Article 11 General Discussion CRPD CRPD committee

7th March, 2023 in Geneva,

Thank you Madam Chair, distinguished CRPD committee members and other delegates,

This intervention is prepared by National Indigenous Disabled Women Association Nepal (NIDWAN) with the collaboration with Organization of Persons with Disabilities from Nepal in assistance of the Disability Rights Advocacy Fund to provide input for the General Comment (GC) of Article 11 of the CRPD. The purpose of this report is to highlight the concerns of persons with disabilities, particularly underrepresented groups with disabilities people with psychosocial disability, deafblind peoples, people with intellectual disability, women and girls with disabilities especially indigenous peoples and Dalits people with disabilities in the situation of risks and humanitarian emergencies.

People with disabilities face additional challenges in the context of crises and emergencies like earthquakes, flood, landslides, fires, Covid-19, and climate change with regard to its preparedness, the immediate impacts of such a crisis, access to relief, and post-recovery. The vast majority of them have not been adequately informed, accounted for or consulted with regards to disaster risk reduction and pre and post preparedness, creating a significant gap in disability, gender and cultural related information and awareness at community level. Many of them living in the remote and community areas face barriers in receiving humanitarian aid during the time of crisis because they didn’t have access to information or engagement with organizations of persons with disabilities, the political or government representatives. During the Covid-19 pandemic, people with hearing impairment, psychosocial, deaf-blind, intellectual, and spinal cord injury groups including women and girls, indigenous peoples, and Dalit with disabilities more than 60% did not have access to basic sanitation and hygiene kits on an equal basis with others and more than 80% Indigenous Women with disabilities faced violence during the pandemic. And related to climate change indigenous Peoples with disabilities are at more risk and vulnerable as they face institutional, programmatic and multiple intersectional discrimination at various lives.

So, we request for following recommendations

* Ensure people-centered preventive, inclusive, universal design, accessible format and mother tongue language and cultural approaches to DRR and humanitarian emergencies by engaging people with disabilities and OPDs ensure that they are meaningfully informed of, consulted about and actively participated in all steps relating to the strategies, plans and protocols, including design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.
* Conduct risk and vulnerability assessments with systematic disaggregated data by gender, ethnicity, and socio-economic status to address impact, loss and damage from climate change, disaster, armed conflict and others by all government, non-governmental actors, development partners, OPDs including the private sectors.
* Enable safe, cohesive, enabling intercultural space for engaging and contributing in the entire process of rescue, relief, response, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction by understanding the distinct barriers faced by people with disabilities and underrepresented groups by communities, governments and humanitarian actors with awareness and sensitization and ensure that voices are integrated and implemented at all levels.
* Invest to enhance the economic, social, health, and cultural resilience and addressing violence to women and indigenous with disabilities needs- assessments, emergency evacuation procedures, multi-hazard strategies, and early warning system, with inclusive response, relief, recovery, and reconstruction strategies, and to guarantee that they reach all people with disabilities especially underrepresented peoples with disabilities.
* Advocate for policy intervention under article 11 of the CRPD in relation to DRR, Climate change and ensure an intersectional, holistic approach to reach the most marginalized groups and address the risk and vulnerability.
* Conduct qualitative/ ethnographic research on the impact of crisis diversifying the multiple and intersectional identities especially women and indigenous people with disabilities and support research and analysis by the government, CSOs, and academicians to better understand the issues of people with disabilities with impacts of conflict, humanitarian emergencies, and climate-induced disasters.
* Ensure disability, gender, intercultural, and inclusive climate actions and invest in building the capacity of persons with disabilities and OPDs to make climate action role models to advocate for a just environment and mother earth and provide solutions to it.

Thank you, Madam chair

Pratima Gurung, Chair National Indigenous Disabled Women Association Nepal (NIDWAN)