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Islamabad Declaration on  
Rights of Persons with Disabilities  
12 - 14<sup>th</sup> August 2009



## **DECLARATION OF DPO's LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE**

Having considered the Ordinance on Disabled Persons, 1981 and the National Policy for Persons with Disabilities, 2002; and noted that the Government of Pakistan has committed itself to providing 2% job quota for Persons with Disabilities in the 1981 Ordinance on Disabled Persons;

Recognizing that more than 4 million persons in Pakistan suffer from Disability; and affirming that Persons with Disabilities, as other human beings, are entitled to the same basic rights as enshrined in all national and international standards, declarations and conventions;

Desiring to address the disadvantages and barriers placed on Persons with Disabilities by society and mindful of the need to lessen the burden of poverty on their quality of life;

Recalling the United Nations Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities in 1993 and also recalling the resolution WHA58.23 on Disability, including prevention, management and rehabilitation;

Recalling the UN General Assembly resolution 59/229 on developing a Convention on protection and promotion of rights of Persons with Disabilities;

Recalling the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCPRD) 2006;

Recalling the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for Fair Globalization adopted on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2008 for decent work agenda focusing on social protection, employment, social interaction and international labor standards;

Reiterating the commitment for follow up and advocacy for Islamabad Declaration on Accessibility 2006;

Acknowledging the link between poverty and disability and that disability places a heavy economic burden on the families and communities;

Further acknowledging that the recognition of rights of Persons with Disabilities has come about through broad consultation of national and international alliances;

**WE,**

The leaders of the Disabled Persons Organizations from all provinces of Pakistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir, senior officials from Directorate General of Special Education, Universities, Students, Corporate Sector, Print Media, legislators, international non-governmental organizations and professional bodies assembled at National Institute of Special Education (NISE) for the Leadership Conference for Persons with Disabilities held on 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> August 2009, together,

### **DECLARE THAT**

1. In all communications, the term 'Persons with Disabilities' be used instead of 'Disabled Persons' signifying the importance of the human being rather than the impairment.
2. In order to address the stigma of disability, an enabling environment be created to give adequate representation and voice to Persons with Disabilities and organizations of/for Persons with Disabilities.
3. Access to justice is a fundamental right of all human beings and should be enjoyed equally and appropriately by Persons with Disabilities.
4. The constituency of citizens of Pakistan also needs representation by Persons with Disabilities in the political arena.

5. Disability does not mean inability and Persons with Disability must have access to the same range of services, opportunities and facilities as citizens at no additional cost.

6. Development in disability should ensure that everyone has the opportunity to use the full range of information and communication technology, transport services, public utilities, buildings and open spaces that make up the places in which we live.

7. Services for Persons with Disabilities are to be included in public funded programmes, civil society interventions, corporate social responsibility and private sector initiatives.

To this end, **WE**, the participants at the Leadership Conference for Persons with Disabilities in Islamabad, in solidarity of efforts already taken at the national and international levels, do jointly and individually,

## **AGREE**

8. To support, promote and defend the rights of Persons with Disabilities to their participation and interactions in the social, educational, recreational and economic spheres of life and to enjoy the same rights and status as other citizens.

9. To commit for UNCRPD as it provides a broader framework for inclusion of Persons with Disabilities developed on rights based approach.

10. To support and promote the social inclusion of Persons with Disabilities by implementing actions that encourage, facilitate and promote inclusive development.

Accordingly, **WE** the participants at Leadership Conference for Persons with Disabilities Islamabad,

## **CALL UPON**

### **THE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN, TO**

11. Consider all Persons with Disabilities as full and responsible citizens of the country and to ensure that they enjoy the same rights, privileges and opportunities as other citizens.

12. Ratify the United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and allocate resources for its implementation.

13. Take necessary measures to ensure access to justice for Persons with Disabilities and should follow necessary actions that their issues are reflected and addressed in judicial policy, governance reforms and administrative structures.

14. To develop a mechanism for implementation of the 1981 Ordinance on Disabled Persons and the 2002 Policy on Disability and National Action Plan 2008, in addition to the Cabinet decision of 8<sup>th</sup> June 2009 and Directives of President of Pakistan issued on 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2009.

15. Develop and use standardized definitions on the types and grades of disability using internationally agreed definitions so that Persons with Disabilities may access the statutory benefits available to them.

16. Promote inclusive development approaches into its development initiatives and programmes like income generation, water & sanitation, climate change, etc.

17. Incorporate and integrate Accessibility within the National Action Plan on

Disability; Education for All initiatives, Poverty Reduction Strategies and Decentralization process.

18. Ensure representation of Persons with Disabilities and organizations of/for Persons with Disabilities in all discussions, planning and legal formulation directly or indirectly affecting Persons with Disabilities.
19. Conduct an independent or dependent population based national survey for Persons with Disabilities to know the magnitude and prevalence of disability across the country.
20. Eliminate the tariffs, duties and taxes imposed on assistive devices and vehicles for Persons with Disabilities.

#### **THE CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS AND NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS, TO**

21. Include programmes for Persons with Disabilities in their development agendas and incorporate social inclusion in their priorities of work.
22. Give voice to Persons with Disabilities while building capacities of communities for development and ensure for their adequate participation.
23. Support and facilitate organizations of/for Persons with Disabilities to access assistive devices and information and communication technology as their basic rights.
24. Work with electronic and print media to highlight and communicate to the general public, in consultation with organizations of/for Persons with Disabilities, issues of disability and disseminate information on rights of Persons with Disabilities.

#### **CORPORATE SECTOR, TO**

25. Fulfill their moral and legal responsibilities towards Persons with Disabilities by ensuring employment of Persons with Disabilities according to the stipulations of the 1981 Ordinance of Disabled Persons.
26. Ensure that inclusion is addressed holistically in all aspects of their operations especially access to the building, information and services.
27. Ensure that inclusion standards are met while designing all new buildings, parks, open public spaces, housing estates, pedestrian walkways and public comfort places.

#### **LEGISLATORS AND LAWYERS, TO**

28. Defend and protect the rights of Persons with Disabilities in all legal formulations and existing statues where appropriate, in consultation with organizations of/for Persons with Disabilities and ensure that social inclusion is duly incorporated in all such enactments.
29. Strengthen the existing 1981 Ordinance of Disabled Persons; the 2002 Policy on Disability and National Action Plan 2008 and in consultation with organizations of/for Persons with Disabilities determine the deficiencies relating to Accessibility and ensure that measures are taken to rectify them.
30. Examine the existing Traffic Rules and Licensing Regulations for inconsistencies in consultation with organizations of/for Persons with Disabilities, and ensure their suitable amendment to reflect social inclusion.

## **PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES THEMSELVES, TO**

31. Educate and apprise themselves of the existing laws and regulations and the statutory benefits relating to Persons with Disabilities and ensure that they are familiar with the procedures to access them.
32. Be aware of the different inclusion options for their respective disability and ensure that concerned stakeholders are informed of these needs.
33. Work with the Government of Pakistan, civil society organizations, national and international development organizations, chambers of commerce, legislators, architects and town planners, universities and teaching institutions, disability and technology experts to develop feasible and cost effective actions and measures for the rights of Persons with Disabilities stipulated and unstipulated in the National Action Plan.

## **REAFFIRM OUR COMMITMENT, TO**

34. Sensitize key policy and decision makers about the Policy on Disability in order to enhance the allocation of resources and augment pro-disabled practices for implementing UNCRPD and inclusive development.
35. Improve the knowledge base and strengthen the organizational and institutional capacities of key stakeholders to implement initiatives aimed at promoting inclusive development.
36. Document and promote experiences and good practices in disability sector at local, national and international levels and share these experiences with key stakeholders

to tailor them in line with cultural practices, social norms and economic system of the society.

37. Create opportunities to develop networks of key stakeholders in addressing the issue of Inclusion holistically at national and local levels.
38. Promote research and exposure visits of key stakeholders to understand the significance of social inclusion.
39. Promote individual contact of organizations of/for Persons with Disabilities with other donors, national organizations, corporate sector and media to create awareness and promotion of inclusive development and rights of Persons with Disabilities.
40. Develop closer co-ordination between government ministries, departments, civil society organizations, corporate sector and consumer groups for purposes of undertaking campaigns for social inclusion at the national and local levels.
41. To take concrete actions by relevant departments to the implementation of National Action Plan 2008 of Government of Pakistan.
42. Undertake sensitization workshops on Inclusion with educationists, architects, legislators, town planners, policy makers, public service providers, disability, development and advocacy organizations.

AND

43. Develop models and pilot projects depicting best practices in inclusive development and implementation of UNCRPD as demonstration models for the government.

**Signatories of Islamabad Declaration on Rights of Persons with Disabilities  
12-14 August, 2009 Islamabad**

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