



The following Outcome Document has been adopted by representatives of national, sub-regional, and regional organizations of persons with disabilities on the 15th of February 2025 during the Asian Regional Disability Summit co-hosted by the ASEAN Disability Forum and International Disability Alliance in support by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), UNICEF, the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), and UK Aid's Inclusive Futures.

Asian Regional Disability Summit Outcome Document

14-15 February 2025, Bangkok

Recalling the inherent dignity, equal rights, and fundamental freedoms of all persons with disabilities, and reaffirming the duties and commitments under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and regional frameworks for disability inclusion, the Asian Regional Disability Summit 2025 ('the Summit') convened in Bangkok on 14 & 15 February 2025 to reaffirm collective resolve towards the full realization of the rights of persons with disabilities across Asia.

(1) Recognizing the necessity of robust regional and international cooperation, in accordance with Article 32 of the CRPD, as a fundamental enabler of sustainable and disability-inclusive development, and underscoring the need for financing mechanisms that ensure the effective implementation of disability-inclusive policies and programs, the Summit acknowledges that meaningful partnerships among governments, development partners, organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs), civil society organizations, and the private sector are imperative for advancing disability rights and social inclusion.

(2) Understanding that the effective implementation of the CRPD requires coordinated and sustained regional and international cooperation, the Summit urges States, international organizations, and development partners to uphold their commitments to disability-inclusive development, aligning efforts with the principles of the CRPD and the priorities of the Global Disability Summit (GDS) 2025; and affirming that a structured accountability framework to track progress and measure impact will help ensure that commitments translate into tangible improvements in the lives of persons with disabilities.

(3) Welcoming the commitment of Asian countries at the Summit to the principles and obligations of the CRPD, as well as the implementation of the 4th Asia-Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities through the Jakarta Declaration, the Summit emphasizes the urgency of harmonizing national and regional strategies with global commitments, ensuring that persons with disabilities are at the center of development efforts. In particular, the recognition of OPDs in all their diversity, including those that experience multiple and intersecting forms of marginalization, as key stakeholders in decision-making processes must be upheld to guarantee their leadership in shaping inclusive policies and strategies.

(4) Affirming the urgent need for strengthening the implementation of regional and sub-regional mechanisms to support disability-inclusive development, and recalling the Incheon Strategy to "Make the



Right Real" for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific, the commitment to address emerging challenges post-pandemic through the Jakarta Declaration, the Bali Declaration on the Enhancement of the Role and Participation of Persons with Disabilities in the ASEAN Community, the Beijing Declaration on Disability-Inclusive Development, and the ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025: Mainstreaming the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, this Summit calls for enhanced cross-border collaboration, knowledge exchange, and the mobilization of resources to accelerate disability rights and inclusion.

(5) Reaffirming the centrality of financing for development as a critical component of disability inclusion, this Summit underscores the necessity of increased and sustained investment in disability-inclusive social protection systems, inclusive education, employment opportunities, healthcare access, and climate resilience. National and regional budgets must be aligned with the principles of the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, ensuring that financial allocations are responsive to the needs of all persons with disabilities, including youth and children, with the intended outcome that funding mechanisms directly support OPD-led initiatives.

(6) Deeply concerned that deinstitutionalization remains a critical challenge across the region, the Summit affirms the urgency of transitioning from institutional models of care to non-institutional community-based services that uphold the rights and autonomy of persons with disabilities. Recognizing that community inclusion does not happen in isolation and that children with disabilities in institutional settings invariably move to institutions for adults, governments must commit to concrete, time-bound strategies that end the practice of institutionalization with a life span approach, replacing segregated settings with inclusive community support systems that promote independent living, personal choice, and social participation.

(7) Acknowledging that equitable participation in all aspects of society requires the elimination of systemic barriers, the Summit calls upon States to enact and enforce comprehensive anti-discrimination laws that reflect the social model of disability, address intersectional forms of discrimination, including on the basis of gender identity, indigeneity and caste, and explicitly recognize the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination. Furthermore, all restrictions on the legal capacity of persons with disabilities must be repealed to uphold autonomy and self-determination in legal and financial affairs, as well as in political and civic participation.

(8) Acknowledging also the multiple and intersecting barriers to full and effective participation in society experienced by women with disabilities, the Summit urges States to implement a twin track approach to disability inclusion, and ensure the close consultation and meaningful participation of organizations of women with disabilities. In the regional context, women with disabilities have experienced high levels of domestic abuse and are often targeted for human trafficking. The Summit urges states to take appropriate measures to promote the physical, cognitive and psychological recovery, rehabilitation and social reintegration of persons with disabilities who become victims of any form of exploitation, violence or abuse, including through the provision of protection services. Counter-trafficking responses must

effectively address the link between disability-related marginalization and trafficking, ensuring the inclusion of OPDs and the empowerment of women with disabilities to prevent exploitation.

(9) Recognizing the importance of the right to inclusive education, the Summit urges governments to strengthen national education systems to ensure that all children and youth with disabilities, have access to quality education within mainstream settings from primary to higher education. Adequate financial and technical resources must be allocated to implement inclusive teaching methodologies, build accessible school infrastructure, and provide assistive technologies. Emphasis must be given to ensure opportunities to youth with disabilities to vocational training and lifelong learning. Education policies must be adapted to address the needs of learners with disabilities in humanitarian and emergency contexts, ensuring continuity of learning opportunities in times of crisis.

(10) Underscoring the necessity of inclusive employment, the Summit calls for comprehensive national employment policies that mandate workplace accessibility, reasonable accommodations, wage equality and equal opportunities for persons with disabilities. Strategies must be adopted to ensure that women, youth, and persons with disabilities in rural areas have access to skills development, vocational training, and entrepreneurship opportunities. Governments and private sector actors must take collective responsibility for dismantling employment barriers and fostering an inclusive labor market.

(11) Recognizing the important role that businesses can play in supporting disability-inclusion, governments should also strengthen inclusive consumer protection by updating laws, implementing accessibility standards, ensuring transparent information, and establishing effective redress mechanisms to foster fair and equitable market participation for all consumers, and these laws and standards should be effectively implemented by businesses.

(12) Concerned at the heightened risks for persons with disabilities in situations of risk, climate change and disasters, and recalling the inclusive mandate of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Reduction 2015-2030, the Summit demands urgent action to integrate disability inclusion in all disaster risk reduction and climate resilience strategies. Early warning systems, emergency response plans, and recovery efforts must be accessible and inclusive, with the full participation of OPDs in their design and implementation.

(13) Reaffirming the right to health and the right to accessible, affordable, quality, health-care services, the Summit calls for the elimination of health inequities and systemic barriers that prevent persons with disabilities from receiving quality healthcare services. Governments must ensure that health systems, including sexual and reproductive health services and mental health and psychosocial support services, are rights-based, fully inclusive, accessible, and adequately financed. Early childhood interventions and child protection must be made inclusive and accessible to children and adolescents with disabilities.

(14) Recognizing the importance of disability inclusive social protection in covering disability related extra costs, and the low levels of investment in this area in the region, the Summit urges States to ensure adequate investment in social protection systems that are in line with human rights-based approaches,

including in assessment criteria, that are geared towards supporting the full and effective participation in society of persons with disabilities.

(15) The Asian Disability Summit 2025 reaffirms its steadfast commitment to an Asia that realizes full and inclusive equality for all persons with disabilities. Governments, civil society, private sector actors, and development partners must translate these priorities into immediate and sustained action, ensuring that persons with disabilities can exercise their rights, participate fully in all aspects of life, and contribute meaningfully to their communities. By embracing a collective vision for disability inclusion, this region can lead the way in realizing a future where no one is left behind.

(16) Building upon previous regional instruments, including the Incheon Strategy, the Bali Declaration, the Beijing Declaration, and the ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025, the Summit resolves to integrate the outcomes of the Global Disability Summit 2025 into relevant Asian regional instruments, and ensuring alignment and coherence across Global Disability Summit and other relevant commitments, such as in the context of the Asia-Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities. This can strengthen coordination efforts across Asia, align policies with the CRPD, and ensure sustained progress towards full inclusion and equality for persons with disabilities.

The Summit calls for all States to sign the Amman-Berlin Declaration on Global Disability Inclusion at the Global Disability Summit in Berlin in April 2025, and in addition to make the following commitments as identified as priorities for the Asian region:

- a) Establishing a regional mechanism for monitoring and reporting on disability rights implementation, ensuring accountability and progress tracking across national and regional levels.
- b) Mobilizing financial and technical resources to support OPD-led initiatives, strengthen advocacy, and promote meaningful participation of persons with disabilities, including youth with disabilities and elevating their potential and leadership, in all development efforts.
- c) Strengthening cross-border knowledge exchange, capacity-building, and regional cooperation to enhance disability-inclusive policies and best practices.
- d) Establishing and strengthening support and care systems within communities that are human rights-based, gender-responsive, disability-inclusive and age-sensitive
- e) Implementing a time-bound action plan to accelerate deinstitutionalization, including by transitioning to community-based support systems and services for persons with disabilities with necessary child protection measures
- f) Call for enhanced implementation of inclusive, accessible and non-discriminatory disaster risk reduction and climate action.
- g) Call for Asian countries to implement a comprehensive mechanism to gather disability disaggregated data to support disability-inclusive development.

- h) Advocating for increased budgetary allocations for disability inclusion across national and regional development frameworks, ensuring financial sustainability for disability rights programs.
- i) Ensure inclusive employment through equal pay, workplace accessibility, reasonable accommodations, and private-sector incentives, particularly for women, youth, and rural populations.
- j) Expand social protection systems to address disability-related extra costs and ensure universal access to disability benefits without administrative barriers.
- k) Eliminate health inequities by strengthening health systems to be inclusive and accessible to persons with disabilities, ensuring affordable, accessible healthcare, including assistive technologies, mental health services, and sexual and reproductive health care.
- l) Advance gender equality by comprehensively addressing violence, intersectional discrimination, and exclusion faced by women and girls with disabilities, ensuring their full participation in society.

Persons with disabilities in Asia are increasingly calling for mainstreaming their rights in the communities that they belong. Their call must be heeded and persons with disabilities must be fully included in the community and participate in society on an equal basis with others.