**WRITTEN CONTRIBUTIONS- GENERAL COMMENT ON LAND AND INTERNATIONAL COVENENT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS**

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**INTRODUCTION:**

There are one billion Persons with disabilities, who constitute 15% of the total population of the world. 70% of them live in developing countries and 80% experience chronic poverty. They exhibit lowest health, education, social, economic, political, cultural out comes. The exclusion of this section is four times heigher than anyother most excluded sections of the society. (world report on disability-2011, WHO and World Bank).

Right to land is one of the important human rights but unfortunately persons with disabilities neither own land or posession rights. They do not have access and control over productive wealth and assets. Land is an important source of natural resources which enables human beings to enjoy Economic, social and cultural rights. They have been discriminated right at the family level and deprived them from enjoying the right to land.

Rapit process of globalisation, privatisation, liberalisation, industrialisation, urbanisation, climate change, deforestation, land degradation has significantly contributed in impacting on sustainable agriculture and achieve food security. We have been luising the productive land every day. Whatever productive land is with us is not accessible to persons with disabilities. They have been kept out of their right to land and enjoying other rights related to land.

This deprivation has resulted in sheer exclusion, blatant discrimination, domestic violence, lesser chances of getting married, lesser chances of having good family life, respect and dignity in the society, decision making power in the family and the society, participation in social, economic, political and cultural life and other spheres of life on an equal basis with others.

There is no protection from the state in ensuring their right to land. There are no laws, legislations, policies and statutes which protect their right and prevent discrimination with regard to right to land both ownership and posession rights.

We whole heartedly appreciate the initiative of committee of ICESCR for inviting the written contributions on general comments on land and ICESCR from multiple stakeholders on the draft genneral comment. We take this opportunity to draw the atten of treatybody ininfluencing the states parties to ensure the protection and fulfill the obligations towards right to land of persons with disabilities and call upon:

1. Evolve, amend or enact laws, legislations or policies to ensure right to land of persons with disabilities in letter and spirit;
2. Ensure the active participation and invoolvement of persons with disabilities and their representative organisations in all the consultative processes which affect the lives of persons with disabilities regarding land;
3. Ensure the active participation of persons with disabilities in all consultations with regard to drafting or formulating laws and policies with regard to right to land;
4. Take affairmative actions to distribute land to persons with disabilities;
5. Ensure credit or loans in concessional rates to buy or purchase land;
6. Ensure distribution of land in concessional rates on priority basis;
7. Constitute special courts or tribunals to settle the land disputes of persons with disabilities;
8. Promote equity in the share of land among citizens;
9. Include specific sections and clauses in the specific laws and legislations related to persons with disabilities;
10. Make specific schemes and programmes to preferential allotment of land to persons with disabilities for agriculture, housing, establishing factories and other purposes;
11. Constitute a highpower committee to undertake a systematic research to findout anti-disabled and discriminatory provisions in general laws, legislations and policies in order to abolish them;
12. Take affairmative actions to abolish discriminatory practices and policies with regard to right to land of persons with disabilities;
13. Take legal, administrative, judicial, adjucative, executive and operational measures in order to abolish or nullify the effect of discriminatory practices and policies;