

**16th Session of the Conference of States Parties to the UN
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
(13-15 June 2023)**

India Statement

By

Mr. Ashish Sharma, Counsellor

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to congratulate you and other members of the Bureau on your election and convey full support of the Indian delegation in your work.

India strongly believes in an inclusive society where equal opportunities are provided for the growth and development of persons with disabilities so that they can lead productive, safe and dignified lives. The Constitution of India guarantees freedom, justice and equality of all individuals including persons with disabilities.

India was amongst the first few to ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).

The Government of India has taken significant steps of incorporating in letter and spirit the UNCRPD in its Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.

Mr. Chairman,

Under the leadership of Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, the Government of India is determined to social stigma associated with disability.

Prime Minister personal involvement by coining and using the term 'Divyangjan', which means persons with divine qualities, has provided impetus to the government's programmes and initiatives.

The Government of India is implementing specific policies and programmes for the welfare of the persons with disabilities.

These initiatives *inter alia* include *Disha*, a program focused on early intervention and school readiness; During the last 8 years, 4141 Divyangjan have been benefitted and an amount of over USD 1 billion has been spent under the scheme.

Vikaas Day Care established to support individuals with autism and cerebral palsy.

GHARAUNDA (Group Home for Adults) to provide an assured home and minimum quality of care services throughout the life of the persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities.

Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/ Appliances (ADIP) Scheme grants-in-aid to implementing agencies including NGOs to assist individuals with disabilities.

Mr. Chairman,

The Government of India is using Information and Communication Technologies to bring schemes and programmes to the doorsteps of persons with disabilities. The major ICI initiatives include Unique Disability ID project, early intervention centers for children with disabilities, and scholarship schemes.

India remains firmly committed to the building of a conducive environment for persons with disabilities to enable them to enjoy rights and realize their potential.

We wish the 16th Session of the Conference of State Parties to the UNCRPD all success.

Thank you.