



Islamabad Recommendations on Women with Disabilities in South Asia

The representatives of women and men with disabilities from South Asia, namely Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, the Government of Pakistan, civil society organizations including disabled people's organizations (DPOs), the United Nations agencies, international development agencies and the business sector, over 50 persons, participated in the South Asian Disability Forum Strategic Planning Workshop, from 18 to 19 November 2013 in Islamabad, Pakistan.

We, the participants of the Workshop, thank the organizers, the Government of Pakistan through the Ministry of Law, Justice and Human Rights, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Islamabad, the South Asian Disability Forum (SADF), the Community-Based Inclusive Development (CBID) Network Pakistan and the Special Talent Exchange Program (STEP), in collaboration with the Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD), the Light for the World, the CHEF International, the Sightsavers and the British Council for the successful coordination and arrangement of the Workshop;

Recognizing the significance of all international and regional instruments on disability and development, in particular, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the Incheon Strategy to "Make the Right Real", 2013-2022, by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP);

Reaffirming the mission of SADF to facilitate the movement of groups/organizations of persons with disabilities, particularly women with disabilities in South Asia, in collaboration with the governments and other partners, including civil society organizations and the business sector;

Noting the need to implement the South Asian Disability and Development Initiative (SADDI) 2014-2016 on a collaborative basis, which was intensively discussed in the Workshop among the key partners, particularly women with disabilities in South Asia;

Hereby unanimously recommend as follows:

1. The capacities of women with disabilities should be strengthened through leadership trainings conducted by local and international partners in Afghanistan, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka;
2. The "Leadership Training Manual on Women with Disabilities in South Asia", the "Booklet on National Laws and Policies on Disability in South Asia", and training reports should be published, taking into consideration the perspective of women with disabilities, accessibility and local contexts such as languages;
3. SADF should be the key platform to promote the rights of women and men with diverse disabilities in South Asia through the implementation of the proposed SADDI 2014-2016; and
4. In collaboration with APCD, the British Council and the CHEF International, the Government of Afghanistan, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and other South Asian countries, as well as other potential partners such as UNESCO, ESCAP, UN Women, the Light for the World and the Sightsavers should support the proposed SADDI 2014-2016 in which SADF is expected to further promote the inclusion of women and men with diverse disabilities in South Asia.

Presented and unanimously adopted
at the South Asian Disability Forum Strategic Planning Workshop
19 November 2013