Response to the Questionnaire:

1. Information on the legislative and policy framework in place in your country related to the status, establishment, resourcing and functioning of representative organizations of persons with disabilities at the national, regional and local level.
2. Information on existing legislation and policies aimed at ensuring that persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, including children with disabilities, are consulted and involved in decision making processes that directly or indirectly concern them.
3. Information on the efforts undertaken at national, regional and/or local levels to strengthen the capacity of representative organizations of persons with disabilities, in order to facilitate their participation in legislative, policy and other decision making processes.

In response to the above questions, the findings of the review of available documents are summarized as follows:

1. ***Key Legislative and Policy Framework linking Health & Disability:***

|  |
| --- |
| ***International***  |
| *Convention on the Rights of the Child Ratified 1990* |
| *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Signatory , 2010* |
| *Draft WHO Global Disability Action Plan* |
| *Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities: 2013 to 2022, Incheon Strategy, UNESCAP* |
| *WHO SEARO Community Based Rehabilitation Strategic Framework 2012-2017* |
| *WHO Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020* |
| ***National Framework: Linking Disability and Health*** |
| ***Policy/Act*** | ***Year*** | ***Relevant Sections*** |
| *Constitution of Bhutan* | *2008* | *Section 21 and 22 under Article 9* *“the state shall provide free access to basic public health services in both modern and traditional medicines”* *“the state shall endeavor to provide security in the event of sickness and disability or lack of adequate means of livelihood for reasons beyond one’s control”* |
| *National Health Policy* | *2011* | *5.4 The Royal Government of Bhutan shall provide 100% nationwide access to health care professional through technology-enabled solutions**5.14 All health infrastructure shall be of sustainable design and user-friendly thereby integrating disability, women, child and elderly friendly and other necessary features**6.2 Ministry of health shall device appropriate deployment and recruitment strategies to address the shortages of skilled health workers.* *9.2 RGoB shall continue to secure adequate budget for health care services to continue providing universal coverage to Bhutanese citizens and ensure protection against catastrophic expenditure and impoverishment.* *12.3 All health facilities shall provide a system of emergency for disasters, epidemic outbreaks, mass casualty, and routine emergencies.* *12.4 MoH shall address the health services for special needs, vulnerable, and at risk groups, such as elderly, physically and mentally disabled, hard-to-reach populations, etc.* |
| *National Child Health Strategy Bhutan* | *2014 -2018* | *Strategy priority 7: To reduce prevalence of childhood disability* * *Develop national policy & strategy on disability in children*
* *Develop increased awareness about childhood disabilities in communities*
* *Develop high risk follow up program in referral health facility for early detection of childhood disability*
* *Access to counseling on children’s disability increased*
* *Rehabilitation services for childhood disabilities are made available*
* *Collaboration with relevant CSOs to lobby, advocate, network, create public awareness, conduct research and provide rehabilitation services.*
 |

1. ***Health’s Program objectives:***
* *To introduce community based rehabilitation and rehabilitation services as integrated of PHC*
* *To create awareness in the community on early recognition of disability and importance of community*
* *To enhance capacity of the health care providers in rehabilitation disciplines and community based rehabilitation*
* *To strengthen collaboration and coordination among the stakeholders*
1. ***As one of the implementers of the policies and legislation, Ministry of Health is engaged in the following:***

* *Providing medical rehabilitation services and prevention and promotion services.*
* *Training to the caregivers, health workers, sensitizing school health teachers and creating awareness in the communities.*
* *Procurement and distribution of the assistive devices such as crutches, wheel chairs walkers and orthotic and prosthetic free of cost to all the deserving disabled people.*
* *Providing technical support to NGOs and CSOs like:*
	+ *Ability Bhutan Society*
	+ *Disabled People Association Bhutan.*
	+ *Draktso Vocational Institute available at* [*http://www.draktsho-bhutan.org/*](http://www.draktsho-bhutan.org/)
* *In addition, the Ministry of Health is in the process of drafting the policy and strategic document on DPR.*
* *In education of the disabled children, the Ministry of Education has a special education unit which looks into educational aspects for children requiring special needs. There are currently 8 SEN Schools and 360 students enrolled.*