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Commission for Social Development

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Agenda item 3 (b)

Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly: review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Commission, Mr. Eduardo Meñez (Philippines), on the basis of informal consultations

The Commission for Social Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Further promotion of equalization of opportunities by, for and with persons with disabilities and mainstreaming disability in the development agenda

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995,¹ and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly entitled “World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world”, held at Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,²

Recalling also the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons,³ the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities⁴ and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,⁵ which recognize persons with disabilities as both development agents and beneficiaries in all aspects of development,

¹ *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

² General Assembly resolution S-24/2, annex.

³ A/37/351/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex, sect. VIII, recommendation I (IV), adopted by the General Assembly by its resolution 37/52.

⁴ General Assembly resolution 48/96, annex.

⁵ General Assembly resolution 61/106, annex I.



Recalling further its previous resolutions concerning persons with disabilities and further promotion of equalization of opportunities and mainstreaming of disability in the development agenda and the relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly,

Welcoming the fact that, since the opening for signature on 30 March 2007 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto,⁶ one hundred and forty-seven States have signed and ninety-seven States and one regional integration organization have ratified the Convention and ninety States have signed and sixty States have ratified the Optional Protocol, and encouraging all States that have not yet done so to consider signing and ratifying the Convention and the Optional Protocol,

Acknowledging that the majority of the 690 million persons with disabilities in the world live in conditions of poverty, and in this regard recognizing the critical need to address the impact of poverty on persons with disabilities,

Noting that persons with disabilities make up an estimated 10 per cent of the world's population, of whom 80 per cent live in developing countries, and recognizing the role of international cooperation in promoting national efforts to mainstream disability in the development agenda, in particular for developing countries,

Emphasizing the importance of the collection and compilation of national data and information regarding the situation of persons with disabilities, following existing guidelines on disability statistics, that are disaggregated by gender and age, which could be used by Governments to enable their development policy planning, monitoring, evaluation and implementation to be disability-sensitive, in particular in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals for persons with disabilities, while reiterating the request to the United Nations system to facilitate technical assistance within existing resources, including the provision of assistance, in particular to developing countries, for capacity-building and for the collection and compilation of national and regional data and statistics on disabilities,

Convinced that addressing the profound social, cultural and economic disadvantage and exclusion experienced by many persons with disabilities, and promoting the use of universal design as appropriate, as well as the progressive removal of barriers to their full and effective participation in all aspects of development, and promoting their economic, social and cultural rights, will further the equalization of opportunities and contribute to the realization of a "society for all" in the twenty-first century,

Taking note that the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities emphasizes the importance of international cooperation for improving the living conditions of persons with disabilities in every country, particularly in developing countries, and promotes the full realization of the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of persons with disabilities,

Underlining the importance of mobilizing resources at all levels for the successful implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of

⁶ Ibid., annex II.

Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and recognizing the importance of international cooperation and its promotion in support of national efforts, in particular in developing countries,

1. *Welcomes* the outcome of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,⁷ particularly the recognition that policies and actions must also focus on persons with disabilities so that they benefit from progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals;

2. *Calls upon* Member States and United Nations bodies and agencies to include disability issues and persons with disabilities in reviewing progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and to step up efforts to include in their assessment the extent to which persons with disabilities are able to benefit from efforts to achieve the Goals;

3. *Calls upon* Member States to enable persons with disabilities to participate as agents and beneficiaries of development, in particular in all efforts towards eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, achieving universal primary education, promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women, reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, ensuring environmental sustainability and developing a global partnership for development, are inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities;

4. *Encourages* all Member States, concerned intergovernmental organizations, international and regional organizations and civil society, in particular organizations of persons with disabilities, and the private sector, to engage in cooperative arrangements aimed at providing the necessary technical and expert assistance to enhance capacities in mainstreaming disability, including the perspective of persons with disabilities, in the development agenda, and in this regard encourages the Secretariat and other relevant bodies to find improved ways to enhance international technical cooperation;

5. *Welcomes* the work of the Special Rapporteur on disability of the Commission for Social Development, and takes note of his report;⁸

6. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on disability of the Commission for Social Development for the period from 2012 to 2014, in accordance with the provisions set down in section 4 of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities⁴ to further their promotion and monitoring, including the human rights dimension of disability, and the provisions of the present resolution, and in this regard reaffirms paragraph 3 of Economic and Social Council resolution 2008/20;

7. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to further:

(a) Raise awareness of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,⁵ the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons³ and the Standard Rules;

⁷ See General Assembly resolution 65/1.

⁸ E/CN.5/2011/9.

(b) Promote the inclusion of persons with disabilities and the mainstreaming of disability issues in development programmes and strategies at the national, regional and international levels;

(c) Promote international cooperation, including technical cooperation, that is inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities, as well as the exchange and sharing of expertise and best practices on disability issues;

(d) Collaborate, in fulfilment of the above tasks, with all relevant stakeholders, including organizations of persons with disabilities;

8. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur on disability to contribute to the planned high-level meeting of the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly and its preparation, taking account of the priorities of the international community in strengthening efforts to ensure accessibility for and inclusion of persons with disabilities in all aspects of development efforts;

9. *Expresses concern* at the insufficiency of resources for the Special Rapporteur, and recognizes the importance of providing adequate resources for the implementation of his mandate;

10. *Encourages* Member States, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to continue to contribute to the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability in order to support the activities of the Special Rapporteur as well as new and expanded initiatives to strengthen national capacities for the equalization of opportunities by, for and with persons with disabilities;

11. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to submit to the Commission for Social Development at its fiftieth session an annual report on his activities in implementing the present resolution.
