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**17th Conference of the States Parties to
the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
New York, 11-13 June 2024**

**Statement by the Government of Finland
Mr. Pekka Puustinen, Under-Secretary of State**

Mr President, Excellencies, Delegates,

Finland aligns itself with the statement of the European Union. We would like to thank Secretary-General Guterres as well as this year's Chair Tunisia and the Secretariat for their efforts in organizing this Conference and for their determined work in bringing the rights of persons with disabilities to the core of the UN system.

Finland wants to be a valuable partner in this work and continue to strongly promote the rights of persons with disabilities. We will continue our advocacy work also in other UN forums and beyond, including as a current member of the UN Human Rights Council.

Today, I will touch on three points; the Finnish National Action Plan on the CRPD, our side event this year and the importance of UN Disability Inclusion Strategy.

Mr. President,

Currently, Finland is preparing the third national Action Plan on the CRPD for the years 2024-2027 in which particular emphasis is on the rights of women and girls with disabilities as well as on intersectional perspective. The work further emphasizes the special needs of Roma and indigenous Sámi with disabilities as well as security and preparedness for emergencies. In these economically challenging times, it is considered particularly important to assess the impacts and combined impacts of reforms on the rights of persons with disabilities.

Furthermore, new legislation on special social services for persons with disabilities which promotes equality, independent living and inclusion of persons with disabilities is about to enter into force in Finland and its implementation is a key issue.

Mr. President,

Five years ago, the UN Security Council adopted a landmark resolution 2475 on the protection of persons with disabilities in situations of armed conflict. While persons with disabilities are often in the most vulnerable position in conflicts, they should also be seen as actors who contribute to building peace. Now after five years, it is time to accelerate the implementation of this resolution, and we call the relevant UN bodies and entities, including the Security Council and the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, to take steps in this regard.

Finland, together with partner countries and the Abilis Foundation, organizes during this conference a side event called "Persons with Disabilities in Armed Conflicts and Humanitarian Crises: How to improve the implementation of the UNSC Resolution 2475?" seeking solutions on how the international community can improve the implementation.

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Mr. President,

Lastly, I would like to raise the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy (UNDIS) that has been highly successful in improving disability inclusion across all sectors of the UN, including in humanitarian action and peacebuilding. We encourage the UN bodies and entities to accelerate the implementation of UNDIS, and we urge to look for solutions to consolidate UNDIS and its important work within the UN structures.

Mr. President,

Finland is committed to working collaboratively with other Member States and stakeholders to share best practices, develop innovative solutions, and support capacity-building initiatives, ensuring that our collective efforts drive meaningful progress toward disability inclusion worldwide. We look to the UN to support us by providing robust frameworks, technical assistance, and platforms for international cooperation and dialogue, enabling us to achieve our shared goals more effectively.

Thank you.

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