



Disabled Peoples' International
Organisation Mondiale des Personnes Handicapées
Organización Mundial de Personas con Discapacidad

A Voice of Our Own • Notre Propre Voix • Nuestra Propia Voz •

Statement to the Conference State Parties

UN Headquarter, New York,
13 – 15 June 2017

Distinguished states representatives and participants. On behalf of Disabled Peoples International I thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of our grass roots organisation which was founded in 1981 as the first and still only cross disability global DPO.

We want to achieve full participation by all persons with disabilities in the mainstream of life. Whilst great gains have been made in many countries since the adoption of the CRPD, there is still much to be done to remove the physical, social and attitudinal barriers that cause discrimination. In the first place or reasonable adjustments or accommodations need to be made.

Civil society organisations like DPI need and want to be part of the process in partnership with states parties and other DPO's to ensure the rights of persons with disabilities under the CRPD are upheld and their lives made better. The achievement of the SDG's those are relevant to disability hold great promise to lift millions of people with disabilities and their families out of poverty. All DPI members have lived experience of disability so we have much to offer.

The main problem we have to face for our participation is the lack of equal treatments and lack of education and training, and even if some of us got these competencies a large majority of people with disabilities is still not trained in the right ways to collaborate. Even when we have had the chance to be educated in a previous non-disabled life, our visible restrictions and patronizing become prisons from which it's difficult to escape, and because we can feel better than any others the lack of recognition and valorisation our peers are still suffering our voice is theirs. In this world of competition and speeder and speeder life, there is no other way to work together with clear roles and obligations from each part if we want collectively "*open the development to All with no one left behind*".

To implement the CRPD in all the areas of societies, the UN bodies and agencies are now obliged to start training programs for people with disabilities that make them powerful and recognized as equal partners. To make together, even when it appears more difficult or more expensive, is the best way to live together and the most productive manner to implement the UN documents by states parties, of course the CRPD and also the New Urban Agenda and the SDGs.