



**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**HER EXCELLENCY HAJAH NORASHIKIN BINTI HAJI JOHARI**

**PERMANENT SECRETARY (COMMUNITY)  
MINISTRY OF CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORTS**

**AT**

**THE SIXTEENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES  
TO THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHT OF  
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

***“Harmonising National Policies and Strategies with the CRPD:  
Achievements and Challenges”***

**TUESDAY, 13 JUNE 2023**

**3.00 PM - 6.00 PM**

**UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK**

Bismillah Hirrahman Nirrahim

Assalamu'alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.

Chair, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.

At the outset, Brunei Darussalam aligns itself with the statement delivered by Malaysia on behalf of ASEAN. We are honoured, to attend this 16th Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and share just a few of our recent achievements, that have strengthened inclusivity, and the protection ecosystem for PWDs in Brunei Darussalam.

**FIRST** is the **Persons with Disabilities Act**, a new law which came into force in October 2021. It introduces a **national definition, which expands upon what is currently under the CRPD**. It provides for a national register for PWDs, and subsequently through this, we will begin to issue **disability registration cards** that can be used for many purposes, such as verification and access to certain services. The new law also contains specific provisions for **severe punishment of abuse and neglect** of persons with disabilities, beyond the current penal code, and reinforces our commitment to improve their quality of life, in line with Article 16 of CRPD - freedom from exploitation, violence and abuse, as well as Article 10 - right of life.

**SECOND**, are amendments to the **Old Age Pension and Disability Allowances Act**, also effective October 2021. Amongst others, it introduced **double benefits** for our senior citizen PWDs, and enable them to receive **both** their Old Age Pension and Disability Allowance every month. It also introduced a new monthly **Care Providers Allowance**, so PWDs who receive disability allowance, can also receive an additional monthly allowance for a care provider where needed. This is to ensure the well-being of persons with disabilities, especially those who are in need of additional support, and is aligned with CRPD's Article 28, on providing social protection for PWDs.

Excellencies,

Brunei Darussalam is strongly committed to enable, empower, and deepen the social inclusion of PWDs. Ensuring a sustainable and high quality of life for all, is embedded as one of the goals in Brunei Vision 2035.

Towards this, the National Council on Social Issues, reviewed the 5-year Plan of Action on Persons with Disabilities in 2020. Through additional strategies, such as prioritizing data collection and research, public advocacy and awareness raising, as well as employment plans for PWDs, this plan of action will strengthen the robust social protection system already in existence.

We therefore look forward, to learn from fellow state parties, on how to better promote, protect, and ensure equitable rights of all persons with disabilities in Brunei Darussalam, so we can safeguard a better future, and quality of life for them, in line with our commitment to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Thank you.