

CONCEPT PAPER
ON NATIONAL COMMITTEE CONSTITUTED FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF
UNCRPD AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS PERTAINING TO
DISABILITIES

The Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan (1973) guarantees the social and economic well-being of all citizens regardless of sex, caste, creed race, or any other discrimination. Article 38(d) of the Constitution ensures basic necessities of life, such as food, clothing, housing education and medical relief, for all such citizens, irrespective of sex, caste, creed or race, who are permanently or temporarily unable to earn their livelihood on account of infirmity, sickness or unemployment”. It provides security and protection to all citizens including Persons with Disabilities and guarantees the freedom of thought, conscience, and expression as well as social, economic and cultural rights of all citizens.

2. **Pakistan ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) on 5th July, 2011. Article 33 of the Convention requires to establish mechanism to monitor implementation of the subject Convention by involving relevant Government Department and Civil Society Organization, in particular persons with disabilities and their representative organizations for fully monitoring the process.**

3. Besides, the Government of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) region gathered in Incheon, Republic of Korea in 2012 to chart out the course of Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities for the period 2013 to 2022. They were joined by representatives of civil society organizations, including organizations of and for persons with disabilities. Also in attendance were representatives of intergovernmental organization, development cooperation on agencies and the United Nations system. The Government in the meeting adopted the Incheon Strategy to “Make Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific, which outlines 10 disability inclusive development goals, 27 targets and 62 indicators to be met by 2022.

4. In this regard, **Ministry of Human Rights has constituted a National Committee at the National level to monitor the implementation of UNCRPD and other international commitments pertaining to disabilities, included Incheon Strategy. The Committee consists of the representatives from the relevant ministry, provincial Departments, Parliament, Civil Society, DPOs/CBOs/NGOs and relevant UN Agencies.**

5. It is pertinent to mention that prior to 18th Amendment in the Constitution of Pakistan, the subject of disability was dealt by the then Ministry of Social Welfare and Special Education. However, after devolution of powers, the Provincial Governments are mandated to formulate policies, plans and legislations for protection of the Rights of PWDs, whereas, Directorate General of Special Education currently under MoHR is responsible for taking appropriate measures for PWDs at ICT level. Ministry of Human Rights is a focal Ministry to deal with

International Commitments pertaining to disabilities included UNCRPD (submission of obligatory report and implementation of international commitments pertaining to disability with the coordination of relevant Departments at the federal and provincial level). Pakistan's Initial report on UNCRPD has been prepared in consultation with relevant Federal and Provincial Departments.

6. Pakistan has been regularly participating in the UN ESCAPs meetings as a member to review progress on implementation of Incheon Strategy. Report of the last session was shared with the departments at the federal and provincial level. Pakistan was one of the country which submitted its response on UNESCAP survey for the Mid-point review of the Asian and Pacific decade of persons with disabilities 2013-2020, conducted in January, 2017. It is pertinent to mention that availability of reliable current statistical data with regard to persons with disabilities was considered as a major challenge while responding to various indicators of the survey.

7. Moreover, SDGs, set in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly are collection of 17 interlinked Goals aimed at achieving a better and more sustainable future for ALL by 2030". **Leaving no one behind** is a recurring and overarching objective of the 2030 Agenda. The 2030 Agenda recognizes that high and rising inequalities are not only an impediment to growth and human development; but also a violation of shared norms, values and people's intrinsic sense of fairness. In this context, we aim at **Leaving no one behind** including PWDs particularly Women with Disabilities.

8. **Mainstreaming Women with Disabilities is one of the major priorities of the Government.** All these national and international commitments require collective efforts to mainstream PWDs in the development process.

9. The National Committee is instrumental towards promotion and protection of rights of PWDs including mainstreaming of Women with Disabilities through **monitoring the implementation of UNCRPD and other international commitments pertaining to disabilities.**