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Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly: Priority Theme: Creating full and productive employment and decent work for all as a way of overcoming inequalities to accelerate the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Statement submitted by Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



Statement

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development categorically states that no one should be left behind. Persons with disabilities inclusive of other social groups have been most excluded and deprived section of the society. The upcoming review of disability inclusive development framework should emphasize the following key issues and concerns of persons with disabilities with regard to below stated SDGs:

Goal-1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere: Very little progress has been made since 80% persons with disabilities in developing countries experience chronic poverty (*we had conducted the situational analysis in 4 districts of Northern Karnataka, India through a data collection app with over 63000 persons with different category of disabilities and gender*). This should be addressed immediately which contributes to human growth and development. A healthy person without poverty can only effectively in the economic activities of the community and the society.

Goal-2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture: There is urgent need to reduce hunger and starvation among persons with disabilities, particularly children. Death by starvation has been increasing and there is not much reduction in infant mortality due to lack of improvements in nutrition and nutritional status.

Goal-3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being opportunities for all at all ages: Health care system is not accessible to persons with disabilities. The lifesaving drugs and appropriate treatment are not available and affordable to persons with disabilities. The vaccination programme is not very effective. The children have been prone to infections and diseases. The early detection and intervention programme is not very effective.

Goal-4: Ensure inclusive, equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all: Enrolment into regular schools is happening but at the same time dropout rate is also very high which needs to be reduced drastically. The school infrastructure should be upgraded with appropriate and adequate teaching and learning materials with appropriate training to the teachers to deal with the issues of children with disabilities at school to enhance their academic performance.

Goal-5 Achieve gender equality and empower women and girls: Girls and women with disabilities are further marginalized and continued gender-based abuse needs to be reduced. Violence, exploitation, domestic violence and other forms discrimination has been perpetuated endlessly.

Goal-6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all: Mainly accessibility is the issue which should be ensured. They do not have access to safe drinking and potable water and good sanitation. The schools do not have washrooms which significantly contributes the dropout rate among girls with disabilities and if they exist, these facilities are not accessible to them.

Goal-7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all: No or lack access to energy.

Goal-8: Promote Sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and full and productive and decent work for all: Unemployment rate is high among youth with disabilities which needs to be reduced by providing access to higher and professional education. Due to a lack of access to technical and professional education or at least secondary and higher education, youth with disabilities are not able to secure gainful employment opportunities.

Goal-9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation: Homelessness is high which should be addressed. Special provision should be made to build housing for persons with disabilities to reduce homelessness drastically and provide shelter to them.

Goal-11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, resilient, safe and sustainable: Make them accessible to all category of persons with disabilities. Currently the cities and towns are not accessible to persons with disabilities. They restrict their mobility and participation in all aspects of life.

Goal-12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns: There is imbalance which needs to be balanced.

Goal-13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impact: persons with disabilities are affected most.

Persons with disabilities were also affected by pandemic and climate change. Adequate and appropriate measures should be taken to protect them from pandemic and impact of climate change. Lives should be saved with appropriate plans and strategies.
