

Recognizing the issue of disability and poverty, the UN and the global community have specified Disability–Inclusive Development on a policy level in all development programs under Article 32 of UN CRPD, and included disability in five out of the 17 UN SDGs, which aim to “Leave No One Behind”. With “Guidelines for Executing Disability–inclusive International Development Cooperation (2017)” and KOICA’s “Executive Plan on Human Rights–based Development Cooperation (2020)”, the Korean government is also continuously making policy efforts in and laying the groundwork for including disability, which has been excluded so far, in development cooperation as the issue that encompasses all areas.

Disability–Inclusive Development refers to including the perspective on disability in the whole process of development, from planning to execution, monitoring, and assessment, and ensuring meaningful and effective participation of persons with disabilities in development processes and policies. In other words, in Disability–Inclusive Development, persons with disabilities participate as the actor of the development activities and also as the beneficiary of the

development.

For the success of the Incheon Strategy, which presented disability-inclusive development goals on the regional level for the first time, the Korean government has yielded many fruitful outcomes as the leading country of the “Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022”, cooperating with the Asia-Pacific region.

In order to support the establishment of a practical system for carrying out disability policies, it assessed the effectiveness of the planning and execution of disability-related policies in the Asian-Pacific region. It has also provided 17 Asian-Pacific countries with consultation on building disability statistics and support for establishing national action plans since 2013, in order to build comparable disability data. Particularly, by establishing Make the Right Real Fund and designating the Korea Disabled people's Development Institute as the operator of the Incheon Strategy, the Korean government has continued technical cooperation for developing and operating disability-inclusive policies and programs in member

countries. With Make the Right Real Fund, UN ESCAP has endeavored to achieve the 10 goals of the Incheon Strategy, collaborating actively with international organizations, governments, and civic groups in the areas of poverty, social participation, accessibility, gender equality, and education.

There have been domestic achievements as well such as abolishing the disability grade system and continuously increasing the level of disability pension payment while securing representativeness of persons with disabilities in political decision-making processes, under the Incheon Strategy. The government has also put steady efforts in improving the legal and institutional systems, as shown in establishing the Act on Guarantee of Rights of and Support for Persons with Developmental Disabilities, the Korean Sign Language Act, and the legal grounds for living environments without obstacles.

Particularly, the Korean government has been very active in taking policy measures to protect lives of persons with disabilities and to ensure their safety

and access to healthcare amid the Covid-19 pandemic. It enhanced the accessibility to information for persons with disabilities to make sure accurate information on the infectious disease can be delivered, by providing major Covid-19 policy presentations and response manuals in the form of sign language, Braille, and audio conversion too. Also, it has operated separate hospital beds for the infectious disease dedicated to persons with disabilities, in order to provide them with customized medical support and stable treatment. The government has improved the personal assistance service for persons with disabilities to make sure the necessary care services can be continuously provided for Covid-19 cases with disabilities, and taken measures to prioritize vulnerable groups including persons with disabilities in vaccinating its people.

These efforts by the Korean government made at home and abroad for complying with international conventions to ensure rights of persons with disabilities, were favorably received by the UN CRPD Committee at the 2nd-3rd national review on Korea's

CRPD implementation, which was held at the end of last month after eight years from the last meeting in 2014.

Building on these achievements of the Incheon Strategy, the Korean government will work hard to re-set sustainable partnerships for strengthening international solidarity for establishing a more universal system for human rights of persons with disabilities. As the leading nation of the “Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022”, Korea will also actively participate in seeking ways for sustainable development of a post Incheon Strategy, in order to foster an environment for international cooperation in the area of disability.

Thank you.