



American Model United Nations
**Economic and Social Commission for Asia and
the Pacific**

ESCAP/I/1

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,

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

5 *Acknowledging* the work of the WHO in establishing The International Classification of Functioning, Dis-
6 ability and Health (ICF) of 2001,

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

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

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

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

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

14 *Affirming* that disability is an evolving concept,

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

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

17 *Emphasizing* the need to alter the definition of disability,

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

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

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

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

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

30 6. *Asks that*, should a new definition of the term “disability” be created:

31 (a) A definition or description of “disability-inclusive” also be created;

32 (b) A framework to measure disability-inclusivity in the region is established;

33 (c) These frameworks and definitions are adopted by members of the Economic and Social Council
34 (ECOSOC);

35 7. *Endorses* the discussion for and the development of a voluntary, globally-recognized Persons With Dis-
36 abilities (PWD) identification card system that reflects the newly developed definition of “disability”;

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

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

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

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

Passed by consensus, with 0 abstentions