**Talking Points for the CRPD Committee’s 28th Session**

**Event date**: March 7, 2023

**Speaker**: Vivian Alt, Disability Inclusion Advisor

Dear chairperson, distinguished members of the committee, I am happy to be here today addressing you in the 28th session of the CRPD Committee on behalf of IOM.

The past year has been a key year for organisations working in the humanitarian sector, especially those working for and with people on the move. It has become of increasing importance to look at people who are at high risk of vulnerability such as persons with disabilities who are migrants, including IDPs and refugees. In this past year, we have seen many crises which often resulted in mass displacement, including the floods in Pakistan, the escalation of the conflict in Yemen, the drought in Somalia, the conflict in Ukraine as well as many others putting the lives and dignity of persons with disabilities even more at risk. We have also seen a number of violations to their rights, such as institutionalization of children and persons with disabilities in the response to the Ukraine crisis, among other contexts.

IOM, as the UN migration agency, has made a point of increasing its attention to migrant persons with disabilities on the move, in transit or in a destination country, increasing resources to disability inclusion in different countries as well as at global level.

As a result of the MoU signed in 2021, IOM has strengthened its partnership with CBM Global, an international NGO working on disability inclusion in many countries around the world, through a joint project being implemented in Nigeria, Fiji and Bangladesh. This specific initiative focused on the participation of persons with disabilities, where Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) have been mapped and consulted to identify their priority needs as well as to increase their engagement with humanitarian actors. In addition, a call for proposals has been launched and a few OPDs in these 3 countries will be selected to receive a small grant.

Being a global reference when it comes to data on migration, IOM has also worked to develop and test a number of technical resources on data collection for migrants with disabilities. In 2023, IOM led an exercise which resulted in an interagency flow-chart with a step-by-step guidance on data collection for disability inclusion in emergencies. Furthermore, IOM Mozambique has tested to great success the Disability Inclusion Field Companion developed by the Displacement Tracking Matrix.

We have also continued to ensure that persons with disabilities are involved and participating in everything we do. In Fiji, Bangladesh, Mozambique and Ethiopia for instance, IOM has been working together with OPDs to ensure that our Camp Coordination and Camp Management activities are disability inclusive. This initiative has led to series of trainings to IOM and partner staff, accessibility audits and adaptations in sites done together with persons with disabilities.

Other exciting news from the field was IOM’s ability to secure specific funding for disability inclusion in countries like Nigeria, South Sudan, Mozambique, Fiji, Bangladesh, Turkey, Venezuela, Iraq and Ethiopia, where different projects are currently being implemented. In Turkey, for instance, IOM team has conducted a mission wide needs assessment, together with persons with disabilities, which led to the development of an Action Plan to be implemented in 2023. In South Sudan, IOM expanded its disability inclusion activities, working both on the social inclusion aspect as well as ensuring that individual health support was provided to persons with disabilities in need of assistive devices and other health related services.

Finally, it is important to highlight the continuation and growth of our commitment and leadership in global advocacy through participation and chairing in a variety of working groups and task teams to ensure that persons with disabilities are being taken into account in different global initiatives, such as through activate engagement in the Disability Reference Group, where IOM has contributed to training development and facilitation.

I am happy to be able to share with colleagues these important achievements of IOM thanks to its national and international partners, donors and local actors in this past year and would like to reinforce our commitment to expand our efforts in operationalizing the CRPD and other important global frameworks which aim to foster the respect, protection and promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities.

Thank you.