



THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM
PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Statement by
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the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
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Mr. President,

Let me begin by expressing our sincere gratitude to you and your team for organizing this important session.

We also thank the President of the General Assembly for organizing a fruitful discussion yesterday on the follow-up of the 2013 High-level Meeting on Disability and Development which certainly enriches our discussion today.

Mr. President,

This year we celebrate the 10th anniversary of the landmark Convention on the rights of Persons with disabilities. And this is also the first year we start to implement the 2030 Development Agenda. We have now a golden opportunity to reflect on progress made, lessons learned, existing gaps and the way forward to implement the Convention.

In Viet Nam we have 7.2 million people with disabilities. The government of Viet Nam attaches great importance to the betterment of the lives and the protection and promotion of the rights of the people with disabilities. Disability issues have been mainstreamed as an integral part of our sustainable development strategies. We are doing our best to implement laws and policies to support Persons with Disabilities in healthcare, inclusive and equitable education, employment, accessibility to public services, legal services, cultural and sport activities. A National Committee was established last year as the main focal point to implement the CRPD and disability policies and programs.

We encourage the multi-stakeholder approach to explore and mobilize the potential of the society in assisting the people with disabilities. At the same time we promote equity and full participation of persons with disabilities in all aspects of socio-economic development. Disability associations and organizations both at national and local level are increasingly and actively engaging in disability policy development and implementation.

Mr. President,

It is encouraging to see that disability issues have been integrated across the board of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets. It is evident that we cannot achieve the SDGs without tackling the challenges people with disabilities are now facing, especially poverty and inequality.

The United Nations plays a central role in realizing the 2030 Agenda and in supporting State Parties to implement the CRPD. We therefore appreciate and support the initiative lead by the

Republic of Korea on the GA resolution last year entitled “*Towards the full realization of an inclusive and accessible United Nations for persons with disabilities*”.

We are also of the view that disability indicators and statistical data must be developed to facilitate disability-sensitive development policy planning, monitoring, evaluation and implementation. Participation of peoples with disabilities in these processes is indispensable to ensure their efficiency and accountability.

It is also imperative for us to strengthen global partnership, fulfill our commitments, share knowledge and disability-friendly technology to advance the rights of persons with disabilities. In this connection, I am pleased to inform the Conference that Viet Nam, in collaboration with Australia, the ILO and International Disability Alliance, organized an event on “*Creating and Supporting Enabling Work Environments for Persons with Disabilities*” during the 31st Session of Human Rights Council in March 2016.

Mr. President,

People with disabilities are not disabled. Their accomplishments are so great that go beyond our imagination. I have here today, sitting by my side, Mr. Le Minh Chau, a young artist from Viet Nam. Chau is a victim of the Agent Orange but now he could realize his dream of being an artist by painting with his mouth.

And I believe that there are many other brave and talented people like Chau inside and outside this room. Their lives, their courage and their achievement are the source of inspiration and hope for all of us. Our task is to create favorable conditions for them to live and to work. So let join our hands, let work together for the better and brighter future of peoples with disabilities, to truly leave no one behind.

I thank you.