First of all, I would like to thank the Distinguished Members of the CRPD Committee for giving us the opportunity to contribute to the discussion on Article 11 which we will particularly focus on the Turkey and Syria earthquakes of February 6th, 2023.

As Article 11 of the Convention, entitled "Situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies" clearly states, State Parties have an obligation to ensure the safety and protection of persons and groups with disabilities in the event of armed conflicts, humanitarian emergencies, and natural disasters pursuant to international human rights and humanitarian law.

The recent earthquakes resulted in catastrophic destruction and loss of life. However, starting from the search and rescue efforts to the ongoing humanitarian aid and reconstruction efforts, it has been observed that neither the state party to the Convention nor civil society has any public policy or plan that centralizes persons with disabilities or considers their specific needs as a non-homogeneous group.

Our field experience showed there are some groups who bear disproportionate risk during disasters: disabled women, disabled and unaccompanied children, disabled people in institutions, disabled minorities, disabled refugees, internally displaced disabled people, people with invisible and rare disabilities, and finally newly disabled people during the risk situation. Based on our preliminary assessment during the recent earthquakes, we recommend the following:

First of all, The state party to the convention must ensure to take necessary measures to implement policies that centralize disabled people disproportionately affected and experiencing particular disadvantages in situations of risk.

Secondly, Governments must ensure meaningful participation of people with disabilities to achieve CRPD article 11 and Sendai Framework, including Organizations of People with Disabilities and other disaster experts and civil society representatives in accordance with Article 33 of the convention.

Thirdly, UNCRPD committee must sustain close monitoring of state parties about their short, middle, and long-term policies to implement Article 11 on a regular basis.

And finally; Armed conflicts, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters, the events stated in Article 11, are not mutually exclusive and often overlap. CRPD must take note of this intersectionality and create a multi-dimensional set of responses.

Thank you for listening.