

Statement by Ambassador Muhammad A Muhith, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN at the General Debate of 17th Session of the Conference of States Parties to the CRPD (COSP17)

11 June 2024, CR4

Time: 3 Minutes [word: 505]

Mr. Chair,

Bangladesh ratified the CRPD in 2007. The Constitution of Bangladesh guarantees equal rights and dignity of all citizens, including persons with disability (PWDs). We acceded the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled, in 2022. Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, and as a strong proponent for peaceful, just and inclusive societies across the world; Bangladesh is working to build an inclusive and digitally empowered “Smart Bangladesh” by 2041. Our government has taken a number of legal and policy measures to ensure disability-inclusive development. *‘Promoting prosperity and fostering inclusiveness’* is the slogan of our flagship 8th Five-Year Plan (2020-2025).

Mr. Chair,

Bangladesh enacted the Rights and Protection of Persons with Disability Act 2013, a Rule in 2015, and the “National Action Plan for the Disabled” in 2018 to implement the Act. We have also formulated the Neurodevelopmental Disability Protection Trust Act 2013 and the Children Act 2013; and have also developed a 5-year National Strategic Plan for Neurodevelopmental Disorder. Bangladesh successfully completed the National Survey on Persons with Disability in 2021, as a strong commitment to improving data on disability. We have included disability in

our national education and skill development policies to ensure that no one is left behind. Our teachers are getting regular training on inclusive education.

Mr. Chair,

Our government is rendering rehabilitation and therapy services through 103 service centres across the country; and are distributing Assistive Devices to the persons with disability at free of cost. The government is running 12 special schools for children with autism across the country. We have planned to leverage technology-based skill development programs for the PWDs. Two sports facilities, dedicated for them will be opened soon. Through our social safety-net programs, the PWDs are getting disability allowance. We are also conducting awareness programs for the parents and caregivers. Our Building Construction and Transportation Acts have addressed disability and PWDs have full access to the newly launched Metrorail. During Covid-19, to mitigate the impacts, we extended support to the PWDs and their families by providing information on preventive measures, food, financial grants through Mobile Fund Service (MFS) and preventive items like masks, hand sanitizers etc. We are hosting 1.2 million forcibly displaced Rohingyas from Myanmar. The government, along with national and international actors, is implementing *“Age and Disability inclusive Rohingya Response Plan”* in the camps of Cox’s Bazar and Bhasan Char.

Mr. Chair,

Despite good progress, we are aware of the remaining challenges including finance, data and capacity building. Climate change and digital divide have exacerbated the vulnerabilities of PWDs. Digital tools to access information and financial support are critical for inclusion and meaningful participation of PWDs in the economic, social

and cultural activities. For developing nations, international solidarity and cooperation is of key importance to overcome these challenges. We need to foster our unity, ahead of the Summit of the Future, to ensure protection and uphold the rights of the persons with disabilities to development.

I thank you.
