

## SESSION 2: REGIONAL ROAD MAP FOR IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE FORM AND FUNCTION OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING FOLLOWUP AND REVIEW PROCESS

### Disability Constituency Statement

*Speaker: Tika Devi Dahal | National Federation of the Disabled Nepal (NFDN) | Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism*

On behalf of the Civil society networks and on behalf of the Disability Constituency I would like to thank ESCAP and member states for your inclusion of civil society in this meeting. I hope the inputs of CSOs will be considered and adopted as your priorities in implementing SDGs.

As you rightly focus on issues of inequality, it is critical to remember that persons with disabilities (10 -15% of the total population) remain a vulnerable group in Asia and Pacific. Persons with disabilities are amongst the most likely to live in poverty, to be denied development rights, their right to makes choices over their bodies, to achieve justice and remedies when experiencing gender based violence, to enjoy education, meaningful and decent work, to control resources and to participate in public life.

Government policies that privatize public services, reduce the commons and value economic growth over human rights have a devastating impact on persons with disabilities, particularly women with disabilities.

The SDGs themselves lack inclusive language and essence. Neither the specific goals nor priority action areas are phrased in a way that embraces an inclusive society, that leaves no one behind. Unfortunately, without explicit support in the SDGs, persons with disabilities like us continue to be among the furthest behind.

We believe it is important to rely on already existing tools and commitments, that can support national planning/implementation with reference to Development Justice at the national and regional levels. This will surely pose challenges particularly with regards to some specific indicators. But LGBTI, Older Persons, Youth, Women, Dalits, Migrant Workers, Women in Politics and Persons with disabilities all strongly believe that continued implementation of existing tools and commitments is the only way to ensure that these measures can be achieved, and that these vulnerable groups can be better supported.

We stand ready to provide you with our experiences. We would like to urge reference to the UNCRPD and the Incheon Strategy as you advance your work.

Finally, I encourage all governments here to adopt the principles of Development Justice as you advance your work through ESCAP as well as at regional, national, and international levels.

Thankyou