

## Committee of the Whole II

## Distinguished Delegates,

“We, 18 civil society organizations gathered in Bangkok on twenty-third April 2013 in the Informal Session of Civil Society Organizations on the Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013 to 2022, and decided on which civil society organizations would participate in the Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities.

In this regard, we are pleased to present to the Commission in alphabetical order the following 15 civil society organizations which are ready to serve as full members of the Working Group:

1. ASEAN Disability Forum
2. Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability
3. Asia Pacific Disability Forum
4. Asia-Pacific DPO United
5. Central Asian Disability Forum

6. Digital Accessible Information System Consortium
7. Disabled Peoples' International
8. Inclusion International
9. Pacific Disability Forum
10. Rehabilitation International
11. South Asian Disability Forum
12. World Blind Union
13. World Federation of the Deaf
14. World Federation of the Deafblind
15. World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry

We wish to record our gratitude to the following three sister civil society organizations that have offered to extend, in their capacity as observers, full support to the Working Group. They are the ASEAN Autism Network, Christian Blind Mission and the Community-based Rehabilitation Asia-Pacific Network.

We reached a common understanding among ourselves that, by the next ESCAP high-level intergovernmental meeting in 2017, priority consideration would be given to these three civil society organizations for full civil society organization membership in the Working Group for the second half of the present Decade.

We reached consensus, based on our shared commitment to two fundamental principles for our mutual support and advancement, namely, solidarity among all of us, and "nothing about us without us".

We shall endeavour in the Working Group to articulate the concerns of the many civil society organizations that contribute to disability-inclusive development in the ESCAP region, but are not members of the Working Group.