

**Official Statement from the Organisations and Individuals
Working on the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities**

Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
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Honourable Chairman, Excellency, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen ...

On behalf of the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities: Thematic Group on Disaster Risk Reduction, we thank the Government of Mongolia and UNISDR for organising the 2018 Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.

AMCDRR is an excellent opportunity for States and stakeholders to discuss and reflect collective commitments and achievements towards the Sendai Framework.

There is clear recognition in the Sendai Framework that persons with disabilities and their representative organisations are crucial in strengthening resilience. Knowledge and leadership of persons with disabilities are essential in designing and implementing DRR plans, which are universal and relevant to all of society.

The presence and active participation of persons with disabilities in this AMCDRR demonstrate strong commitment and capacity for a meaningful contribution to DRR processes. While progress in realising disability-inclusive DRR has been achieved, major gaps remain in the collection and disaggregation of data on the situation of persons with disabilities and disability inclusion in mainstream DRR plans and programme at all levels.

Disability is often seen as a technical and standalone issue and thus it is often addressed separately. All-of-society engagement as a key guiding principle for the Sendai Framework implementation has not been fully materialised.

Around 15% of the world's population—one billion people—are persons with disabilities. This figure is increasing following population growth, population ageing and natural disasters¹. Evidence from Japan earthquake and tsunami in 2011 indicates that persons with disabilities are two to four times more likely to die in case of a disaster². Hence, exclusion of persons with disabilities in DRR processes and mechanisms will continue to put the world's largest minority disproportionately at-risk.

This situation harms the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities as stipulated in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), in particular Article 11 on situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies.

Full inclusion and meaningful participation of persons with disabilities in DRR require a multi-sectoral and multi-actor approach. As a recent example of this approach, the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities: Thematic Group on DRR appreciates the Government of Bangladesh for organising the 2nd International Conference on Disability and Disaster Risk Management in collaboration with UNISDR in May 2018.

The participation of different ministries and government officials as well as organisations of persons with disabilities and disability and development actors at the conference imply strong commitment and partnership towards inclusion. The outcome document, the Dhaka Declaration 2015+ serves as a practical guideline for states to implement and report on the Sendai Framework and its connection to the Sustainable Development Goals for inclusion of persons with disabilities³.

The Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities is firmly committed to contributing to the achievement of the Sendai Framework through the promotion of all-of-society engagement in DRR policies and practices. We call upon States, stakeholder groups, organisations and

¹ World Health Organization & World Bank, World Report on Disability (2011)

² UNESCAP (2015). Disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction. Note by the Secretariat E/ESCAP/CDR(4)/INF/4

³ <http://dkconf18.modmr.gov.bd/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Dhaka-Declaration-2018.pdf>

individuals working in DRR to collaborate and strengthen partnerships for action toward inclusive implementation of the Sendai Framework. All lives matter and DRR will not save them without actions. Inclusion is key to resilience!