

COSP 12: MIKTA Statement

Statement by George Sotiropoulos, Group Manager of the Disability, Employment and Carers Group, Australian Government Department of Social Services.

Mr President,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the MIKTA countries, Mexico, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea, Turkey and Australia.

We, the MIKTA countries, are pleased to join the 12th Session of the Conference of State Parties (COSP) to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

We welcome the theme of this year's Conference "Ensuring inclusion of persons with disabilities in a changing world through the implementation of the CRPD" and the cross-cutting focus on awareness-raising.

We, MIKTA, believe that the United Nations can and should champion disability inclusion and the implementation of the CRPD at all levels and across all pillars of the UN system.

We commend the Secretary-General for his leadership in promoting disability inclusion across the UN system and for the development of the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy (UNDIS), to strengthen system-wide accessibility and fulfil the rights of persons with disabilities.

We MIKTA, support the implementation of this strategy and encourage other Member-States to actively seek opportunities to support this important work.

Mr President,

We MIKTA countries, are committed to an active and central role for people with disabilities and their representative organisations.

We support a civil society with a strong voice that is well equipped to advocate and raise awareness for disability rights and inclusion at all levels.

We recognise the importance of including people with disabilities in society through active and meaningful participation in society, including participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport.

We acknowledge that to achieve this we need to ensure access to transport, infrastructure, information and communications as well as affordable and appropriate assistive devices.

Mr President,

We remain committed to the need to collect and disaggregate data by disability and we urge Member States to take appropriate steps to ensure the collection and analysis of disability data, including through the use of the Washington Group short set of questions, and other data tools, as appropriate. Disaggregating data by disability will enable us to more accurately monitor implementation of the CRPD and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Mr President,

As we move further into the second decade of the CRPD our focus needs to be on the realisation of full implementation of the CRPD. MIKTA countries remain committed to working collaboratively to realise this goal and a world in which no one is left behind.

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