

Statement from the floor on Round Table 3, COSP 2020, December 3th, 2020

by Yeni Rosa Damayanti, Chair of Indonesian Mental Health Association

1. Distinguish chairperson and esteemed state parties, on this very day, right on the celebration of International Day of Persons with Disabilities, I would like to plea to you on behalf of the forgotten people, the voice of hundreds of thousands of people with disabilities, especially psychosocial disabilities, who are left to live in the confinement psychiatric hospitals and social care institutions around the world. Deprived of their liberty, forgotten.
2. In Japan, nearly 300.000 PWPDs live in more than 1,000 psychiatric hospitals with 300,000 psychiatric beds. In Indonesia, thousands of people with psychosocial disabilities are trapped living in social institutions where conditions are so bad that Human Rights Watch has titled its report on social institutions in Indonesia “Living in Hell”. In those institutions, people with psychosocial disabilities are put in prison like facilities, put in solitary confinement, even restraint and chained.
3. I have no words to describe my frustration on how the world still let this to happen after a long, long time. How could the governments continue to look away and come here saying that you're doing enough, when the actions needed are still nowhere in sight? If you hear us and say that you understand the urgency, how could many of you still kept on failing to act?
4. It is time for the UN System and the state parties to think of a way to accelerate the process of deinstitutionalization and to oblige countries that have ratified the CRPD to take time-bound steps to release all persons with disabilities who have been deprived of their liberty in mental institutions as stated clearly in CRPD article 14 and 19.
5. In the absence of legal capacity, persons with psychosocial disabilities are unable to refuse any action committed against them, including confinement in the institutions. This lack of legal capacity also causes many persons with psychosocial disabilities to lose their socio-economic and political rights. How many countries in the world still not allow people with psychosocial disabilities to vote and to stand in the election?
6. As persons with psychosocial disabilities, we also deemed as not capable to work. In Indonesia, one of the requirements to become a government employee or to work in private companies, is to submit a certificate of physical and mental fitness. This is a violation of article 27 of the CRPDs.
7. For those who keep thinking that the life and the needs of persons with psychosocial disabilities are centered on psychiatric services and medication, I'd like to emphasize, over and over again, that health care is only one aspect of the various needs of persons with psychosocial disabilities. Our needs are the same with any other people. We need house, we need work, we need

education, we need acceptance, we need equal rights before the law, as well as many other things.

8. Finally, I would like to ask the representatives of the countries who attended this event, that after you return, please do seriously examine the condition in your country regarding the situation of persons with disabilities. If there are still discriminations and inequality in your country then you as the official representatives of your government have the duty to initiate these improvements.
9. Right here, right now, it's time to act. Thank you.