**Wednesday 12 July**

**9.00 – 11.00 am**

Review of SDGs implementation: SDG 3\*

Thank you your excellency for the floor. I represent the Stakeholder Group of persons with disabilities.

With the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 173 countries declared that health is a universal fundamental human right. Article 25 reinforces the rights of persons with disabilities to enjoy the highest standard of health without discrimination. Yet, persons with disabilities are much less likely to receive health services. Persons with disabilities encounter communication, informational, attitudinal and physical barriers. Such barriers have caused more than half of the global population of persons with disabilities unable to afford vital health care.

The targets of SDG 3 cannot be implemented without considering the needs of persons with disabilities. The most critical target within SDG 3 is the call to establish Universal Health Coverage, as it is the most powerful tool to achieve equity and ultimately leave no one behind.

We call on governments to

1. Substantively include persons with disabilities and their issues in the progress towards Universal Health Coverage
2. Strengthen national –level Health Systems, so that they are accessible to and inclusive of persons with disabilities, including ensuring persons with disabilities are fully engaged in the development, implementation and monitoring of health policies
3. Ensure non-discrimination and respect of the autonomy of persons with disabilities, and train health staff accordingly, paying particular attention to the multi-dimentional forms of discrimination faced by girls and women with disabilities.
4. Ensure that public health financing and health insurances are fully inclusive of persons with disabilities, and that any discrimination by health insurance companies is prohibited
5. Abolish involuntary treatment and forced institutionalization, as well as scale up in non-discriminatory mental health services
6. Disaggregate Health Information Systems data by disability, and importantly indicators to measure progress towards Universal Health Coverage