**Africa and the Middle East**

**Day of General Discussion on Article 11**

**8 March**

Honorable Committee members,

It is a distinct honor for me to be part of today’s Consultations on the UNCRPD general discussions on article 11.

Despite all efforts made by Namibia in ensuring that persons with disabilities fully enjoy their rights, persons with disabilities still face challenges when it comes to enjoyment of fundamental rights under Article 11 of the UNCRPD. Namibia is prone to a number of natural disasters such as floods, strong winds and the ongoing Covid 19 Pandemic in which persons with disabilities are more likely to experience adverse and interrelated socio-economic outcomes including increased stigma and discrimination, limited access to inclusive education and employment opportunities, and lack of adequate health care, infrastructure, transportation, water and sanitation and to equally participate in usual everyday activities.

Persons with disabilities are further likely to live in poverty, experience higher rates of violence, neglect and abuse, especially the girl child and women with disabilities, and are among the most marginalized in any crisis-affected community negatively impacting persons with disabilities both directly and indirectly. In addition to this, persons with disabilities are less likely to own land, are rarely consulted in processes related to disaster management at local, regional and national level. As such the disaster management policies do not adequately address our needs. Disaggregated data remains a great challenge which affects appropriate interventions.

In light of this, we ask the Committee that the proposed general comment addresses the following issues:

* Persons with Disabilities should be represented on all local, regional and national Committees responsible for disaster risk management.
* The critical role of disaggregated data on disability for example the number of persons with disabilities affected by natural disasters and 0
* support offered.
* Inclusive social protection systems-persons with disabilities affected by natural disasters whether receiving a disability grant or not should receive all benefits intended for those without Disabilities affected by Natural Disasters.
* The interrelationship between poverty, land ownership and disaster mitigation.

Natural disasters affect us all one way or the other despite, hence appropriate responses should prioritize all segments of the population and ensure that no one is left behind in building a sustainable future.