Honourable Committee members,

I am pleased to present this statement on behalf of National Federation of People with Disabilities Namibia.

As the world continues to face crisis including natural disaster such as, hunger, floods, war, disease outbreaks such as covid 19, more persons with disabilities are threatened. Persons with disabilities are most vulnerable during this period.

As many member states are struggling especially developing country such as Namibia to provide necessary needs such as foods, proper sanitisation, proper health services and mostly decent houses. During humanitarian crisis, people with disabilities are overlooked and neglected. They are likely to face sexual assault and abuse both physically and emotionally.

Children with disabilities suffers most on their education is affected due to closure of schools caused by the current floods in Namibia. Some of them suffer hunger and starvation, stress and trauma and some are orphaned during the floods. The OPDs do awareness raising on how stakeholders should provide support to persons with disabilities during situation of emergencies and crisis.

Older persons with disabilities are forced to relocate especially during the flooding. There is no direct programme to support the victims of persons with disabilities. Most of persons with disabilities depends on their disability grants which make it difficult to access loans from commercial bank for them to start up their income generating projects for their sustainability. We recommend stimulus package of recovery should ignited especially to persons with disabilities who are most disadvantaged.

Sanitations is most crucial need in a life of person with disabilities, we blind persons and wheelchair user need accessible toilets. During covid 19 every person was required to wash hands regularly but there were no direct efforts by the state party to provide accessible water points. During flooding, the water flow comes with different diseases, mosquitos that causes malaria all types of borne water diseases that threatened our lives, since there is no clean water.

Finally, ladies and gentlemen during drought, CSOs play major roles with their partners donating food to their members. Unfortunately, such efforts from state party exclude persons with disabilities on the basis that that are they entitled to disability grant. We therefore recommend the state parties to honour obligations toward the total wellbeing of person with disabilities.

I thank you

By Matheus Hashoongo, NFPDN National Chairperson on *“Impacts and challenges faced by persons with disabilities in situations of risk & the role of state and non-state actors in addressing them”*.