

Interactive Dialogue with Special Rapporteur on Persons with Disabilities 11 March 2024

Thank you, Mr. Vice President

We thank the Special Rapporteur for the report.

We agree with SR that there is a need to connect with voices of persons with disabilities and take adequate measures to make the world more inclusive to their needs

We also support the thematic areas identified by SR.

Climate Change certainly impacts all aspects of life, and persons with disabilities are more vulnerable to those impacts.

We support the important role of family and family environments in ensuring that an adequate care and support system is available. At the same time, families need support to carry out this important function.

Disability-inclusive digital transformation is also important. Given the increased reliance for access to information and communication through digital means, persons with disabilities need extra assistance to access such tools and means. Availability of digital assistive technology is therefore critical in this regard.

Pakistan has long advocated for increased access to assistive technologies, particularly for persons with disabilities. Assistive products, both digital and non-digital, are essential for such persons to exercise their basic rights and to participate in the socio-economic life.

We call on all global partners and stakeholders to ensure and enhance equitable access to such assistive technologies for persons with disabilities.

Special Rapporteur

We propose that your next report may include specific policy measures and recommendations, building on the expertise of WHO and other relevant stakeholders, to enhance access to assistive technologies for persons with disabilities enabling them to exercise their rights independently.

Thank you

Word count: 250 Total time: 1:30