SUBJECT OF RESOLUTION: Towards disability-inclusive sustainable development: implementation of the Beijing Declaration

SUBMITTED TO: The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Reminding the committee of the current definition of the term “disability” as defined by the World Health Organization (WHO) as “persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others”,

Acknowledging the work of the WHO in establishing The International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) of 2001,

Noting the shortcomings of the current definition of “disability” by the United Nations,

Recognizing that the current definition of ‘disability’ does not adequately include mental health,

Acknowledging that the current definition of “disability” was written without substantial input from people with disabilities,

Concerned that United Nations Member States have not made considerable progress for disability-inclusion while working towards the Sustainable Development Goals,

Acknowledging the Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD),

Affirming that disability is an evolving concept,

Observing the cultural and religious diversity of Asia and the Pacific,

Recognizing the social and political changes that have occurred since ‘disability’ was last defined,

Emphasizing the need to alter the definition of disability,

1. Invites the World Health Organization (WHO) to review its definition and classification of disability and health;

2. Requests that WHO considers meeting with and listening to disabled people in order to understand their experiences and how they would like the United Nations to properly address their needs, as well as gain a full understanding of worldwide disability;

3. Recommends that WHO reexamine this definition at a repeated, designated time interval in the future in order to properly support people with disabilities and ensure that the definition of “disability” reflects current events and needs of disabled persons;

4. Encourages that such definition should reflect regional attitudes to maintain cultural and religious sovereignty in regards to these issues;

5. Maintains that no Member State may coerce another to alter religion, culture or moral values in order to uphold the definition of “disability”;

6. Asks that, should a new definition of the term “disability” be created:
   (a) A definition or description of “disability-inclusive” also be created;
   (b) A framework to measure disability-inclusivity in the region is established;
   (c) These frameworks and definitions are adopted by members of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC);
7. *Endorses* the discussion for and the development of a voluntary, globally-recognized Persons With Disabilities (PWD) identification card system that reflects the newly developed definition of “disability”; 

8. *Notes* that such a system should standardize the recognition and accommodations for disabilities both for domestic and international purposes; 

9. *Recommends* that creators of this program be non-partisan and made up of internal government officials with guidance from United Nations officials; 

10. *Suggests* that those who develop the program also be involved with the education of government officials, licensed physicians and other relevant parties on the assessment of disabilities and the standard of accommodations; 

11. *Encourages* that PWD ID cards be used both for domestic purposes such as education and emergency services as well as international purposes, such as tourism, employment, foreign affairs and similar situations. 

Passed by consensus, with 0 abstentions