**Tuesday 11th July**

**3.00 – 6.00 pm**

**Thematic review: Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world: Multi-stakeholder perspectives\***

**Mohammed Ali Loutfy statement- 11 July, 2017**

Persons with disabilities represent 15 percent of the overall population. 90 percent of them live in the Global South. The inclusion of persons with disabilities in programming and policy development for the implementation of the SDGs agenda 2030 represents a significant added value for the socioeconomic development everywhere. By pursuing the approach of inclusion for persons with disabilities and the implementation of the agenda 2030 one billion plus people are expected to receive quality education, quality healthcare services and better living conditions. These people would be no longer represent a burden for governments and societies, instead they would have the capacity to play a role as partners and contributors to the growth of their societies. Furthermore, a major transformation is expected at a cultural level by tackling practices of discrimination and stigma. We, the stakeholder group of persons with disabilities to the HLPF on the SDGs, hope that the involvement of persons with disabilities and their organizations in the VNRs put together by 44 countries, would be a first step and a positive sign for a serious commitment by governments towards the approach of disability inclusion and accessibility. We also hope that such initiative would inspire an encouraging push for other governments to pursue the same steps for a better future for all. Our group offers all of its resources, knowledge, and expertise to build a binding partnership with the united nations agencies and member states in order to make this dream possible.