

**Seventeenth session of the Conference of the State Parties to the Convention on the  
Rights of the Persons with Disabilities (COSPD)  
New York, 11-13 June 2024**

**Overarching theme:** *Rethinking disability inclusion in the current international juncture  
and ahead of the Summit of the Future*

**Chair,**

People with disabilities face multiple difficulties and barriers- social, attitudinal, physical, economic, psychological, communication, and others.

They face various forms of health inequities. It is stunning to learn that some persons with disabilities die up to 20 years earlier than those without disabilities.

They face difficulties in accessible and affordable transportation 15 times more than those of the person without disabilities.

Realizing the rights and meeting the needs of persons with disabilities is, therefore, critical to leave no one behind, the overarching commitment of the 2030 Agenda as well as the underlying philosophy of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

This will be possible only when we ensure that persons with disabilities live with dignity and honor; and when we commit to ensuring that they participate in and equally benefit from sustainable development efforts.

**Chair,**

As per the Census 2022, almost 2.5% of its population has some form of disability in Nepal. It enlisted twelve types of disabilities, of which more than one-third are persons with physical disabilities.

The Constitution of Nepal has ensured the right of every person to live with dignity, the right to equality, and the right to social justice as fundamental rights.

Participation of persons with disabilities in Parliament is guaranteed by the Constitution.

We have ensured their participation in the Civil Services through reservation quota.

Those measures are fundamental in ensuring their rights to political participation and participation in policy-making.

Nepal has ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The Government has taken transformative measures through different laws, policies, and schemes to ensure a dignified life for persons with disabilities and their meaningful participation in social activities.

Nepal has also adopted the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2017 to ensure their civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights as well as nondiscrimination in workplaces and employment opportunities.

The Government continues to provide social security allowance to enhance their community and cultural life, social security, and movement, among others.

**Mr. Chair,**

Despite these different measures, persons with disabilities continue to face numerous difficulties and challenges. In the paucity of disability-friendly physical structures in remote areas, they are unable to access education, health, and employment.

Nepal is committed to working together to ensure that these people live in dignity by ensuring their full and equal participation in policy-making as well as social, cultural, and economic spheres.

Let us commit to ensuring both the health and rights approach of the disabilities in the Summit of Future.

I thank you.