

**Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific****Sixty-ninth session**

Bangkok, 25 April-1 May 2013

Item 3 (g) of the provisional agenda

Review of issues pertinent to the subsidiary structure of the Commission, including the work of the regional institutions: Social development**Report of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012***Summary*

The High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012, was convened in Incheon, Republic of Korea, from 29 October to 2 November 2012. Organized by ESCAP and hosted by the Government of the Republic of Korea, the Meeting comprised a senior officials segment, held from 29 to 31 October 2012, and a ministerial segment, held on 1 and 2 November 2012. A total of 300 representatives of Governments, civil society and the United Nations system were represented at the Meeting, with 38 ESCAP members and associate members having been represented mostly at the ministerial level.

The Meeting was convened in pursuance of ESCAP resolutions 64/8, 66/11 and 68/7, with the following objectives:

- (a) To undertake a final review of the progress achieved in implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012, including implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action and the Biwako Plus Five towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific, and identify the remaining challenges to be addressed;
- (b) To exchange forward-looking national policies, experiences and good practices related to the building of disability-inclusive societies in Asia and the Pacific;
- (c) To consider and adopt a ministerial declaration and regional strategy to promote the rights of persons with disabilities during a new decade covering the period from 2013 to 2022.

Pursuant to ESCAP resolution 68/7, the new Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, was launched during the Meeting for the purpose of accelerating the ratification and implementation in the Asia-Pacific region of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Furthermore, the Meeting adopted the Ministerial Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, and the Incheon Strategy to "Make the Right Real" for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific, which contains the world's first set of regionally agreed disability-inclusive development goals, to catalyse action during the new Decade and to achieve the regional vision of an inclusive society that ensures, promotes and upholds the rights of persons with disabilities in Asia and the Pacific. The Incheon Strategy comprises 10 goals, 27 targets and 62 indicators.

The Commission is requested to take action on two matters:

- (a) To review and endorse the report of the above-mentioned High-level Intergovernmental Meeting, including the Ministerial Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, and the Incheon Strategy to "Make the Right Real" for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific;

(b) To select, from the lists that follow, 15 members and associate members of ESCAP and 15 civil society organizations for membership in the Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022.

(i) *Members and associate members of ESCAP:* (1) Bangladesh; (2) Bhutan; (3) China; (4) Fiji; (5) India; (6) Indonesia; (7) Japan; (8) Kiribati; (9) Malaysia; (10) Mongolia; (11) Myanmar; (12) Pakistan; (13) Philippines; (14) Republic of Korea; (15) Russian Federation; (16) Samoa; and (17) Thailand.

(ii) *Civil society organizations:* (1) ASEAN Autism Network; (2) ASEAN Disability Forum; (3) Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability; (4) Asia-Pacific DPO United; (5) Asia Pacific Disability Forum; (6) Central Asian Disability Forum; (7) Christian Blind Mission; (8) Community-based Rehabilitation Asia-Pacific Network; (9) Commitments, India; (10) DAISY Consortium; (11) Disabled Peoples' International Asia-Pacific; (12) Inclusion International Asia Pacific Regional Forum; (13) Pacific Disability Forum; (14) Rehabilitation International Asia Pacific Region; (15) South Asian Disability Forum; (16) World Blind Union Asia-Pacific; (17) World Federation of the Deaf Regional Secretariat for Asia and the Pacific; (18) World Federation of the Deafblind Asia and the Pacific; and (19) World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry Asia-Pacific.

In deciding on the composition of the Working Group, the Meeting requested that the Commission take due account of the principle of subregional representation for selection of the 15 members and associate members, and the criteria for selection of civil society organizations, as contained in paragraph 7 of the terms of reference of the Working Group, which states that, for a civil society entity to be eligible to serve as a member of the Working Group, it should: (a) be operating at the regional and/or subregional levels in Asia and the Pacific; (b) be an organization or network that represents, supports and/or promotes the interests of persons with diverse disabilities; and (c) have technical expertise relevant to advancing the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration and the Incheon Strategy.

The adopted terms of reference stipulate that the Working Group shall be composed of 30 members: 15 from members and associate members and 15 from civil society. At the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting, a total of 17 Governments and 19 civil society organizations expressed interest in serving on the Working Group for the first term covering the period 2013-2017.

As the number of interested Governments and civil society organizations exceeds the stipulated membership of the Working Group, the secretariat submits the following proposals for the consideration of the Commission:

(a) *Members and associate members of ESCAP*

The 17 Governments that expressed interest in serving on the Working Group are from the following subregions: 4 from East and North-East Asia; 5 from South-East Asia; 4 from South and South-West Asia; 1 from North and Central Asia; and 3 from the Pacific. Using a population-weighted methodology to calculate representation by subregion, there are two subregions that exceed the quota by one each, namely South-East Asia and the Pacific.

Two options are thus proposed for the consideration and decision of the Commission:

Option 1 (Governments): sharing of seats

The above-mentioned five countries from South-East Asia and the three countries/territories from the Pacific are requested to decide, for their respective subregions, which two countries/territories would alternate in sharing a seat on the Working Group for the first five-year term of membership covering the period 2013-2017 (for example, 2.5 years for each country/territory).

Option 2 (Governments): inclusion of observers

The five countries in South-East Asia and the three countries/territories in the Pacific are requested to decide, for their respective subregions, which country/territory should participate in "observer" status during the first five-year term of membership covering the period 2013-2017. Therefore, in addition to the 15 members of the Working Group, 2 countries/territories, one each from South-East Asia and the Pacific, would participate, in observer status, in the Working Group.

(b) *Civil society organizations*

As requested by the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting, the secretariat verified compliance of the above-mentioned 19 civil society organizations with paragraph 7 of the terms of reference of

the Working Group. The verification process found that one such organization, namely Commitments, India, did not fulfil the criteria set out in paragraph 7 in that it was not operating at the “regional and/or subregional levels in Asia and the Pacific”.

Two options are proposed for the consideration and decision of the Commission regarding the remaining 18 organizations that meet the eligibility criteria to serve on the Working Group:

Option 1 (Civil society organizations): sharing of seats

The 18 civil society organizations should decide among themselves which six entities should alternate in order to share three seats on the Working Group for the five-year term of membership covering the period 2013 -2017 (e.g. 2.5-year membership for each of those 6 organizations).

Option 2 (Civil society organizations): inclusion of observers

The 18 civil society organizations should decide among themselves which 3 organizations should participate in “observer” status during the first term of membership covering the period 2013-2017. Therefore, in addition to the 15 civil society organization members of the Working Group, 3 civil society organizations would participate, in observer status, in the Working Group for the first five-year term of membership covering the period 2013-2017.

Should the Commission decide on any of the above-mentioned options, it may wish to consider requesting the secretariat to communicate with the above-mentioned Governments and civil society organizations in order to implement the decisions of the Commission. Alternately, the Commission may wish to consider other options for determining the final selection of the membership of the Working Group.

Contents

	<i>Page</i>
I. Matters calling for action by the Commission or brought to its attention	4
A. Ministerial Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022.....	4
Annexes	
I. Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific	10
A. Background.....	10
B. Key principles and policy direction	11
C. Incheon goals and targets.....	12
D. Modalities for effective implementation: national, subregional and regional levels.....	23
II. Terms of reference of the working group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities	26
B. Recommendation.....	27
II. Proceedings	28
A. Review of the implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action and Biwako Plus Five towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific.....	28
B. Consideration of the draft ministerial declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, and the draft Incheon strategy to “make the right real” for persons with disabilities in Asia and the Pacific	35

C.	Consideration of the membership of an Asia-Pacific working group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022	35
D.	Adoption of the report of the senior officials	37
E.	Review of forward-looking policies to promote disability-inclusive development and substantive enhancement of the rights of persons with disabilities in Asia and the Pacific during the new Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022	37
F.	Other matters	44
G.	Adoption of the Ministerial Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, and the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific	44
H.	Adoption of the report of the Meeting	44
I.	Closing of the Meeting	44
III.	Organization	45
A.	Senior officials segment	45
B.	Ministerial segment	46
Annex	List of documents	49

I. Matters calling for action by the Commission or brought to its attention

A. Ministerial Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022

We, the ministers and representatives of members and associate members of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) assembled at the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012, held at Incheon, Republic of Korea, from 29 October to 2 November 2012,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 37/52 of 3 December 1982, in which the Assembly adopted the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons,¹ and resolution 48/96 of 20 December 1993, in which the Assembly adopted the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, in which persons with disabilities are recognized as both development agents and beneficiaries in all aspects of development,

Also recalling General Assembly resolution 61/106 of 13 December 2006, in which the Assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol, which entered into force on 3 May 2008,

Further recalling General Assembly resolution 65/1 of 22 September 2010, entitled “Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals”, in which the Assembly, inter alia, recognized that

¹ A/37/351/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex, sect. VIII, recommendation 1 (IV).

policies and actions must focus on the poor and those living in the most vulnerable situations, including persons with disabilities, so that they benefit from progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals,

Welcoming the decision of the General Assembly to hold the High-level Meeting on the Realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other Internationally Agreed Development Goals for Persons with Disabilities, at the level of heads of State and Government, on 23 September 2013, with the overarching theme “The way forward: a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond”,²

Recalling General Assembly resolution 66/290 of 10 September 2012, which stipulates an agreed common understanding on human security, which, inter alia, states that all individuals, in particular vulnerable people, are entitled to freedom from fear and freedom from want, with an equal opportunity to enjoy all their rights and fully develop their human potential,

Also recalling Commission resolution 48/3 of 23 April 1992 on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002, in which the Commission proclaimed the first such regional decade in the world,

Further recalling Commission resolution 58/4 of 22 May 2002 on promoting an inclusive, barrier-free and rights-based society for people with disabilities in the Asian and Pacific region in the twenty-first century, in which the Commission proclaimed the extension of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons for another decade, from 2003 to 2012,

Recalling Commission resolution 59/3 of 4 September 2003 on the regional implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific during the Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012, in which the Commission, inter alia, requested members and associate members to support the implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action,

Also recalling Commission resolution 64/8 of 30 April 2008 on regional implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action and Biwako Plus Five towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific, in which the Commission mandated the convening of a high-level intergovernmental meeting to review the implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action and Biwako Plus Five in 2012, the concluding year of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012,

Further recalling Commission resolution 66/11 of 19 May 2010 on regional preparations for the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012, in which the Commission encouraged the participation of all key stakeholders, including organizations of persons with disabilities from Asia and the Pacific, in the preparatory process leading up to the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting,

Recalling Commission resolution 68/7 of 23 May 2012, in which the Commission proclaimed the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, and urged all members and associate members to participate actively in the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting and to

² See General Assembly resolution 66/124 of 19 December 2011.

consider and adopt a strategic framework to guide the implementation of the Decade that is based on the general principles and obligations stipulated in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,

Noting that the *World Report on Disability* estimates that 15 per cent of the population experience some form of disability, which in the Asian and Pacific region equates to 650 million persons with disabilities, with 80 per cent living in developing countries,³

Welcoming the progress that has been achieved over the course of two Asian and Pacific Decades, spanning the period 1993 to 2012, by ESCAP members and associate members in establishing the foundation for a rights-based approach, with a focus on the dignity of persons with disabilities, to inclusive development, particularly through policy and institutional commitments, as well as new strides in legislation and empowerment,

Noting with appreciation the contributions of civil society, particularly organizations of and for persons with disabilities, to the progress achieved, including through continuous awareness-raising of the rights of persons with diverse disabilities, innovation of good practices, and engagement in policy dialogue,

Bearing in mind that Pacific Leaders at the Forty-first Pacific Islands Forum, held in Port Vila, reaffirmed, through their Communiqué of 5 August 2010,⁴ their strong support for the Pacific Regional Strategy on Disability 2010-2015⁵ to protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities, to provide a framework for coordination in building a disability-inclusive Pacific, and to strengthen stakeholder commitment towards the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and other disability-related human rights instruments,

Noting with appreciation the Bali Declaration on the Enhancement of the Role and Participation of Persons with Disabilities in the ASEAN Community,⁶ adopted on 17 November 2011 by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) at its nineteenth summit, held in Bali, Indonesia, in which ASEAN, inter alia, proclaimed the period 2011 to 2020 as the ASEAN Decade of Persons with Disabilities, towards ensuring the effective participation of persons with disabilities and mainstreaming disability perspectives in ASEAN policies and programmes across the economic, political security and socio-cultural pillars of the ASEAN Community,

Welcoming the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation,⁷ adopted on 1 December 2011 by the Fourth High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, Busan, Republic of Korea, which, inter alia, recognized the importance of international commitments on disability for forming the foundation of cooperation for effective development,

³ World Health Organization/World Bank, *World Report on Disability* (Geneva: World Health Organization, 2011), p.29.

⁴ See www.forumsec.org/resources/uploads/attachments/documents/2010_Forum_Communique.pdf.

⁵ Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, document PIFS(09)FDMM.07 (available from www.forumsec.org.fj).

⁶ See www.aseansec.org/documents/19th%20summit/Bali_Declaration_on_Disabled_Person.pdf.

⁷ See www.aideffectiveness.org/busanhlf4/images/stories/hlf4/OUTCOME_DOCUMENT_-_FINAL_EN.pdf.

Also welcoming the Beijing Declaration on Disability-Inclusive Development,⁸ adopted on 8 June 2012 by the Beijing Forum with the theme “removing barriers, promoting integration”, which, inter alia, recognized the significance of accelerating the ratification and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and incorporating the disability dimension in the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 in diverse sectors,

Noting the Community-based Rehabilitation Guidelines,⁹ a joint document of the World Health Organization, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Disability and Development Consortium, which provides a comprehensive, multi-sectoral poverty reduction strategy for implementing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,

Recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,¹⁰ which was adopted by the Conference on 22 June 2012, and which, inter alia, identified persons with disabilities and recognized their right to inclusion in measures that accelerate the implementation of sustainable development commitments,

Noting with concern that there are still many challenges to be addressed to ensure that persons with disabilities in Asia and the Pacific have the right to equitable access to economic and social opportunities and political participation and all other aspects of life,

Underscoring the need to address the disability dimensions of the long-term consequences of the rapid population ageing that is under way in Asia and the Pacific,

Noting with serious concern the disproportionate impact of disasters on persons with disabilities in Asia and the Pacific, which in the past three decades has been the region that has suffered the largest number of disasters,

Also noting with serious concern that negative stereotyping and discriminatory behaviour towards persons with disabilities still prevail,

Mindful that there are increasing opportunities for promoting and protecting the rights of persons with disabilities, including through the use of new technologies for enhancing the accessibility of the physical environment, public transportation, knowledge, information and communication,

1. *Adopt* the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific, as attached, to catalyse action that shall accelerate, during the new Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, the achievement of the regional vision of an inclusive society that ensures, promotes and upholds the rights of all persons with disabilities in Asia and the Pacific;

2. *Recognize* the central role of government in ensuring, promoting and upholding the rights of persons with disabilities and in promoting the inclusion of disability dimensions in the development agenda beyond 2015 in diverse sectors;

⁸ See E/ESCAP/APDDP(3)/INF/5.

⁹ See www.who.int/disabilities/cbr/guidelines/en/index.html.

¹⁰ See General Assembly resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012.

3. *Commit* to implement the present Declaration and the Incheon Strategy by promoting action to reach the Incheon goals and targets by 2022;

4. *Invite* all concerned stakeholders, including the following, to join in a region-wide partnership to contribute to the implementation of the present Declaration and the Incheon Strategy:

(a) Subregional intergovernmental entities, including the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Economic Cooperation Organization, the Pacific Islands Forum and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, to promote and strengthen subregional cooperation for disability-inclusive development, in coordination with ESCAP;

(b) Development cooperation agencies, to strengthen the disability-inclusiveness of their policies, plans and programmes;

(c) The World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, to harness their technical and financial resources for promoting disability-inclusive development in Asia and the Pacific;

(d) The United Nations system, including programmes, funds, specialized agencies and ESCAP, to jointly deliver disability-inclusive development in Asia and the Pacific, including through effective use of existing mechanisms at the national, regional and international levels, such as the United Nations Development Group and United Nations country teams;

(e) Civil society organizations, particularly organizations of and for persons with disabilities, to participate effectively in the monitoring and evaluation of the Decade to foster continuous responsiveness on the aspirations and needs of persons with disabilities, including through outreach to diverse disability groups, and contributing to policy and programme development and implementation;

(f) Organizations of and for persons with disabilities, to participate actively in decision-making processes concerning the Incheon Strategy;

(g) The private sector, to promote disability-inclusive business practices;

5. *Request* the Executive Secretary of ESCAP:

(a) To accord priority to supporting members and associate members in the full and effective implementation of the present Declaration and the Incheon Strategy, in cooperation with other concerned entities;

(b) To engage with stakeholders and encourage their participation in the implementation of the present Declaration and the Incheon Strategy;

(c) To submit the outcome of this High-level Intergovernmental Meeting to the Commission at its sixty-ninth session for endorsement;

(d) To submit the outcome of this High-level Intergovernmental Meeting to the High-level Meeting on the Realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other Internationally Agreed Development Goals for Persons with Disabilities, to be convened on 23 September 2013, through the President of the General Assembly;

(e) To report to the Commission triennially thereafter until the end of the Decade on the progress in the implementation of the present Declaration and the Incheon Strategy;

(f) To develop a roadmap for the implementation of the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities, including reporting requirements, for submission to the Commission at its seventieth session;

6. *Recommend* that the Commission at its sixty-ninth session decide to convene a high-level intergovernmental meeting to review the progress of the Decade at the midpoint of the Decade (2017), and to mark the conclusion of the Decade (2022).

Annex I

Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific

A. Background

1. The development of the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific was derived from the experiences in the implementation of two consecutive Asian and Pacific Decades of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002 and 2003-2012, as well as the historic adoption by the General Assembly, in 2006, of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.^a

2. The development of the Incheon Strategy benefited from the contributions of governments, organizations of and for persons with disabilities, and other key stakeholders. It drew from the observations, feedback and insights obtained through the following regional consultations: the Expert Group Meeting-cum-Stakeholder Consultation to Review the Implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012: The Biwako Millennium Framework for Action (Bangkok, 23-25 June 2010); the Committee on Social Development, second session (Bangkok, 19-21 October 2010); the Regional Stakeholder Consultation for the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012 (Bangkok, 14-16 December 2011); and the Regional Preparatory Meeting for the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012 (Bangkok, 14-16 March 2012).

3. The responses of governments and organizations of and for persons with disabilities to the ESCAP Disability Survey 2011-2012 on the final review of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012 provided a rich evidence base for developing the Incheon Strategy.

4. The Incheon Strategy is not intended to replicate the comprehensive coverage of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-Based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific, the Biwako Plus Five and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which will all continue to serve as overarching policy frameworks for regional work in the field of disability.

5. Similar to the Millennium Development Goals,^b the Incheon goals and targets are time-bound for accelerating implementation by focusing particular attention on the achievement of a set of priority goals and targets during the course of the new Decade, 2013-2022, as well as facilitating the measurement of progress to be attained by countries and territories in the Asia-Pacific region.

^a General Assembly resolution 61/106, annex I.

^b The Millennium Development Goals comprise eight goals, 21 targets and 60 indicators.

B. Key principles and policy direction

6. The Incheon Strategy is based on the principles of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities:

- (a) Respect for inherent dignity, individual autonomy, including the freedom to make one's own choices, and independence of persons;
- (b) Non-discrimination;
- (c) Full and effective participation and inclusion in society;
- (d) Respect for difference and acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of human diversity and humanity;
- (e) Equality of opportunity;
- (f) Accessibility;
- (g) Equality between men and women;
- (h) Respect for the evolving capacities of children with disabilities and respect for the right of children with disabilities to preserve their identities.

7. In order to realize and protect the rights of persons with disabilities in the Asian and Pacific region, the Incheon Strategy underscores the following policy direction:

- (a) Legislative, administrative and other measures supportive of rights fulfilment are adopted, implemented, reviewed and strengthened so that disability-based discrimination is eliminated;
- (b) Development policies and programmes are disability-inclusive and gender-sensitive and harness the potential of combining universal design with technological advancements for enabling persons with disabilities to fulfil their rights;
- (c) Development policies and programmes address the basic needs of persons with disabilities and their families who live in poverty;
- (d) Effective and timely collection and analysis of sex-disaggregated disability data are pursued for evidence-based policymaking;
- (e) National, subnational and local policies and programmes are based on plans that are explicitly inclusive of persons with disabilities and that also prioritize the active participation of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in relevant decision-making processes;
- (f) The necessary budgetary support is provided at all levels for disability-inclusive development and tax policies facilitate the inclusion of persons with disabilities;
- (g) All national, subregional, regional and international entities concerned with development include disability dimensions in their policies and programmes;
- (h) National, subnational and local coordination, with subregional and regional linkages, ensure that disability inclusion in development policies and programmes is strengthened through intensification of

multisectoral consultation and collaboration, to expedite and review Decade implementation and share related good practices;

(i) Community- and family-based inclusive development is promoted in order to ensure that all persons with disabilities, irrespective of socioeconomic status, religious affiliation, ethnicity and location, are able, on an equal basis with others, to contribute to and benefit from development initiatives, particularly poverty reduction programmes;

(j) Persons with disabilities are included in mainstream community life and are supported with life choices equal to those of others, including the option to live independently;

(k) Persons with disabilities have access to the physical environment, public transportation, knowledge, information and communication, in a usable manner, through universal design and assistive technologies with reasonable accommodation provided, and taking into consideration the need to accommodate economic, geographic, linguistic and other aspects of cultural diversity, which altogether constitute a critical bridge to fulfilling their rights;

(l) Diverse disability groups are empowered that include but are not limited to the following underrepresented groups: girls and boys with disabilities, young persons with disabilities, women with disabilities, persons with intellectual, learning and developmental disabilities, persons with autism, persons with psychosocial disabilities, persons who are deaf, hard of hearing and deafened, persons who are deaf-blind, persons with multiple disabilities, persons with extensive disabilities, older persons with disabilities, persons with disabilities living with HIV, persons with disabilities arising from non-communicable diseases, persons with disabilities affected by leprosy, persons with disabilities caused by medical conditions and intractable epilepsy, persons with disabilities affected by road crashes, indigenous and ethnic minority persons with disabilities, persons with disabilities who are homeless and inadequately housed, persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies, and the occurrence of natural and human-made disasters, persons with disabilities who are victims of landmines, persons with disabilities who do not have legal status, persons with disabilities who are victims of domestic violence, particularly women and children, and family advocacy groups, as well as particularly marginalized persons with disabilities living in slums, rural and remote areas and atolls;

(m) Organizations of and for persons with disabilities, self-help groups and self-advocacy groups, with support, as required by families and caregivers, participate in decision-making, as appropriate, to ensure that the interests of marginalized groups are adequately addressed;

(n) Action on awareness-raising is strengthened and continued, including through the provision of adequate budgetary support, in the Asian and Pacific region during the Decade to improve attitudes and behaviour and mobilize effective multi-sectoral engagement in implementation modalities.

C. Incheon goals and targets

8. The Incheon Strategy is composed of 10 interrelated goals, 27 targets and 62 indicators.

9. The time frame for achieving the goals and targets is the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013 to 2022.

10. Goals describe the desired end results. Targets are aimed to be achieved within a given time frame. Indicators measure progress towards the targets and verify that the targets have been achieved. There are two types of indicators: core indicators and supplementary indicators.^c All indicators should be disaggregated by sex wherever possible.

Goal 1

Reduce poverty and enhance work and employment prospects

11. The Decade must see greater progress in reducing poverty among persons with disabilities and their families. Persons with disabilities experience significant labour market disadvantages, have less economic participation and hence are disproportionately poorer than persons without disabilities. Having a decent job and the necessary education, training and support to keep that job is one of the best means of overcoming poverty. Those who can and want to work must therefore be better supported, protected, and equipped to do so. This requires more accommodating labour markets. Lifting persons with disabilities and their families out of poverty would contribute to the achievement of inclusive growth and sustainable development.

Target 1.A

Eliminate extreme poverty among persons with disabilities

Target 1.B

Increase work and employment for persons of working age with disabilities who can and want to work

Target 1.C

Increase the participation of persons with disabilities in vocational training and other employment-support programmes funded by governments

Indicators for tracking progress

Core indicators

- 1.1 Proportion of persons with disabilities living below the US\$ 1.25 (PPP) per day international poverty line, as updated by the World Bank and compared to the overall population
- 1.2 Ratio of persons with disabilities in employment to the general population in employment
- 1.3 Proportion of persons with disabilities who participate in government-funded vocational training and other employment-support programmes as a proportion of all people trained

Supplementary indicators

- 1.4 Proportion of persons with disabilities living below the national poverty line
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^c Core indicators facilitate intercountry sharing of progress in the course of the new Decade; these are indicators for which data can be generated with some effort. Supplementary indicators may facilitate progress tracking among countries with similar social and economic development conditions and for which data may be less easy to collect.

Goal 2**Promote participation in political processes and in decision-making**

12. The participation of persons with disabilities in the political process and in decision-making is the cornerstone for the realization of the rights of persons with disabilities. Being able to exercise the right to vote and the right to be elected is intrinsic to this goal. The Decade must witness greater and more widespread progress in the participation of diverse groups of persons with disabilities, including women and youth with disabilities, in political processes and in decision-making at all levels. Moreover, technological improvements should be harnessed to enable persons with disabilities to participate in public decision-making processes and to exercise their rights and fulfil their responsibilities as full members of society. The improvements include the provision of an enabling environment for persons with disabilities to have equitable access to appointments in the judicial, executive and legislative branches of government, including those of the supreme court, ministries and national legislative body.

Target 2.A**Ensure that persons with disabilities are represented in government decision-making bodies****Target 2.B****Provide reasonable accommodation to enhance the participation of persons with disabilities in the political process**

Indicators for tracking progress

Core indicators

- 2.1 Proportion of seats held by persons with disabilities in the parliament or equivalent national legislative body
- 2.2 Proportion of members of the national coordination mechanism on disability who represent diverse disability groups
- 2.3 Proportion of those represented in the national machinery for gender equality and women's empowerment who are persons with disabilities
- 2.4 Proportion of polling stations in the national capital that are accessible with processes in place that ensure confidentiality of voters with disabilities

Supplementary indicators

- 2.5 Proportion of cabinet positions held by persons with disabilities at the national level
 - 2.6 Proportion of supreme court judges who are persons with disabilities
 - 2.7 Availability of legislation that requires the national election authority to conduct the election process in a manner that makes it accessible for persons with diverse disabilities
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Goal 3**Enhance access to the physical environment, public transportation, knowledge, information and communication**

13. Access to the physical environment, public transportation, knowledge, information and communication is a precondition for persons

with disabilities to fulfil their rights in an inclusive society. The accessibility of urban, rural and remote areas based on universal design increases safety and ease of use not only for persons with disabilities, but also for all other members of society. Access audits are an important means of ensuring accessibility and must cover all stages of the process of planning, design, construction, maintenance and monitoring and evaluation. Access to assistive devices and related support services is also a precondition for persons with disabilities to optimize their level of independence in daily life and live in dignity. Ensuring the availability of assistive devices for those living in low-resource settings involves encouraging research, development, production, distribution and maintenance.

Target 3.A

Increase the accessibility of the physical environment in the national capital that is open to the public

Target 3.B

Enhance the accessibility and usability of public transportation

Target 3.C

Enhance the accessibility and usability of information and communications services

Target 3.D

Halve the proportion of persons with disabilities who need but do not have appropriate assistive devices or products

Indicators for tracking progress

Core indicators

- 3.1 Proportion of accessible government buildings in the national capital
- 3.2 Proportion of accessible international airports
- 3.3 Proportion of daily captioning and sign-language interpretation of public television news programmes
- 3.4 Proportion of accessible and usable public documents and websites that meet internationally recognized accessibility standards
- 3.5 Proportion of persons with disabilities who need assistive devices or products and have them

Supplementary indicators

- 3.6 Availability of government access audit programme that requires the participation of experts with disabilities
 - 3.7 Availability of mandatory technical standards for barrier-free access that govern the approval of all designs for buildings that could be used by members of the public, taking into consideration internationally recognized standards, such as those of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO)
 - 3.8 Number of sign language interpreters
 - 3.9 Availability of mandatory technical standards for barrier-free access that govern the approval of all ICT-related services, such as websites for the public, taking into consideration internationally recognized standards, such as those of ISO
-

Goal 4
Strengthen social protection

14. Social protection coverage in developing countries of Asia and the Pacific is often limited to social insurance programmes and only available to those with regular employment contracts in the formal sector, leaving the vast majority of the population, especially persons with disabilities, without sufficient coverage. It is therefore crucial to ensure that persons with disabilities have access to social protection on an equal basis with others, and to promote further the social protection floor with a focus on health care and basic income protection for all. Furthermore, there is a lack of affordable services, including personal assistance and peer counselling services, which enable persons with disabilities to live independently in the community. For many persons with disabilities, these services are prerequisites for their participation in society.

Target 4.A
Increase access to all health services, including rehabilitation, for all persons with disabilities

Target 4.B
Increase coverage of persons with disabilities within social protection programmes

Target 4.C
Enhance services and programmes, including for personal assistance and peer counselling, that support persons with disabilities, especially those with multiple, extensive and diverse disabilities, in living independently in the community

Indicators for tracking progress

Core indicators

- 4.1 Proportion of persons with disabilities who use government-supported health-care programmes, as compared to the general population
- 4.2 Coverage of persons with disabilities within social protection programmes, including social insurance and social assistance programmes
- 4.3 Availability of government-funded services and programmes, including for personal assistance and peer counselling, that enable persons with disabilities to live independently in the community

Supplementary indicators

- 4.4 Number of government-supported programmes for care services, including for respite care
 - 4.5 Availability of national community-based rehabilitation programmes
 - 4.6 Availability of health insurance for persons with disabilities
 - 4.7 A decrease in the unmet need for assistance and support services
-

Goal 5
Expand early intervention and education of children with disabilities

15. There has been relative neglect of the issue of developmental delays and disabilities among children, many of whom are the children of families living in poverty. In much of the Asia-Pacific region, a disproportionate

number of children with disabilities do not have access to early intervention and education programmes. Early detection of delays in reaching developmental milestones is as important as regularly measuring the height and weight of infants and children. Following early detection of delay in reaching developmental milestones, it is necessary to provide prompt and appropriate responses to optimize their all-round development. Such early intervention responses cover, inter alia, stimulation, nurturing and care, and pre-school education. Investing in early childhood programmes yields higher returns than at subsequent levels of education and training. Government commitment to early childhood programmes would significantly improve their development outcomes. Furthermore, it is essential for governments to ensure that children with disabilities have access, on an equitable basis with others in the communities in which they live, to quality primary and secondary education. This process includes engaging families as partners in providing more effective support for children with disabilities.

Target 5.A

Enhance measures for early detection of, and intervention for, children with disabilities from birth to pre-school age

Target 5.B

Halve the gap between children with disabilities and children without disabilities in enrolment rates for primary and secondary education

Indicators for tracking progress

Core indicators

- 5.1 Number of children with disabilities receiving early childhood intervention
- 5.2 Primary education enrolment rate of children with disabilities
- 5.3 Secondary education enrolment rate of children with disabilities

Supplementary indicators

- 5.4 Proportion of pre- and antenatal care facilities that provide information and services regarding early detection of disability in children and protection of the rights of children with disabilities
 - 5.5 Proportion of children who are deaf that receive instruction in sign language
 - 5.6 Proportion of students with visual impairments that have educational materials in formats that are readily accessible
 - 5.7 Proportion of students with intellectual disabilities, developmental disabilities, deafblindness, autism and other disabilities who have assistive devices, adapted curricula and appropriate learning materials
-

Goal 6

Ensure gender equality and women's empowerment

16. Girls and women with disabilities face multiple forms of discrimination and abuse. Isolation, compounded by dependency on caregivers, renders them extremely vulnerable to many forms of exploitation, violence and abuse, with attendant risks, including of HIV infection, pregnancy and maternal and infant death. Girls and women with disabilities are largely invisible in mainstream gender equality programmes. Information concerning sexual and reproductive health, general health care,

and related services is seldom in formats and language that are accessible. The true promise of the Decade will be fully realized only when girls and women with disabilities are active participants in mainstream development.

Target 6.A

Enable girls and women with disabilities to have equitable access to mainstream development opportunities

Target 6.B

Ensure representation of women with disabilities in government decision-making bodies

Target 6.C

Ensure that all girls and women with disabilities have access to sexual and reproductive health services on an equitable basis with girls and women without disabilities

Target 6.D

Increase measures to protect girls and women with disabilities from all forms of violence and abuse

Indicators for tracking progress

Core indicators

- 6.1 Number of countries that include the promotion of the participation of women and girls with disabilities in their national action plans on gender equality and empowerment of women
 - 6.2 Proportion of seats held by women with disabilities in the parliament or equivalent national legislative body
 - 6.3 Proportion of girls and women with disabilities who access sexual and reproductive health services of government and civil society, compared to women and girls without disabilities
 - 6.4 Number of programmes initiated by government and relevant agencies aimed at eliminating violence, including sexual abuse and exploitation, perpetrated against girls and women with disabilities
 - 6.5 Number of programmes initiated by government and relevant agencies that provide care and support, including rehabilitation, for women and girls with disabilities who are victims of any form of violence and abuse
-

Goal 7

Ensure disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction and management

17. The Asia-Pacific region is the region that is most adversely affected by disasters, including those caused by climate change. Persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups are at higher risk of death, injury and additional impairments, as a result of exclusion from disaster risk reduction policies, plans and programmes. Public service announcements are often issued in formats and language that are not accessible by persons with disabilities. In addition, emergency exits, shelters and facilities tend not to be barrier-free. Regular participation of persons with disabilities in emergency preparedness drills and other disaster risk reduction measures at the local and district levels could prevent or minimize risk and damage when disasters occur. Physical and information infrastructure that incorporates universal design principles would improve the chances of safety and survival.

Target 7.A
Strengthen disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction planning

Target 7.B
Strengthen implementation of measures on providing timely and appropriate support to persons with disabilities in responding to disasters

Indicators for tracking progress

Core indicators

- 7.1 Availability of disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction plans
- 7.2 Availability of disability-inclusive training for all relevant service personnel
- 7.3 Proportion of accessible emergency shelters and disaster relief sites

Supplementary indicators

- 7.4 Number of persons with disabilities who died or were seriously injured in disasters
 - 7.5 Availability of psychosocial support service personnel that have the capacity to assist persons with disabilities affected by disasters
 - 7.6 Availability of assistive devices and technologies for persons with disabilities in preparing for and responding to disasters
-

Goal 8
Improve the reliability and comparability of disability data

18. Persons with disabilities tend to be unseen, unheard and uncounted. Increasingly in recent years, when they have been counted, definitions of “disability” and “persons with disabilities” that are used for collecting disability data have varied widely in the Asia-Pacific region. Taken together, data comparisons across countries are frequently unreliable. The Asia-Pacific region needs more accurate statistics on the population of persons with diverse disabilities and on their socioeconomic status. The adequacy of disability statistics would enable policymaking to be evidence-based to support the realization of the rights of persons with disabilities. The Decade is an opportunity to enhance data collection aimed at generating comparable disability statistics over time and across borders. It is crucial that baseline data for the Incheon Strategy indicators are made available to enable effective progress tracking towards the achievement of goals and targets.

Target 8.A
Produce and disseminate reliable and internationally comparable disability statistics in formats that are accessible by persons with disabilities

Target 8.B
Establish reliable disability statistics by the midpoint of the Decade, 2017, as the source for tracking progress towards the achievement of the goals and targets in the Incheon Strategy

Indicators for tracking progress

Core indicators

- 8.1 Disability prevalence based on the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) by age, sex, race and socioeconomic status
 - 8.2 Number of Governments in the Asia-Pacific region that have established, by 2017, baseline data for tracking progress towards achievement of the Incheon goals and targets
 - 8.3 Availability of disaggregated data on women and girls with disabilities in mainstream development programmes and government services, including health, and sexual and reproductive health, programmes
-

Goal 9
Accelerate the ratification and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the harmonization of national legislation with the Convention

19. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is the first disability-specific, international legal instrument that provides a comprehensive approach to respecting, protecting and fulfilling the rights of persons with disabilities. The Convention explicitly empowers persons with disabilities as holders of rights, as distinct from being treated as objects of charity. The ESCAP region played an instrumental and historic role in the initiation and drafting of the Convention. As of 30 October 2012, 126 States globally are parties to the Convention and 154 are signatories, of which, in the Asia-Pacific region, 35 Governments have signed the Convention and 25 have ratified the Convention or acceded to it.

Target 9.A

By the midpoint of the Decade (2017), 10 more Asia-Pacific Governments will have ratified or acceded to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and by the end of the Decade (2022) another 10 Asia-Pacific Governments will have ratified or acceded to the Convention

Target 9.B

Enact national laws which include anti-discrimination provisions, technical standards and other measures to uphold and protect the rights of persons with disabilities and amend or nullify national laws that directly or indirectly discriminate against persons with disabilities, with a view to harmonizing national legislation with the Convention

Indicators for tracking progress

Core indicators

- 9.1 Number of Governments that have ratified or acceded to the Convention
- 9.2 Availability of national anti-discrimination legislation to uphold and protect the rights of persons with disabilities

Supplementary indicators

- 9.3 Number of Asia-Pacific Governments that have ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
 - 9.4 Number of amended or nullified laws that directly or indirectly discriminate against persons with disabilities
-

Goal 10

Advance subregional, regional and interregional cooperation

20. The experience of two Asian and Pacific Decades underscores the value of cooperation, at subregional, regional and interregional levels, for facilitating mutual support, including through sharing lessons learned, good practices and innovative solutions. The Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation,^d adopted on 1 December 2011 by the Fourth High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (Busan, Republic of Korea) recognized the importance of international commitments on disability to form the foundation of cooperation for effective development. Civil society and the private sector could play important roles in catalysing innovative approaches to reaching the Incheon goals and targets. The Asia-Pacific region still faces long-term challenges. In post-conflict areas, such challenges as landmines and remnants of war continue to exacerbate the occurrence of disability and undermine livelihoods. The Decade provides an opportunity for international cooperation, with multi-sectoral dimensions, to overcome such challenges, and support effective implementation.

Target 10.A

Contribute to the Asia-Pacific Multi-donor Trust Fund managed by ESCAP as well as initiatives and programmes to support the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, and the Incheon Strategy

Target 10.B

Development cooperation agencies in the Asia-Pacific region strengthen the disability-inclusiveness of their policies and programmes

Target 10.C

United Nations regional commissions strengthen interregional exchange of experiences and good practices concerning disability issues and the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

^d See www.aideffectiveness.org/busanhlf4/images/stories/hlf4/OUTCOME_DOCUMENT_-_FINAL_EN.pdf.

Indicators for tracking progress

Core indicators

- 10.1 Annual voluntary contributions by Governments and other donors to the Asia-Pacific Multi-donor Trust Fund to support the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, and the Incheon Strategy
 - 10.2 Number of donors contributing each year to the Asia-Pacific Multi-donor Trust Fund to support the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, and the Incheon Strategy
 - 10.3 Annual voluntary contributions by Governments or other donors to initiatives or programmes to support the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, and the Incheon Strategy
 - 10.4 Number of United Nations entities that have regional cooperation programmes, including for South-South cooperation, that explicitly support the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, and the Incheon Strategy
 - 10.5 Number of subregional intergovernmental bodies that have programmes, including for South-South cooperation, which support the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, and the Incheon Strategy
 - 10.6 Number of regional and subregional projects, including for South-South cooperation, in which organizations of and for persons with disabilities participate in order to support the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, and the Incheon Strategy
 - 10.7 Number of development cooperation agencies operating in Asia and the Pacific that have mandates, policies, action plans and dedicated and appropriately experienced focal points on disability-inclusive development, supportive of ratification and implementation of the Convention and review of follow-up action
 - 10.8 Number of joint activities among the five regional commissions of the United Nations to support the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
 - 10.9 Number of statisticians in the Asia-Pacific region trained in disability statistics, in particular on the ICF approach, by ESCAP and other relevant agencies
 - 10.10 Number of United Nations country- or regional-level development assistance frameworks that explicitly reference disability-inclusive development in line with the United Nations Development Group guidance note on including the rights of persons with disabilities in United Nations programming at the country level
-

D. Modalities for effective implementation: national, subregional and regional levels

21. This section identifies the modalities that together promote and support implementation. In particular, these modalities build data and information and strengthen multi-level cooperation for advancing progress towards realizing the rights of persons with disabilities through the implementation of the Incheon Strategy in the course of the Decade.

1. National level

22. The heart of the implementation of the Incheon Strategy is the national coordination mechanism on disability, with its all-important subnational linkages.

23. Many such mechanisms were established in the course of the past two Asian and Pacific Decades of Disabled Persons. Thus, they would assume primary responsibility for coordinating and catalysing the implementation of the Incheon Strategy at the national and subnational levels.

24. Under the auspices of the national coordination mechanisms, national statistical offices would assume the role of focal point for establishing baseline data for indicators and tracking progress in the implementation of the Incheon Strategy.

25. National coordination mechanisms on disability should undertake tasks that include but are not limited to the following:

(a) Mobilize diverse sectoral ministries, departments and government institutions at all levels, civil society, including organizations of and for persons with disabilities and their family support groups, research institutions, and the private sector for multi-sectoral and nation-wide engagement in implementing the Incheon Strategy;

(b) Develop, monitor and report on the implementation of national action plans on achieving the goals and targets of the Incheon Strategy;

(c) Translate the Incheon Strategy into national languages and ensure availability of the national language versions in accessible formats for wide dissemination to all sectors and at all administrative levels;

(d) Undertake national and subnational campaigns, such as the Make the Right Real! Campaign, to raise awareness throughout the Decade that fosters positive perceptions of persons with disabilities;

(e) Promote and support research on the situation of persons with disabilities as a basis for policymaking.

26. The United Nations country teams should support the revitalization and functioning of national coordination mechanisms, as may be required, with particular attention to advocacy, coordination and cooperation directed at implementation, including at subnational levels.

2. Subregional level

27. Subregional intergovernmental entities, such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Economic Cooperation Organization, the Pacific Islands Forum and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, have an important role in contributing to accelerated implementation of the Ministerial Declaration and the Incheon Strategy by actively promoting disability-inclusive policies and programmes within their respective mandates.

28. The ESCAP secretariat, in its promotion of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, shall support subregional and inter-subregional cooperation, in partnership with subregional intergovernmental bodies. In doing so, it shall harness the active participation of its subregional offices in North and Central Asia, East and North-East Asia, the Pacific, and South and South-West Asia, supported by its regional institutions,^e in promoting disability-inclusive development.

3. Regional level

29. ESCAP members and associate members should discuss the progress, challenges and good practices in implementing the Ministerial Declaration and the Incheon Strategy in the regular sessions of the Committee on Social Development or its equivalent. Representatives of civil society organizations are encouraged to attend the sessions.

30. A regional working group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, shall be established. The working group shall support full and effective implementation throughout the Decade. Its functions shall focus on the provision of advice and support to the members and associate members, as appropriate, on the regional implementation of the Ministerial Declaration and the Incheon Strategy. The terms of reference of the working group are annexed.

31. The ESCAP secretariat shall contribute to the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration and the Incheon Strategy through its regional convening role, analytical work and technical support to governments. In particular, it shall undertake the following in cooperation with United Nations entities:

(a) Support governments, as appropriate, in harmonizing legislation with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and in promoting the Make the Right Real! Campaign;

(b) Promote sharing among members and associate members of national experiences and good practices in disability-inclusive development and in protecting and upholding the rights of persons with disabilities, including the sharing of experiences among national legislative or administrative institutions, in order to promote and support the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;

^e Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (APCICT), Incheon, Republic of Korea; Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT), New Delhi; Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), Tokyo; Centre for the Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture (CAPSA), Bogor, Indonesia; United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery (UNAPCAEM), Beijing.

(c) Track progress and support the improvement of disability statistics during the Decade;

(d) Support members and associate members in capacity-building to promote disability-inclusive development;

(e) Engage with civil society organizations, in particular organizations of and for persons with disabilities, and provide a regional platform for stakeholder consultations.

32. The Asia-Pacific Development Centre on Disability, which was established as a legacy of the first Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons to promote the empowerment of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, and a barrier-free and inclusive society, is called upon to continue building the capabilities of persons with disabilities and multi-sectoral collaboration, with special attention to encouraging private sector engagement in disability-inclusive business that promotes disability-friendly products, services, employment opportunities and entrepreneurship development.

33. The Make the Right Real Fund, to be initiated by and based in the Republic of Korea, is invited to support the successful implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, and the Incheon Strategy.

34. Civil society organizations and, in particular, organizations of and for persons with disabilities, are encouraged to participate in the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration and the Incheon Strategy and promote continuous responsiveness to the aspirations and needs of persons with disabilities over the Decade.

Annex II

Terms of reference of the working group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities

Objective

1. The objective of the proposed regional working group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities is to provide technical advice and support to members and associate members, to promote the full and effective implementation of the Decade, 2013-2022.

Functions

2. In pursuance of the objective stated in paragraph 1 above, the working group shall advise members and associate members on the following:

(a) Reviews of Decade progress, especially concerning the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, and the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific;

(b) Regional and subregional cooperation to advance implementation of the Ministerial Declaration and the Incheon Strategy;

(c) Research on the evolving situation of persons with disabilities in the Asia-Pacific region;

(d) Outreach to diverse disability groups at the national and local levels, and networking.

Membership

3. The working group shall be composed of representatives of ESCAP members and associate members, as well as civil society organizations operating at the regional and subregional levels in Asia and the Pacific.

4. The tenure of working group members shall be five years, with the possibility of extension for another five years.

5. All ESCAP members and associate members shall be eligible to serve on the working group.

6. The working group should be composed of 30 members, taking into account gender equality: 15 from members and associate members and 15 from civil society organizations. At least half of the seats allocated for civil society organizations should be guaranteed for persons with disabilities and emerging civil society organizations.

7. A civil society entity that meets the following criteria shall be eligible to serve as a member of the working group: (a) operate at the regional and/or subregional levels in Asia and the Pacific; (b) be an organization or network that represents, supports and/or promotes the interests of persons with diverse disabilities; (c) has technical expertise relevant to advancing the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration and the Incheon Strategy.

8. The announcement of interest by individual ESCAP members and associate members, and civil society organizations, in serving as members of the working group shall take place at the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012, Incheon, Republic of Korea, from 29 October to 2 November 2012.

9. The proposed composition of the working group shall be submitted to the Commission at the session that immediately follows the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting, for a final decision. Thus, the Commission at its sixty-ninth session, in 2013, will make the final decision on the composition of the working group for the first term, spanning the period 2013-2017. The second announcement of interest in serving on the working group shall take place at the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting convened on the occasion of the midpoint of the Decade (2017). The Commission at its seventy-fourth session, in 2018, will make the final decision on the composition of the working group for the second term, spanning the period 2018-2022.

10. ESCAP members and associate members, civil society organizations, in particular, organizations of persons with disabilities, subregional intergovernmental agencies, United Nations agencies, development cooperation agencies and development banks can attend meetings of the working group as observers.

Rules of procedure

11. The working group shall adopt its own rules of procedure.

Secretariat

12. The ESCAP secretariat shall serve as the secretariat of the working group. It shall, inter alia, disseminate working group documentation in accessible formats.

B. Recommendation

Membership of the Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022

The Meeting recommends that the Commission at its sixty-ninth session select, from the list that follows, 15 members and associate members and 15 civil society organizations for membership in the Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, taking due account of the principle of subregional representation, and, for the civil society organizations, subject to verification by the secretariat of their compliance with paragraph 7 of the terms of reference of the Working Group:

Members and associate members

1. Bangladesh
2. Bhutan
3. China
4. Fiji
5. India
6. Indonesia
7. Japan

8. Kiribati
9. Malaysia
10. Mongolia
11. Myanmar
12. Pakistan
13. Philippines
14. Republic of Korea
15. Russian Federation
16. Samoa
17. Thailand

Civil society organizations

1. ASEAN Autism Network
2. ASEAN Disability Forum
3. Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD)
4. Asia-Pacific DPO United
5. Asia Pacific Disability Forum (APDF)
6. Central Asian Disability Forum
7. Christian Blind Mission (CBM)
8. Community-based Rehabilitation (CBR) Asia-Pacific Network
9. Commitments, India
10. Digital Accessible Information System (DAISY) Consortium
11. Disabled Peoples' International Asia-Pacific
12. Inclusion International (II) Asia Pacific Regional Forum
13. Pacific Disability Forum (PDF)
14. Rehabilitation International (RI) Asia Pacific Region
15. South Asian Disability Forum (SADF)
16. World Blind Union Asia-Pacific (WBUAP)
17. World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) Regional Secretariat for Asia and the Pacific
18. World Federation of the Deafblind (WFDdb) Asia and the Pacific
19. World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry (WNUSP) Asia-Pacific

II. Proceedings

A. Review of the implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action and Biwako Plus Five towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific

1. The Meeting had before it the overview of regional implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action and Biwako Plus Five towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/APDDP(3)/1 and Corr.1).
2. Representatives of the following ESCAP members and associate members made statements: Bangladesh; Brunei Darussalam; Cambodia; China; Fiji; India; Indonesia; Japan; Kiribati; Malaysia; Mongolia; Myanmar; Nepal; Palau; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; Samoa; Singapore; Solomon Islands; Thailand; Timor-Leste; Tonga; Tuvalu; Uzbekistan; Vanuatu; and Hong Kong, China.
3. The Meeting noted the findings of the 2011 ESCAP survey of governments and civil society organizations (CSOs) that had assessed progress in the implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework for

Action and Biwako Plus Five during the second Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012. That review had benefited from the responses of 51 Governments and 95 CSOs, representing 82 and 74 per cent response rates, respectively.

4. The Meeting noted the findings of the regional review indicated that, during the past Decade, ESCAP members and associate members had made significant advancements in legal, policy and practical areas that had promoted the inclusion, participation and economic empowerment of persons with disabilities, including through greater access to the physical and information environments. Multi-ministerial and inclusive collaborative efforts to implement the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action and Biwako Plus Five had established the rights-based approach as a key foundation for disability work in Asia and the Pacific, consistent with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.¹

5. The Meeting acknowledged, however, that challenges remained. The intensity and focus of policy initiatives had been uneven, with economically disadvantaged persons with disabilities as well as women and children with disabilities receiving insufficient attention. A fundamental challenge was the lack of measurement of policy outcomes and gaps to serve as the evidence base for promoting disability-inclusive development.

6. The Meeting further noted the findings of an ESCAP action research project that was conducted by the secretariat in partnership with organizations of and for persons with disabilities in eight countries of the region. A distinct feature of the project was the role of persons with diverse disabilities as researchers. The researchers had collected information and data from more than 1,700 respondents who were also persons with disabilities.

7. The Meeting further noted the following preliminary findings of the action research: multidimensional linkages exist between poverty, disability and barriers in society to the participation of persons with disabilities; the majority of respondents could not support themselves or their dependants; and barriers related to the physical environment, transportation and information, as well as the lack of services, imposed on many persons with disabilities high costs that exceeded any income to be attained from holding a job.

8. Many delegations validated the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action and Biwako Plus Five as a useful foundation for developing national policy frameworks. Some delegations also informed the Meeting of efforts to establish national disability policies and plans of action that promoted a more inclusive society and covered diverse areas, including accessibility, education, employment and social protection.

9. Several delegations informed the Meeting of the distinct shift that their Governments had made towards a rights-based approach to disability issues. In that regard, the Meeting was informed of policies and legislative measures that had been introduced to reinforce that shift.

10. The Meeting noted with appreciation that the Russian Federation had ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in September 2012, making it the twenty-fifth Government in the ESCAP region to do so. It also noted with appreciation that Cambodia would soon ratify the Convention. The representative of Samoa informed the Meeting that her

¹ General Assembly resolution 61/106, annex I.

Government was undertaking a legislative review and a cost-benefit analysis of the implementation of the Convention, as Samoa prepared to sign and ratify the Convention. Furthermore, the Meeting was informed that the Cabinet Office of Tuvalu had decided to sign and ratify the Convention. The representative of Palau expressed confidence that her Government would also ratify the Convention.

11. Efforts to harmonize domestic legislation with the Convention included the enactment of a comprehensive anti-discrimination law covering areas, such as employment, education, culture and sports.

12. The representative of India informed the Meeting that a committee had been created to work on the harmonization of domestic legislation with the Convention. The representatives of China, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, the Russian Federation and the Solomon Islands also informed the Meeting of the efforts of their Governments to formulate laws and regulations that were aligned with the Convention. The representative of Hong Kong, China, informed the Meeting of the comprehensive legal framework to provide persons with disabilities with equal and effective legal protection against discrimination. The same representative indicated that recent efforts included, among other measures, increasing recurrent expenditure of rehabilitation services and support for persons with disabilities, and enhancing the accessibility of public buildings, including a comprehensive retrofitting programme and information and communications technology (ICT) accessibility.

13. Many Governments recognized the importance of multisectoral collaboration between diverse stakeholders, including Governments, CSOs, and the private sector, in implementing disability-inclusive programmes.

14. The Meeting recognized the central importance of national coordination mechanisms on disability that were inclusive of persons with diverse disabilities, as well as multiministerial and multisectoral in their approach to promoting disability-inclusive development. The representative of the Republic of Korea underscored the importance of placing the national policy coordination committee under the highest level of Government (Office of the Prime Minister) in order to incorporate the voices of persons with disabilities in major disability policies and legislation and to ensure comprehensive and systematic policy development.

15. The representative of Malaysia informed the Meeting of mechanisms that his Government had introduced to monitor the implementation of national policies and issues facing persons with disabilities.

16. Many Governments cited partnerships with civil society, particularly organizations of and for persons with disabilities, as a key factor in the successful implementation of the second Decade. The representative of Mongolia noted the important contribution of CSOs in promoting the rights of persons with disabilities. The representative of China expressed appreciation of the contribution of CSOs to the adoption of the Convention. The representative of Brunei Darussalam indicated that her Government supported voluntary and non-profit CSOs in creating an enabling environment for persons with disabilities and providing services.

17. Some delegations indicated that their Governments valued partnerships with organizations of persons with disabilities. Examples of the contributions made by those organizations pertained to community-level consultations for national disability policy formulation, national disability surveys and the provision of education and other services.

18. Some Governments informed the Meeting of their efforts to encourage the participation of persons with disabilities in political processes and policymaking. The representative of Malaysia informed the Meeting that for the first time in its history Malaysia had appointed a senator with a disability.

19. Noting that disability was both a cause and a consequence of poverty, the representative of Nepal emphasized that poverty reduction programmes should include disability dimensions. The Meeting was informed of initiatives implemented by Governments of ESCAP members to lift the majority of persons with disabilities out of poverty. Some delegations informed the Meeting of their social protection measures that covered persons with disabilities. The representative of Fiji indicated that the Government of Fiji provided a monthly living allowance and food vouchers for all persons with disabilities. The representative of the Republic of Korea indicated that his Government had reinforced income security by enacting the Disability Pension Act in 2010.

20. The Meeting was informed of Government initiatives on community-based rehabilitation (CBR), ranging from the development of a national CBR strategic framework to the establishment of district-level CBR centres. The representative of Bangladesh informed the Meeting of the rapid expansion of one-stop therapy service centres in Bangladesh for persons with disabilities, which would soon cover the country's 64 districts. Furthermore, the representative of Nepal indicated that efforts were under way to train village and district health workers in early identification and referral of persons with disabilities.

21. Some Governments recognized the importance of mainstreaming disability issues across all development sectors towards building disability-inclusive societies.

22. The representative of the Russian Federation informed the Meeting that the Government had increased federal and regional budgetary resources for the implementation of measures for inclusive education, social adaptation, rehabilitation and feasible employment of persons with disabilities. Furthermore, additional financial resources had been allocated for the social support of persons with disabilities, including increasing the disability pension and other monthly payments, as well as expanding the range of social services.

23. Many delegations informed the Meeting of efforts to promote and strengthen training, including through the establishment of vocational training centres, and the expansion of employment opportunities and self-employment for persons with disabilities. The representative of Singapore highlighted her Government's income supplement scheme for older, low-income workers, which would be extended to cover low-income persons with disabilities, and the special employment credit scheme, which aimed to encourage employers to hire low-income workers with disabilities. The representative of Malaysia drew attention to a public-private partnership scheme for online registration of job seekers. Representatives of Cambodia, Indonesia and Malaysia indicated that their Governments had established quantitative targets as a measure to increase the employment of persons with disabilities. The representatives of China and India informed the Meeting of their Governments' efforts to enact laws to promote employment. The representative of the Solomon Islands indicated that the Government of the Solomon Islands had undertaken special arrangements for registered vocational training centres under the Ministry of Education.

24. Many delegations informed the Meeting of their Governments' efforts to improve accessibility to the physical environment and transportation for persons with disabilities. Among those efforts cited were the enactment of accessibility laws and mandatory design requirements and standards, using a universal design. Other efforts indicated were an access audit of public buildings, and the provision of concessionary fares for public transportation for persons with disabilities. The representative of Singapore informed the Meeting that, by 2020, all buses in the country's public transport system would be wheelchair accessible. The representative of Myanmar informed the Meeting of the barrier-free awareness campaign conducted in his country. The representative of the Russian Federation drew attention to the five-year State programme on "Accessible Environment", 2011-2015, that aimed to ensure persons with disabilities barrier-free access to all public and community facilities, housing units, buildings, spaces, infrastructures, transport and services.

25. Many delegations informed the Meeting of efforts to expand accessibility to ICT through, among other efforts, more effective and wider use of sign language, training of sign language interpretation and Braille transcription, and training in the use of Internet. The representative of India informed the Meeting of the establishment of the Indian sign language and training centre, which represented progress in the promotion of Indian sign language and the empowerment of persons with hearing impairments.

26. Several delegations highlighted the progress made in ensuring the accessibility of public websites. The representative of India indicated that the Government of India had, in 2009, issued guidelines to make all government websites accessible in accordance with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) of the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C). The representative of Hong Kong, China, informed the Meeting that by 2013 all government websites would attain the AA grade of WCAG; it would thereby be one of the first Governments to do so in the Asia-Pacific region. The representative of the Republic of Korea informed the Meeting that the country had introduced a system for barrier-free certification to promote universal design.

27. The representative of Fiji informed the Meeting of the Government's commitment to provide residential accommodation for persons with disabilities.

28. The representatives of Indonesia and Vanuatu informed the Meeting that their countries had undertaken a review of legislation that was discriminatory towards women with disabilities. The representatives of Indonesia and Mongolia informed the Meeting that there had been greater promotion of women with disabilities in policymaking.

29. The representative of Cambodia informed the Meeting of the Government's efforts to promote the social and economic status of women with disabilities. The representative of Thailand stated that the women with disabilities empowerment plan currently being drafted focused on the participation of women with disabilities in the decision-making process and the strengthening of Thai women's organizations.

30. Many delegations informed the Meeting that their Governments promoted education for children with disabilities, including through enactment of education laws, inclusive education policies, funding to meet the learning needs of children with disabilities and the provision of compulsory education from kindergarten up to secondary school.

31. The attention of the Meeting was drawn to the priority accorded by many Governments to early detection and intervention. Many delegations informed the Meeting that their Governments had initiated CBR efforts to support that priority. In that regard, the representative of Nepal mentioned that CBR efforts had been undertaken in the country in connection with the priority areas of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action.

32. The representative of India informed the Meeting of efforts to enact laws that included disability perspectives in laws on national disaster.

33. The representatives of Myanmar and Japan informed the Meeting of their countries' efforts to undertake disability-inclusive measures in disaster management. The representative of Japan reiterated his Government's efforts to ensure that disability perspectives would be included in a new international framework for disaster risk reduction which was expected to be agreed upon during the third World Conference on Disaster Reduction, which Japan had announced its intention to host in 2015.

34. Many delegations, in recognizing the importance of reliable, comparable and comprehensive disability statistics in providing the evidence base for strengthening policymaking, informed the Meeting of their Governments' efforts to collect disability data either through surveys or as part of their respective national censuses. The representative of Tuvalu shared the country's experience in collecting disability data by using a component of an existing programme under its Ministry of Home Affairs. The representative of Nepal informed the Meeting that Nepal had a national definition and classification of disability for the purpose of collecting disability data, and providing identity cards and social security.

35. The representative of the Philippines drew the attention of the Meeting to the importance of collecting statistics on persons with disabilities in disaster situations. Some delegations expressed the need to strengthen disability statistics.

36. The Meeting noted the importance of regional and subregional cooperation in efforts to further enhance the rights of persons with disabilities, including the successful implementation of the Incheon Strategy and working in cooperation with ESCAP.

37. The representative of Vanuatu drew attention to the Second Pacific Islands Forum Disability Ministers' Meeting, which had been held in Port Moresby on 3 and 4 October 2012. That Meeting underscored the need to include disability issues in the ongoing discussions on the post-2015 development agenda.

38. The representative of the Philippines welcomed the decision of the General Assembly to hold, on 23 September 2013,² a high-level meeting on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities, at the level of Heads of State and Government, and with the overarching theme "The way forward: a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond".³ The delegate further called upon the political support of Asia-Pacific governments to mainstream disability into development by crafting and implementing regional and national strategies.

² See General Assembly resolution 66/124.

³ See also para. 61 below.

39. The representative of Thailand informed the Meeting that Thailand had taken the lead in promoting and supporting the first ASEAN Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2011-2020, by implementing three ASEAN projects. The representative of Indonesia referred to the active and significant role that the Government of Indonesia had played at the regional level, including in hosting the 19th ASEAN High Level Conference on the Role and Participation of Persons with Disabilities in ASEAN Community, which had been held in Bali, Indonesia, in November 2011.

40. The Meeting was informed of ongoing challenges encountered in the implementation of the second Decade. The challenges included those concerning implementation, particularly the enforcement of laws and policies, discriminatory attitudes, financing constraints, limitation of technical capability and awareness of barrier free design and other disability issues, as well as the lack of access to public facilities and transportation, employment and education.

41. Many delegations recognized the importance of strengthening the evidence base for policymaking.

42. The representative of Japan emphasized the importance of periodic reviews of the progress made in the implementation of the ministerial declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities and the Incheon strategy once adopted, and that it would be important to ensure that the working group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities would function effectively.

43. The representative of the Alliance of 15 CSOs addressed the Meeting on behalf of the following organizations: ASEAN Autism Network, ASEAN Disability Forum, Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD), Asia Pacific Disability Forum (APDF), Community-based Rehabilitation (CBR) Asia-Pacific Network, DAISY Consortium, Disabled Peoples' International Asia-Pacific, Inclusion International (II) Asia Pacific Regional Forum, Pacific Disability Forum (PDF), Rehabilitation International (RI) Asia Pacific Region, South Asian Disability Forum (SADF), World Blind Union Asia-Pacific (WBUAP), World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) Regional Secretariat for Asia and the Pacific, World Federation of the Deafblind (WFDdb) Asia and the Pacific, and the World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry (WNUSP) Asia-Pacific. The representative noted that CSOs contributed actively to the ESCAP survey and that the survey findings represented the responses of most CSOs in the Asia-Pacific region. The representative noted that the enhanced solidarity of Governments and CSOs strengthened the comprehensiveness of action to address disability issues in the Asia-Pacific region. While noting the shift from the medical model and charity approach towards the social model, which is the basis of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the representative noted that there were intractable and emerging issues affecting the full realization of the rights of persons with disabilities, including attitudinal barriers, insufficient policy priority in diverse development sectors and inadequate resources. The CSOs thus called on Governments present at Incheon 2012 to lead the Asia-Pacific region's shift towards disability-inclusive development, including by further strengthening close government cooperation with CSOs. The CSOs offered their full cooperation and the collective resources of the respective networks for the successful implementation of the new Decade.

44. The representative of Asia-Pacific Disabled People's Organization United (AP-DPO United) offered his organization's views regarding the

goals, targets and indicators contained in the draft Incheon strategy and made some suggestions for amending them, including a proposal for a new supplementary indicator on the number of centres for independent living. He suggested the addition of disability inclusion in all plans, programmes and meetings of ESCAP as new regional-level modalities for effective implementation of the Incheon strategy. In that regard, he also proposed the establishment, under the leadership of the Government of the Republic of Korea, of a fund to support persons with disabilities and disabled people's organizations, which would participate in its operations.

45. Many Governments extended their appreciation to ESCAP and the Government of the Republic of Korea for the successful organization of the present high-level intergovernmental meeting.

46. The representatives of Japan and the Republic of Korea extended their appreciation to ESCAP for promoting the region's efforts towards an inclusive, barrier-free and rights-based approach.

47. The Republic of Korea and Japan commended the secretariat on the relevant and helpful activities, such as the 2011 ESCAP survey,⁴ *Disability at a Glance 2012: Strengthening the Evidence Base in Asia and the Pacific*,⁵ and the Asia-Pacific Disability Rights Champions Award.

48. The representative of Australia pointed out that the *World Report on Disability*,⁶ produced by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Bank, provided the best available evidence of successful ways to overcome barriers in terms of the enjoyment of the rights.

B. Consideration of the draft ministerial declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, and the draft Incheon strategy to “make the right real” for persons with disabilities in Asia and the Pacific

49. The Meeting had before it a working paper entitled “Draft ministerial declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, and the draft Incheon strategy to “make the right real” for persons with disabilities in Asia and the Pacific” (E/ESCAP/APDDP(3)/WP.1).

50. The Meeting reviewed, amended and endorsed the draft ministerial declaration and the draft Incheon strategy, as contained in E/ESCAP/APDDP(3)/WP.1/Rev.1, for submission to the ministerial segment for adoption.

C. Consideration of the membership of an Asia-Pacific working group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022

51. The Meeting noted the terms of reference of the Asia-Pacific Working Group, which stipulates that the Working Group should be composed of 30 members, taking into account gender equality: 15 from members and associate members and 15 from CSOs. It also noted that at least half of the

⁴ See E/ESCAP/APDDP(3)/1 and Corr.1.

⁵ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.12.II.F.13.

⁶ World Health Organization/World Bank, *World Report on Disability* (Geneva: World Health Organization, 2011).

seats allocated for CSOs should be guaranteed for persons with disabilities and emerging civil society organizations.

52. The following 17 members and associate members expressed an interest in serving on the Working Group for the first term, covering the period 2013 to 2017:

1. Bangladesh
2. Bhutan
3. China
4. Fiji
5. India
6. Indonesia
7. Japan
8. Kiribati
9. Malaysia
10. Mongolia
11. Myanmar
12. Pakistan
13. Philippines
14. Republic of Korea
15. Russian Federation
16. Samoa
17. Thailand

53. The following 19 civil society organizations expressed an interest in serving on the Working Group for the first term, covering the period 2013 to 2017:

1. ASEAN Autism Network
2. ASEAN Disability Forum
3. Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability
4. Asia-Pacific DPO United
5. Asia Pacific Disability Forum
6. Central Asian Disability Forum
7. Christian Blind Mission
8. Community-based Rehabilitation Asia-Pacific Network
9. Commitments, India
10. DAISY Consortium
11. Disabled Peoples' International Asia-Pacific
12. Inclusion International Asia Pacific Regional Forum
13. Pacific Disability Forum
14. Rehabilitation International Asia Pacific Region
15. South Asian Disability Forum
16. World Blind Union Asia-Pacific
17. World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) Regional Secretariat for Asia and the Pacific
18. World Federation of the Deafblind Asia and the Pacific
19. World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry Asia-Pacific

54. The representative of the Russian Federation expressed support for the Working Group to be open to participation from all member States and from non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

55. The Meeting formulated a recommendation to be submitted to the Commission at its sixty-ninth session regarding the composition of the working group.⁷

D. Adoption of the report of the senior officials

56. The senior officials adopted the report on their deliberations on 31 October 2012 (see E/ESCAP/APDDP(3)/CRP.1).

E. Review of forward-looking policies to promote disability-inclusive development and substantive enhancement of the rights of persons with disabilities in Asia and the Pacific during the new Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022

57. Representatives of the following countries and areas made statements: Afghanistan; Australia; Bangladesh; Bhutan; Brunei Darussalam; Cambodia; China; Fiji; India; Indonesia; Japan; Kiribati; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Malaysia; Mongolia; Myanmar; Nepal; Palau; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; Samoa; Singapore; Solomon Islands; Sri Lanka; Thailand; Timor-Leste; Tonga; Tuvalu; Vanuatu; Uzbekistan; Viet Nam; and Hong Kong, China.

58. The Meeting welcomed the proclamation by the Commission in its resolution 68/7 of the new Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, and noted that the new Decade would accelerate regional action towards achieving a disability-inclusive society and contribute to further ratification and strengthened implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the ESCAP region.

59. The Meeting was informed by several representatives that the Biwako Millennium Framework had served as an overarching framework for the development of national disability policies and programmes during the current Decade. Much had been achieved and progress had been made by countries and territories in the ESCAP region, but challenges remained.

60. To address those challenges as well as emerging issues, the Meeting expressed full support for the Incheon Strategy to "Make the Right Real" for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific. It noted that the Incheon Strategy was a pioneering document that presented the first set of time-bound and measurable disability-inclusive development goals in the world.

61. Furthermore, Governments of the ESCAP membership expressed commitments to action on the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, and the Incheon Strategy. Those commitments reflected a widely shared and clear vision across the Asia-Pacific region for promoting and realizing the rights of persons with disabilities during the new Decade. The outcome of the Meeting would form the Asia-Pacific region's input to the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Realization of the Millennium Development Goals and Other Internationally Agreed Development Goals for Persons with Disabilities, which would be held on 23 September 2013.⁸

⁷ See chap. I, sect. B.

⁸ See also para. 38 above.

62. Several representatives emphasized that the outcome of the Meeting should serve as an input into the global discourse for the preparation of the post-2015 development agenda.

63. The Meeting noted with appreciation the offer of the Government of Indonesia to host the high-level intergovernmental meeting that should be held to conclude the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022.

64. In their statements during the policy review, ministers and representatives provided highlights of their national policies and other initiatives to promote disability-inclusive development and identified priorities that should be addressed during the new Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022.

65. The representatives of Singapore and Timor-Leste informed the Meeting of their respective Governments' intent to sign and/or ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

66. The representatives of Australia, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu drew attention to the important role of the Convention as an existing framework for guiding the realization of the rights of persons with disabilities. The representative of Tuvalu noted the strong links between the Convention and other human rights treaties, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women⁹ and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.¹⁰

67. The representative of Mongolia emphasized that ratifying the Convention had inspired efforts at the national level. The representative of Hong Kong, China, noted that the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on the initial report of China¹¹ had been deemed useful for further enhancing the rights of persons with disabilities in Hong Kong, China.

68. The Meeting acknowledged the efforts that were under way in the region to harmonize domestic legislation with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The representative of the Russian Federation highlighted the need to harmonize national legislation in order to create functioning mechanisms for the realization of the rights of persons with disabilities. The representative of Myanmar indicated that his Government was reviewing and amending domestic legislation in line with international standards, in particular the Convention. The representative of China informed the Meeting that her Government had amended the law on protection of persons with disabilities to reflect the fundamental principles of non-discrimination, equal opportunity and accessibility.

69. The representatives of Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Japan, India, Indonesia, Kiribati, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga and Viet Nam reported that significant progress had been made in their respective countries in developing national legislation and policies to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities during the Decade 2003-2012.

⁹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

¹⁰ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

¹¹ CRPD/C/CHN/CO/1.

70. The representative of Cambodia highlighted the importance of disability inclusion in national development plans. In that regard, he informed the Meeting that disability had been mainstreamed into the Second Five-Year National Strategic Development Plan, 2010-2014. The representative of Timor-Leste informed the Meeting of the recent launch of the National Policy for Inclusion and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2012.

71. The representative of Malaysia informed the Meeting that the National Policy on Persons with Disabilities and its Plan of Action would be the basis for ensuring the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities in society, on an equal basis with others. The representative of Brunei Darussalam indicated that her Government was in the process of drafting its national disability legislation.

72. The representatives of Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Myanmar, Singapore and Viet Nam informed the Meeting of the establishment of national action plans for persons with disabilities. The representative of China informed the Meeting that China had integrated the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities into its national human rights action plan and its national development plan.

73. Many representatives highlighted progress in moving towards a disability-inclusive approach to development and the mainstreaming of disability into development plans and programmes across all sectors. The representatives of China, the Philippines and Timor-Leste informed the Meeting of the importance that their countries attached to disability-inclusive development. The Meeting highlighted the pioneering and concerted efforts of Pacific Governments on disability-inclusive development. Further to the First Pacific Islands Forum Disability Ministers' Meeting (Rarotonga, Cook Islands, 21-23 October 2009), the Second Pacific Islands Forum Disability Ministers' Meeting (Port Moresby, 3-4 October 2012) had reviewed the implementation of the Pacific Regional Strategy on Disability, 2010-2015. The 2012 Ministers' Meeting had reaffirmed the importance of realigning the Pacific Regional Strategy on Disability with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the proposed Incheon Strategy as well as the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action. The Meeting recognized the importance of the Convention as both a developmental tool and a human rights instrument. In that regard, the outcome document of the Meeting addressed the need for governments to build capacity with regard to reporting. The 2012 Ministers' Meeting had further reaffirmed the Pacific Ministers' commitment to mainstreaming disability dimensions into the Pacific Plan. It also underscored the fundamental importance of partnership between Governments and organizations of persons with disabilities in advancing the rights of persons with disabilities.

74. The representatives of Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Kiribati, Malaysia, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam recognized the central importance of early detection and intervention, as well as inclusive education for children with disabilities. The representative of Bhutan informed the Meeting that Bhutan had increased by four times the number of inclusive schools, established a Braille production unit under the Ministry of Education and developed computer literacy programmes for students with visual impairment.

75. The representative of Japan reported on the establishment of a special needs education system to support and teach children according to their needs and regardless of the type or degree of disabilities. The representative of Singapore indicated that education was a key enabler to provide financial security and independence for persons with disabilities, and highlighted the

recent introduction of early intervention services for children with mild developmental delays in mainstream child-care centres and kindergartens.

76. The representatives of Afghanistan, Myanmar and Uzbekistan informed the Meeting of their countries' efforts to promote and implement CBR of persons with disabilities. The representative of Uzbekistan further informed the Meeting that Uzbekistan was supporting community-based inclusive development, including CBR, for persons with disabilities. The representative of Solomon Islands informed the Meeting of her Government's intent to increase support to the implementation of the CBR programmes.

77. Many delegations underscored the vital roles that national and regional disabled persons' organizations would be able to play in the effective implementation of the new Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities and in eliminating discrimination against persons with disabilities. The representatives of Tonga and the Philippines proposed to enhance collaboration among diverse ministries and CSOs, including organizations of and for persons with disabilities, as one of the prioritized actions in the new Decade.

78. The representative of Myanmar informed the Meeting that his Government intended to encourage the further development of organizations of persons with disabilities. The representatives of Bhutan and the Philippines underscored the prime importance of capacity-building for organizations of persons with disabilities. In that regard, the representative of Bhutan stated that, between 2010 and 2011, three organizations of persons with disabilities had been formally registered. The representative of Afghanistan indicated support extended to organizations of persons with disabilities through allocation of land for their premises. The representative of Kiribati also indicated support extended to organizations of persons with disabilities through allocation of buildings as well as land for their premises.

79. The representatives of Kiribati, Samoa, Tonga and Tuvalu indicated that their governments valued their partnership with organizations of persons with disabilities and the ongoing support extended by the Pacific Disability Forum to those organizations. The representative of Timor-Leste informed the Meeting of his Government's appreciation of the contribution of CSOs to the provision of services to persons with disabilities and its intent to continue financial support for their work. The representative of the Lao People's Democratic Republic indicated that four CSOs had been established: the Lao Disabled People's Association, the Blind Association, Autism Association, and the Association for Promotion of Vocational Training. At the district level, 145 cells for disabled persons had been set up.

80. Several delegations underscored the importance of according priority to enhancing public-private partnerships as a key action for yielding desired results for the Incheon Strategy at the end of the Decade in 2022. In that regard, the representatives of Kiribati, the Philippines and the Republic of Korea emphasized that the partnerships could enhance the financial base and technical knowledge for effective implementation. In particular, the representative of the Republic of Korea expressed his Government's intention to contribute to the successful implementation of the Ministerial Declaration and the Incheon Strategy through a fund to be managed in the Republic of Korea.

81. The representatives of Kiribati, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste and Tonga indicated that their countries needed funding and technical support from the international

community, including aid agencies, development partners and the United Nations system. In that regard, the Meeting noted with appreciation the contributions of the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to disability programmes in the region.

82. The attention of the Meeting was drawn to the importance of national coordination mechanisms, which would play an instrumental role in effective progress tracking of the implementation of the new Decade. The representative of Cambodia informed the Meeting that his Government would utilize several mechanisms for that purpose, including the Disability Action Council, the Persons with Disability Foundation and the Disability Rights Administration.

83. The representatives of Kiribati and Tonga pointed out that there was an immediate need to strengthen the capacity of their respective national coordination mechanisms so as to have coordinated actions and to provide better services for persons with disabilities. The representative of Fiji informed the Meeting that the Fiji National Council for Disabled Persons was the key focal point on policy development and coordination with civil society organizations regarding disability-inclusive development. The Meeting was informed that the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic had established a national committee for persons with disabilities, which was composed of representatives of 15 ministries and organizations of persons with disabilities.

84. The representative of India informed the Meeting that the Government had established a department of disability affairs, a disability-specific unit within the focal point ministry to fortify institutional support on disability matters.

85. The Meeting recognized the critical importance of establishing reliable and comparable disability statistics as the foundation for informed decisions and evidence-based policy development in the new Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities. The representatives of Bhutan, Mongolia and Vanuatu underscored that reliable statistics would help establish effective programming and budgeting on disability issues. The representative of Samoa emphasized that rigorous disability data could help ensure the highest-level political commitment to disability issues. The representative of Bhutan drew attention to his Government's successful completion of a two-phased study on children with disabilities, which spanned the period 2010 to 2011. The Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, the National Statistical Bureau and the United Nations Children's Fund had collaboratively conducted the study. The representative of Brunei Darussalam informed the Meeting of her Government's intent to incorporate the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) or some other alternative method into its official definition of disability. The representatives of China, Fiji and Kiribati informed the Meeting of the continuing efforts of their respective Governments to conduct periodic disability surveys for strategic policy planning. The representative of Malaysia commended ESCAP on its publication, *Disability at a Glance 2012: Strengthening the Evidence Base in Asia and the Pacific*,⁵ which highlighted substantial differences in reported prevalence data among Governments in the region and a need to streamline data collection efforts.

86. The representative of Malaysia informed the Meeting of the country's policy of placing responsibility on government agencies to ensure the effective employment of persons with disabilities in suitable positions in the

public sector. The representative of Hong Kong, China, shared information on affirmative action measures in Hong Kong, China, to place persons with disabilities in the civil service.

87. The representative of the Lao People's Democratic Republic informed the Meeting of the country's labour law that required enterprises to give priority to persons with disabilities. The representative of Sri Lanka informed the Meeting of a trust fund established by the Government to provide grants for self-employment of persons with disabilities.

88. The representatives of Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Singapore and Sri Lanka underscored the importance of government policy and programmes in promoting the employment of persons with disabilities.

89. The representative of Singapore informed the Meeting of measures to create an enabling environment for the employment of persons with disabilities, including an employers' network to advance employment opportunities, customized job support services that helped place persons with disabilities who had the requisite skills in open employment, and an "open-door" fund to finance job re-design, workplace modifications, internships and apprenticeships.

90. The representative of Hong Kong, China, cited a provision of funding support for CSOs to set up small enterprises that were, in turn, required to hire persons with disabilities totalling no less than 50 per cent of employees. Starting from 2012, the government of Hong Kong, China, would subsidize employers of persons with disabilities to cover their procurement of assistive devices and workplace modifications. In addition, a mentorship award would be provided to encourage employers to render workplace guidance to employees with disabilities.

91. The representative of Mongolia affirmed the country's commitment to promote the employment of persons with disabilities despite the challenges in addressing vocational orientation, working conditions and tailored facilities and equipment.

92. The Meeting recognized the importance of social protection measures in reducing poverty and enhancing their participation in education, work and social life. The representative of Cambodia drew attention to the country's efforts to provide housing and social land concessions for persons with disabilities. The representative of Afghanistan indicated that her Government distributed land to the poorest persons with disabilities. The representative of China highlighted poverty reduction programmes that targeted persons with disabilities in the rural areas, as well as those from ethnic minority groups, as a key priority under the Government's new five-year development plan for persons with disabilities.

93. The representative of Australia underscored her Government's commitment to a new national disability insurance scheme to provide care and support for persons with disabilities, their families and caregivers.

94. The representatives of the Philippines and Thailand emphasized the importance of responding to the needs of women with disabilities through special measures for their empowerment. The representative of Thailand indicated that the Fund for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities provided opportunities for women with disabilities to access loans and participate in all activities and decision-making processes.

95. Several representatives drew attention to the importance of including persons with disabilities in disaster risk reduction policies and programmes. They also highlighted the impact of climate change on persons with disabilities. The representative of Japan referred to the March 2011 great east Japan earthquake and tsunami, which had resulted in a higher mortality rate for persons with disabilities, as compared to that of persons without disabilities. The lesson learned from that experience was that the views of all stakeholders, including persons with disabilities, needed to be reflected in disaster risk reduction planning. The representative of Myanmar informed the Meeting that his Government had established the Emergency Plan of Action for Persons with Disabilities following Cyclone Nargis in 2008.

96. The representative of Tuvalu highlighted the importance of climate change and disaster risk reduction as interrelated issues of particular relevance to the Pacific and stressed the need to place strong emphasis on prevention and control strategies. The representative of Kiribati stressed that climate change was a challenge that faced Kiribati as an atoll nation. In that regard, she noted that persons with disabilities, children and older persons were most vulnerable to its impact.

97. The Meeting was informed of Government initiatives on enhancing the accessible physical environment, public transportation, and ICT. The representative of Singapore informed the Meeting that the country's Accessibility Code had incorporated the principle of universal design, whereby not only the physical but also the psychosocial and social needs of users had been taken into consideration. The representative of Thailand reported that Thailand had enhanced accessibility to public and private services and facilities, including the voting process.

98. The representative of Hong Kong, China, informed the Meeting of a broad range of accelerated actions for access promotion. The government of Hong Kong, China, would continue to ensure that government agencies and the private sector comply with the latest mandatory accessibility standards set in its design manual on barrier-free access,¹² and encourage them to exceed the standards wherever applicable. Furthermore, by the end of 2012, all of the franchised buses in Hong Kong, China, would be equipped with a visual and/or audio announcement system. By 2015, all railway stations would have lifts or direct access connecting the station concourse to the street level. All government entities had designated accessibility coordinators, and access officers for individual facilities.

99. Many delegations highlighted the significance of public awareness on disability as a key action for the new Decade. The representatives of Myanmar and Palau informed the Meeting that their respective Governments would accord importance to awareness-raising campaigns. The representative of Bhutan emphasized the importance of raising public awareness at all levels. The representative of Malaysia indicated the need for Malaysia to intensify public awareness and advocacy programmes to support the development of inclusive societies. In that regard, the Government of Malaysia would conduct a training-of-trainers course on disability equality training for all ASEAN members in 2013. The representatives of Malaysia and the Russian Federation noted that raising awareness on disability was a key factor in developing inclusive societies.

¹² *Design Manual: Barrier Free Access 2008* (Hong Kong, China, Buildings Department, 2008). Available from www.bd.gov.hk/english/documents/code/e_bfa2008.htm.

100. The representative of WHO explained that the *World Report on Disability*,⁶ launched in June 2011, provided the foremost global assessment of disability to date and gave the world the first disability prevalence since the 1970s. Using the CBR Guidelines, WHO was developing a training programme on CBR and detailed guidance on monitoring and evaluation of CBR, as well as a guidance note and checklist on disability and disasters for the health sector. In partnership with the World Bank, WHO was also developing a model disability survey based on ICF.

101. The representative of the Alliance of 15 CSOs underscored the participation of hitherto excluded and underrepresented groups, in the spirit of article 4 of the general principles of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as important for ensuring that the new Decade would foster inclusiveness in the Asia-Pacific region. The Alliance urged all governments to support subregional collaboration in the implementation of the new Decade in order to facilitate the direct engagement of persons with disabilities in new Decade activities. The Alliance also welcomed partnership with actors in all sectors and at all levels for the journey towards inclusiveness that embraced the principle of “nothing about us without us”.

102. The Meeting commended the ESCAP secretariat for the highly successful preparations for and excellent servicing of the Meeting. The high level of engagement among ESCAP members in the preparatory process and in the Meeting was indicative of their commitment and the priority that they accorded to the promotion, protection and upholding of the rights of persons with disabilities. The Meeting also expressed thanks to the secretariat for ensuring the meaningful engagement of stakeholders, particularly organizations of and for persons with disabilities, in the preparatory process and in the Meeting.

F. Other matters

103. No other matters were raised.

G. Adoption of the Ministerial Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, and the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific

104. The Ministerial Declaration and the Incheon Strategy were adopted on 2 November 2012.¹³

H. Adoption of the report of the Meeting

105. The report of the Meeting was adopted by consensus and acclamation on 2 November 2012.

I. Closing of the Meeting

106. Statements were made by the representatives of the following countries: Bangladesh; Bhutan; Pakistan; Philippines; Samoa; Thailand; and Uzbekistan. A statement was also made by the representative of the Alliance of 15 CSOs.

¹³ See Chap. I, sect. A.

III. Organization

A. Senior officials segment

1. Opening, duration and organization

107. The senior officials segment of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012, was convened in Incheon, Republic of Korea, from 29 to 31 October 2012.

108. The Meeting was inaugurated by Mr. Park Yong Hyun, Assistant Minister and Head of the Office for Social Welfare Policy, Ministry of Health and Welfare, Republic of Korea, who delivered a welcoming statement.

109. Statements were also made by: the Deputy Executive Secretary of ESCAP; Mr. Monthian Buntan, Senator, Royal Thai Parliament and member-elect of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; and Mr. Song Young Wook, Chairman of the Korean Foundation for Persons with Disabilities.

2. Election of officers

110. The Meeting elected the following officers:

Chair:	Mr. Park Yong Hyun (Republic of Korea)
Vice-Chair:	Ms. Jiko Luveni (Fiji)
Rapporteur:	Mr. Pankaj Joshi (India)

3. Agenda

111. The senior officials adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the senior officials segment:
 - (a) Opening statements;
 - (b) Election of officers;
 - (c) Adoption of the agenda.
2. Review of the implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action and Biwako Plus Five towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific.
3. Consideration of the draft ministerial declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, and the draft Incheon strategy to “make the right real” for persons with disabilities in Asia and the Pacific.
4. Consideration of the membership of an Asia-Pacific working group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022.
5. Adoption of the report of the senior officials.

4. Special events

112. The following side events were held:

(a) Round table on strengthening the evidence-base for disability-inclusive policies, organized by ESCAP, WHO and the World Bank, moderated by Mr. Ron McCallum, the panellists were Ms. Alana Officer, Ms. Aleksandra Posarac and Mr. Patrik Andersson.

(b) Disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction, organized by the Japan Disability Forum in cooperation with the Nippon Foundation and supported by the Embassy of Japan in the Republic of Korea. The speakers were Mr. Katsunori Fujii, Mr. Sumet Phonkacha, Ms. Premadasa Dissanayake, Ms. Jocelyn Cevallos Garcia, Mr. Kiyoharu Shiraiishi and Mr. Kazuhiko Abe.

B. Ministerial segment

1. Opening, duration and organization

113. The High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012, was convened in Incheon, Republic of Korea, from 29 October to 2 November 2012. The Meeting was divided into a senior officials segment (29-31 October 2012) and a ministerial segment (1-2 November 2012).

114. The Meeting was inaugurated by Mr. Kim Hwang-sik, Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea. In his address, the Prime Minister referred to the great strides made during the preceding 30 years by the Republic of Korea to uphold the rights of persons with disabilities, especially in improving the quality of welfare services, mobility and access to education and employment opportunities. He commended the Asian and Pacific region on its historic leadership in promoting the rights of persons with disabilities and called for stronger international partnerships, including with CSOs, as the region embarked on a new Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022.

115. The Secretary-General of the United Nations, in his message, praised countries of the Asian and Pacific region for their significant achievements in promoting the rights of persons with disabilities. He welcomed the proclamation of the new Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, as an opportunity to remove the remaining obstacles for the 650 million persons with disabilities in the region. The Secretary-General also stated that the outcome of the Meeting would help to ensure a disability-inclusive post-2015 development agenda and a successful General Assembly high-level meeting on disability and development in September 2013.

116. Opening statements were also made by: the Deputy Executive Secretary of ESCAP; Ms. Jang Myung Sook, Standing Member of the National Human Rights Commission of the Republic of Korea; and Mr. Ron McCallum, Chair of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

117. The Meeting launched the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, which had been proclaimed by the Commission in its resolution 68/7 of 23 May 2012.

118. The Minister of Health and Welfare of the Republic of Korea and the Deputy Executive Secretary conferred awards on the following ten Asia-Pacific Champions of Disability Rights: Mr. Monthian Buntan (Thailand); Mr. Mohd Abdus Sattar Dulal (Bangladesh); Mr. Katsunori Fujii (Japan); Mr. Frank Allen Hall-Bentick (Australia); Ms. Lyazzat Kaltayeva (Kazakhstan); Mr. Setareki Seru Macanawai (Fiji); Ms. Poonam Natarajan (India); Mr. Maulani Agustiah Rotinsulu (Indonesia); Mr. Young-Wook Song (Republic of Korea); and Ms. Haidi Zhang (China).

2. Attendance

119. The Meeting was attended by representatives of the following members of ESCAP: Afghanistan; Australia; Azerbaijan; Bangladesh; Bhutan; Brunei Darussalam; Cambodia; China; Fiji; India; Indonesia; Japan; Kiribati; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Malaysia; Mongolia; Myanmar; Nepal; Pakistan; Palau; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; Samoa; Singapore; Solomon Islands; Sri Lanka; Thailand; Timor-Leste; Tonga; Turkmenistan; Tuvalu; Uzbekistan; Vanuatu; and Viet Nam. The Meeting was also attended by representatives of the following associate members of ESCAP: Hong Kong, China; Macao, China; and New Caledonia.

120. In addition, representatives of the following United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and related organizations attended: Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; Commission for Social Development; United Nations Children's Fund; Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; World Health Organization; and World Bank.

121. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented: Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat; and Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

122. The following non-governmental organizations were represented: Christian Blind Mission; Community-based Rehabilitation; Disabled Peoples' International; Inclusion International; Leonard Cheshire Disability; Rehabilitation International; Nippon Foundation; World Blind Union; World Federation of the Deaf; World Federation of the Deafblind; and World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry.

123. In addition, the following entities participated as observers: ASEAN Autism Network; ASEAN Disability Forum; Asia Pacific Disability Forum; Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability; Asia-Pacific DPO United; Australian Federation of Disability Organizations; Bangladesh Protibandhi Kallyan Somity; Central Asian Disability Forum; Commitments (A Public Trust); Digital Accessible Information System (DAISY) Consortium; Disabled Women's Network; Indonesian Association of Women with Disabilities; Genashtim Innovative Learning Pte Ltd.; Japan Disability Forum; Japan International Cooperation Agency; Korea Association of the Deaf; Korea Association of Persons with Physical Disabilities; Korean Association for Special Education; Korea Differently Abled Federation; Korea Differently Abled Women United; Korea Federation of Centers of Independent Living for Persons with Disabilities; Korea Federation of Organizations of the Disabled; Korea Foundation for Persons with Disabilities; Korea Mental Disability Association; Korea Muscle Disability Association; Korea Mission Association for People with Disabilities; Korean Society for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities; Korea Spinal Cord Injury Association; KT Corporation; Little People of Korea; Mobility India; Mongolian National Federation of Disabled People's Organizations; National Federation of the Disabled Nepal; Nuanua O. Le Alofa; Open Network; Pacific Disability Forum; Participatory Development Training Center;

Phoenix Society of Korea; Research Institute of the Differently Abled Person's Rights in Korea; Shanta Memorial Rehabilitation Centre; South Asian Disability Forum and Special Talent Exchange Program.

3. Election of officers

124. The following officers were elected:

Chair:	Mr. Chemin Rim (Republic of Korea)
Vice-Chair:	Mr. Salim Segaf Al-Jufri (Indonesia)
Rapporteur:	Ms. Parisya H. Taradji (Philippines)

4. Adoption of the agenda

125. The ministers endorsed the agenda adopted by the senior officials and adopted the following agenda for the ministerial segment:

6. Opening of the ministerial segment:
 - (a) Opening addresses;
 - (b) Launching of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022;
 - (c) Election of officers;
 - (d) Adoption of the agenda.
7. Review of forward-looking policies to promote disability-inclusive development and substantive enhancement of the rights of persons with disabilities in Asia and the Pacific during the new Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022.
8. Other matters.
9. Adoption of the Ministerial Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, and the Incheon Strategy to "Make the Right Real" for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific.
10. Adoption of the report of the Meeting.
11. Closing of the Meeting.

5. Special event

126. On 1 November 2012, an event was held to launch partnerships for the implementation of the Incheon Strategy: ESCAP-Sasakawa Asia-Pacific Disability-Inclusive Business Award. The keynote speaker was Mr. Takeju Ogata and the other speakers were Ms. Yesol Kim, Mr. Ghulan Nabi Nizamani and Mr. Thomas Wai Mun Ng.

Annex**List of documents**

Symbol	Title	Agenda item
<i>General series</i>		
E/ESCAP/APDDP(3)/1 and Corr.1	Overview of regional implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action and Biwako Plus Five towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific	2
E/ESCAP/APDDP(3)/2	Terms of reference of the proposed working group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022	4
<i>Limited series</i>		
E/ESCAP/APDDP(3)/L.1	Annotated provisional agenda	
E/ESCAP/APDDP(3)/L.2	Draft report	9, 10
<i>Information series</i>		
E/ESCAP/APDDP(3)/INF/1	Information for participants	
E/ESCAP/APDDP(3)/INF/2	List of participants	
E/ESCAP/APDDP(3)/INF/3	Tentative programme	
E/ESCAP/APDDP(3)/INF/4	Reports and resolutions pertaining to the implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012	
E/ESCAP/APDDP(3)/INF/5	Beijing Declaration on Disability-inclusive Development	
E/ESCAP/APDDP(3)/INF/6	Consolidated inputs of civil society organizations to the draft Incheon strategy	
<i>Conference room papers</i>		
E/ESCAP/APDDP(3)/CRP.1 and Add.1	Draft report of the senior officials	5
E/ESCAP/APDDP(3)/CRP.2 and Corr.1	Proposals for amendments to the draft ministerial declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, and the draft Incheon strategy to “make the right real” for persons with disabilities in Asia and the Pacific	3
<i>Working papers</i>		
E/ESCAP/APDDP(3)/WP.1 and Rev.1	Draft ministerial declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, and the draft Incheon strategy to “make the right real” for persons with disabilities in Asia and the Pacific	3