

**17th Session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the
Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

**National Statement of Ireland by H.E. Fergal Mythen, Permanent
Representative of Ireland to the UN**

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Ireland aligns with the statement of the European Union.

Chair, Vice-Chair, distinguished delegates,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of Ireland today.

25% of the world's population lives with disability. And an estimated 80% of this number live in developing countries, and in areas with high risks of natural disasters and armed conflicts.

Ireland therefore, welcomes the theme of this year's conference. It is timely that we come together to re-think disability inclusion ahead of the Summit of the Future.

Promoting human rights, including those of persons with disabilities, is a core priority of Ireland's foreign policy, and reaching those furthest behind, including persons with disabilities, is a guiding principle of Ireland's international development and humanitarian action.

This Conference of State Parties is particularly timely for Ireland as we are in the process of developing our next National Disability Strategy.

This Strategy will set out a blueprint for the further implementation of the UNCRPD in Ireland and will mark a significant milestone as we continue to strive toward a more inclusive society.

The development process for the Strategy has been underpinned by robust and extensive consultation, in which the voices of persons with disabilities were at the very centre.

The next National Disability Strategy will act as a framework for whole-of-government action on disability. It will embed structures to support continued and strengthened stakeholder engagement across government.

Chair, Vice-Chair, distinguished delegates, I would like to thank the Committee for the priorities selected for roundtable discussions during this 17th Conference of States Parties.

I welcome the focus on decent work and sustainable livelihoods. Ireland's next Disability Strategy will take employment as a key consideration and will emphasise the absolute necessity that persons with disabilities are afforded the same opportunities as everyone else to live and maintain lives of their choosing and build fulfilling careers

Ireland's next National Disability Strategy will seek to build on the ever-advancing possibilities of Assistive Technologies and ensure we harness these to better vindicate the rights of disabled persons to live independently and autonomously. I also welcome therefore the focus of one of this year's sub

themes on increasing global access to technology and innovations for an inclusive future.

I am conscious that we gather this week in the context of a world that is grappling with conflict and crisis. Persons with disabilities face significant personal protection risks in situations of conflict and often face greater barriers to receiving humanitarian assistance than others. I am glad therefore to see a focus on the rights of persons with disabilities in response to emergencies and collective action on crises like climate change.

We must not waste this opportunity to come together and determine how we can collectively as an international community to ensure that disabled persons across the world are empowered to live full lives of their own choosing.

Thank you.

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