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STATEMENT

BY

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LABOUR, SOCIAL SECURITY AND SERVICES OF THE
REPUBLIC OF KENYA**

DURING

THE

**EIGHTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES
TO THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH
DISABILITIES**

June 10-11, 2015
United Nations, New York

**Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen
Chairperson**

Kenya is honored to participate in the 8th Session of the Conference of States Parties whose theme addresses mainstreaming disability in the Post 2015 Development Agenda. Guided by this timely theme, our deliberations come at an opportune time after the adoption of the Sendai framework on disaster Risk reduction and as Member States prepare to usher in the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Kenya had the honour to serve as President of the Sixth and Seventh Sessions of the Conference of States Parties to the CRPD, an indication of its commitment to the guiding principles of the Convention and to finding sustainable solutions for persons with disability. We remain committed to the goal of ensuring that the Post 2015 Development Agenda is disability inclusive.

Chairperson,

The Government of Kenya has instituted review processes to realign all national laws and policies with the CRPD and designated different agencies to ensure the implementation and monitoring of the CRPD. These agencies include the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Services and the National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD).

The Constitution of Kenya (2010) provides a firm legal foundation for addressing issues of persons with disabilities and devotes article 54 to their rights. In addition, a transformative procurement policy enables persons with disabilities, the youth and women access government tenders. The policy stipulates that Thirty (30) percent of all government procurement is set aside for these

categories to cushion them from poverty. To increase uptake for all categories, no group can take more than 50% of the 30% allocation. Persons with disabilities are allocated a minimum of 2%.

The Kenya Vision 2030 includes equity as a recurrent principle in social, economic and political programs. It is in light of this the Government introduced an indicator on disability mainstreaming in annual Performance Contracting in the public service starting from the 2009/2010 financial year. The targets are geared towards sensitizing staff on their needs of persons with disability for ease of mainstreaming them in sector processes. Other Government priorities include increasing accessibility to built environments and to information and the realization of 5% representation of PWDs in employment. The initiative has started bearing fruits. Sector policies and strategies now include PWDs. Buildings and roads are more accessible to PWDs and more disabled persons are accessing employment among others.

Chairperson,

To reduce the economic barriers encountered by persons with disabilities the National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD) manages a targeted fund for Persons with Disabilities, which administers a scheme that provides people with disabilities, with the equipment to set up their own businesses.

This is augmented by a cash transfer programme that provides appropriate social security to persons who are unable to support themselves and their dependants. The Government also grants tax exemptions to persons with disabilities on assistive devices imported for their use. In addition, the government is providing free enrollment for persons with disabilities to the National Health Insurance Fund

Kenya actively participated in the 3rd World conference on disaster Risk reduction held in Sendai Japan in March, 2015. H. E the President of Kenya represented the government of Kenya. In his statement, the President recognised that, "where poverty is high and adaptive capabilities stubbornly low, vulnerability and helplessness have remained stubbornly high women and children and persons with disabilities are at even greater risk."

Kenya alongside other UN Member States endorsed the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 30 and activities have been initiated to implement it.

Chairperson,

Inclusive development requires empowerment of all and in Kenya, our development blueprint recognizes disability as a cross cutting issue that needs to be included in all the development processes.

Progress has been made in putting disability rights on the political agenda. And although our Constitution affirms and guarantees these rights, we recognize the need to do more to ensure that people with disabilities actively participate in shaping relevant laws and policies that speak to their issues.

Chairperson

As a country we have made significant progress towards implementing the provisions of the CRPD and will be appearing before the Committee on the Rights

of Persons with Disabilities on 18th and 19th August, 2015 for consideration of the initial report.

Chairperson

In regard to implementation of Article 31 of CRPD on statistics and data collection, Kenya has also made good progress. The 2009 National Census included a module on persons with disabilities. Data on different categories of disability was collected and is providing useful information for planning and programming. The government has also been registering all persons with disabilities and their organizations and has created a live database. Registration has enhanced access to services, assistive devices, representation in decision making processes and funding for activities.

We welcome the Zero Draft of the outcome document for the UN Summit to adopt the Post-2015 Development Agenda. This aspirational document provides a good basis for the inclusion of the world's largest minority, the over one billion persons with disabilities.

Chairperson,

In closing, we also wish to extend an invitation to a side event that Kenya is co-hosting a side event with DESA, Belgium, Italy, South Korea, and Vanuatu on 11th June on accessibility of PWDs during critical situations in Conference room 4.

I Thank You.

