, autonomously, and influence the construction of the Agenda. The other position emphasized on a participation model without rules and prior agreements.

After two working days, we managed to conclude that the model or mechanism of participation should be institutional, and we ended up organizing a working commission, of which I am a member of, being in charge of creating the mechanism or a model.

To conclude this report I will point out the importance of the professional participation of people with disabilities, as speakers or panelists in this type of events. The delegate of the government of Belize told the following story:

"I attended the “MGoS Engagement in National Level Reviews” held in Bogota last March, where I had the opportunity to listen the lecture given by a blind man, a man of great clarity, all the information organized in his head. His lecture was very good and made me think about what does the government of my Country do for blind people and people with disabilities? ".