



Statement of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

During the 17th Conference of States Parties to the CRPD

**Delivered by HRH Prince Mired Raad Zeid Al-Hussein, President of
the Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

New York, 11 June 2024

Please Check Against Delivery

Mr. Chair & dear friends,

The focus of my statement today will be about the Global Disability Summit next year in Berlin that Jordan, Germany and IDA will be presiding over.

I will not discuss the actual issues but rather just touch upon some overarching matters & viewpoints that we believe are important.

We **MUST** remember that GDS 2025 will not be just a regular conference. It will be a summit about disability rights attended by world leaders ... for the first time ever. And in that sense, it will **BE A VERY SPECIAL EVENT**.

It **MUST** not be an opportunity that is dashed. It has to be a remarkable success.

Hopefully it will be a watershed moment...an **INFLECTION POINT!!**

So the pressure is on for us to get all the right messages across to the world leaders as clearly and as succinctly as possible...leaving **NO ROOM** for doubt and speculation...that disability rights must be respected everywhere. Even in regions facing severe hardship and devastation such as Gaza...where tens of thousands of injured and maimed civilians have been left to their own devices.

The world leaders who will attend the GDS next year must go home feeling energized and ready to institute needed change.

So what new policies or approaches could we humbly suggest that may guarantee the summit's success?

Keeping in mind that in most developing countries (and in several developed countries) PWDs are more often than not at the bottom of the ladder...they feel marginalized, helpless, forgotten, dismissed and for all intents and purposes are **INVISIBLE!!**

Two policies that may help pave the way forward and are food for thought are:

Countries must FIRST & FOREMOST...endeavour to take ownership of the problem...to THE GREATEST EXTENT POSSIBLE.

By this I mean that countries MUST adopt a serious approach vis-a-vis disability rights & inclusion ... to implement the Articles of the CRPD in a manner that entails:

- Providing the necessary leadership.
 - Legislating laws that are compliant with the CRPD.
 - Providing Human Resources.
 - Formulating a national strategy and operational plan.
 - Allocating funds from the national budget.
 - Establishing a national entity to draft disability policies, provide oversight and monitor progress.
 - Including PWDs & their organizations in all decision making.
- etc...etc...etc

The ABCs of ownership are well known...and it is not rocket-science. All that is needed is good leadership and a serious approach!!!

SECONDLY...on the other side of the equation the donor community, DONOR COUNTRIES & ORGANIZATIONS must make all their grants & support inclusive...disability sensitive...just like gender is always a condition and a stipulation...disability should also be.

I thank you all for listening and hope that you all take part in the Summit next year, if not physically by all means virtually.

Salam!