**11th Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

**Opening Session**

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The original version of this document is in Spanish.

1.- In 2018 we are celebrating the **10th anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of the United Nations CRPD**, which represents a revolution in the field of human rights and its power has meant a strong impact in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, highlighting the value of human diversity. This is reflected in the inspiring title of the 11COSP "Leaving no one behind through the full implementation of the CRPD".

2.- The decade of validity of the Convention allows us to verify the **centrality of the Conference of States Parties**, with its powerful calls, dialogues and interactions, inviting us to reflect on crucial implementation issues. This year:

a.- The theme of the **national fiscal space** invites the States Parties to define intersectorially the allocation of sufficient public resources for public programs and policies in relation to the rights of persons with disabilities, currently in connection with the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals. Both the private sector and international cooperation will play a catalytic role in the effective inclusion of persons with disabilities.

b.- The issue of the **political participation of persons with disabilities** is key to the implementation of the CRPD. This decade has been decisive in the consolidation of a civil society of persons with disabilities with a wide presence and incidence at the national, regional and international levels. We appreciate the collaborative work with United Nations. We also note the relevant political role of some persons with disabilities such as the President of Ecuador, the Vice President of Argentina, and Ministers and Parliamentarians with disabilities in some countries: Merit displaces prejudice.

However, in order to leave no one behind, it is essential that the different legislations recognize all persons with disabilities with **equality before the law and the full exercise of their legal capacity with support and safeguards**. The CRPD has emphasized that the pro person principle is based on respect for dignity, individual autonomy, the freedom to make one's own choices and the independence of persons. The legal, political and social systems must accelerate compliance with this human rights obligation.

c.- **The production of data and statistics of high quality and disaggregation of data by disability** are fundamental instruments for the development and application of realistic and appropriate public policies, tuning directly to the allocation of budgetary resources for the implementation of human rights standards and sustainable development towards persons with disabilities. The HLPF has recognized the relevance of the collection of data and statistics for sustainable development. In this regard, we urge the decisive role of the Institutes of Statistics and Censuses in this matter, at the national level, in connection with the international guidelines recommended by the United Nations.

3.- On the other hand, we congratulate the **Secretary General's determined impulse to deepen the mainstreaming of the human rights model of persons with disabilities**. The decisions to generate a policy, action plan and accountability system, the production of guidelines on accessibility and the employment of persons with disabilities at the United Nations, are key, as well as strengthening the work of the IASG. Now the path of all of us is to intensify the collaborative action for the success of these decisions.

4.- Leaving no one behind by applying the CRPD, implies a **strong awareness, connecting the rights of persons with disabilities and sustainable development.** The 2030 Agenda urges us to promote education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, based on human rights, and the appreciation of diversity, including gender equality.

5.- In relation to this last mention -**gender equality**- and being a theme of 11COSP women and girls with disabilities, we must consider that there are outstanding debts in relation to this area that are clearly expressed in the Final Observations of the CRPD Committee. We must continue working on this.

Additional motivations for this challenge are the recent election of an expert with disability Ana Peláez to integrate another treaty body on human rights, as well as the election of another disabled woman Yetnebersh Nigussie in the alternative Nobel. Both examples fill us with joy for them and for all of us, since they mean the clear expression of the transversality of persons with disabilities in various fields and the remarkable role of women in these leaderships. Again, merit displaces prejudice.