Ms. Catalina Devandas-Aguilar

Special Rapporteur on the
Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Office of the United Nations High
Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
Palais Wilson 52 rue des Pâquis CH-1201
Geneva, Switzerland

Via Email: sr.disability@ohchr.org

Friday, May 13, 2016

Re: Call for submissions on “disability-inclusive policies”

Dear Ms. Devandas-Aguilar,

G3ict, the Global Initiative for Inclusive Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) is pleased to submit to your attention the model policies it developed in cooperation with United Nations agencies to assist States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in implementing its dispositions on the accessibility of ICTs.

Those model policies were designed to reflect good practices in disability-inclusive policies already implemented in different countries around the world to ensure equal access to ICTs and digital contents to persons with disabilities in support of equal access to education, employment, culture, communications, on line public and private services, political life, independent living and all aspects of society relying on digital communications and services.

Since two years, those model policies have been used as frameworks for capacity building programs for policy makers and advocacy organization leaders conducted by G3ict, the International Telecommunication Union, UNESCO and third party organizations such as the IDPP for ASEAN countries. At national level, those model policies are used as a framework for policy development activities including consultations with persons with disabilities and the private sector, or as check lists of essential dispositions to be included in policies.

Those model policies have been edited by independent experts based on the input of multiple stakeholders and reviewed by international panels of experts with direct experience of each of the policy making domains covered. All those model policies define processes for States Parties to include Persons with Disabilities in the development of ICT accessibility policies alongside other sector specific stakeholders.

While regulatory steps are specified, those model policies include processes to develop multi-stakeholder consensus building, roadmaps, milestones and monitoring processes including Persons with Disabilities. Besides Article 4.3 requiring that States Parties involve Persons with Disabilities in developing policies to implement the CRPD, regression analysis conducted on the results of the G3ict CRPD ICT Accessibility Progress Report covering multiple countries have indeed shown in the past that the participation of persons with disabilities in policy making is a critical success factor in good policy development and implementation as measured by positive outcomes.

Available model policies include:

1. Inclusive ICTs in Education – Published by UNESCO in cooperation with G3ict in 2014 available in accessible PDF format at:

<http://g3ict.org/resource_center/publications_and_reports/p/productCategory_whitepapers/subCat_10/id_322>

Or:

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/communication-and-information/resources/publications-and-communication-materials/publications/full-list/model-policy-for-inclusive-icts-in-education-for-persons-with-disabilities>

1. Model policies for ICT Accessibility – Published by the ITU in cooperation with G3ict in 2014 including the following modules:
	1. Legal framework for ICT accessibility
	2. Public Access Points
	3. Audio-visual and video programming accessibility
	4. Mobile accessibility
	5. Web accessibility
	6. ICT accessibility in Public procurement

Available in English and Spanish in accessible PDF format at: <http://g3ict.org/resource_center/publications_and_reports/p/productCategory_whitepapers/subCat_7/id_326>

Or:

<http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Digital-Inclusion/Persons-with-Disabilities/Documents/ICT%20Accessibility%20Policy%20Report.pdf>

In addition to the above model policies, G3ict also published a number of reports on specific areas of policy making or technology such as web accessibility, public procurement, use of Universal Funds for Persons with Disabilities, Financial Services Accessibility which are available as accessible PDFs at: <http://g3ict.com/resource_center/G3ict_Publications> . G3ict also published jointly with the ITU a report on making TV accessible and one on making mobile phones and services accessible and maintains a joint ITU-G3ict e-accessibility toolkit for policy makers at [www.e-accessibilitytoolkit.org](http://www.e-accessibilitytoolkit.org)

Please let us know if you have any question or would like to discuss any of the above mentioned documents and resources.

With best regards,



Axel Leblois

President and Executive Director

Cc: Ms. Irmgarda Kasinskaite-Buddeberg, Knowledge Societies Division, Communication and Information Sector, UNESCO

Mr. Susan Schorr, Head Special Initiatives, BDT, International Telecommunication Union

Mr. Jorge Araya, Secretary of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, OHCHR