

<General Debate of the 17th COSP>

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

Thank you, Mr. President.

It is my honor to represent the Republic of Korea at the 17th Session of the Conference of State Parties to the CRPD (COSP17).

Since joining the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in 2008, the Republic of Korea has respected the fundamental principles of the convention and has made steady endeavors to fully implement the CRPD.

The Korean government has established a 5-year mid-to-long-term plan called the Comprehensive Plans for Persons with Disabilities for 2023 to 2027 in accordance with the Act on Welfare of Persons with

Disabilities. The aim of this plan is to enhance the quality of life of persons with disabilities and ensure their rights protected across all areas of life.

In March this year, the prime-minister-led Policy Coordination Committee for Persons with Disabilities, composed of parliament members, members of organizations related to persons with disabilities, and academic experts, convened and adopted the Implementation Plan for the 6th Master Plan for Persons with Disabilities, introducing measures to strengthen welfare for persons with disabilities.

Specifically, the measures include

the Individual Budget System for Persons with Disabilities, which allows persons with disabilities to choose with flexibility which services they hope to receive according to their needs and preferences, and a pilot program of this system will be introduced

soon.

To establish a lifelong care support system for persons with developmental disabilities, pilot projects for 24-hour care for persons with the most severe developmental disabilities are underway, along with the operation of Developmental Disability Hub Hospitals and Behavior Development Promotion Centers, as well as Emergency Care Centers for persons with developmental disabilities.

Also, to establish a tailored healthcare support system for persons with disabilities, the Korean government plans to establish the Comprehensive Plans for Healthcare Management of Persons with Disabilities, expand persons-with-disabilities-friendly healthcare institutions, and improve the system of designated physicians for healthcare of persons with disabilities.

The Act on the Prohibition of Discrimination Against Persons with

Disabilities, which mandates the provision of convenience for persons with disabilities in terms of using mobile apps and kiosks, is now in effect and being implemented to ensure digital accessibility for marginalized groups such as persons with disabilities and the elderly.

Like this, the Korean government is pursuing various new policies to provide an environment where persons with disabilities can lead independent and equal — thus happy — lives, through the introduction of customized integrated services tailored to the needs of persons with disabilities.

In addition, the Korean government is working to devise measures to faithfully implement the final recommendations presented at the 27th session of the CRPD in 2022 at the governmental level.

In the latter half of this year, the government will hold the Policy Coordination Committee Meeting for Persons with Disabilities, which will be attended by the ministers from all government bodies, to review and make decisions on the implementation plan.

Mr. President,

The Korean government is striving to faithfully implement the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

In all decision-making and implementation processes regarding policies for persons with disabilities, the Korean government prioritizes reflecting the experiences and voices of persons with disabilities.

The Korean government will continue to actively communicate and collaborate with organizations, academia, legislative bodies related to persons with disabilities going forward. Thank you.