

BANGLADESH

Ms. SADIYA FAIZUNNESHA

Mr. President,

My delegation would like to express its sincere appreciation to the panelist for their presentation on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. This is a landmark human rights instrument. This special event is timely to raise awareness of the Convention in the Council. It will help identify the issues that the Council may integrate in its work in order to contribute to the promotion of the Convention and to its future implementation. We agree that this special event would be focusing on the key issues that the international community will need to take into account to promote and implement the Convention.

Mr. President,

650 million people in the world living with disabilities which is about 10 per cent of the world's population. They are deprived of the opportunities available for the mainstream population. Discriminatory practices against persons with disabilities marginalize them in the society. As a result their rights are overlooked. A universal, legally binding standard therefore was very much needed to ensure that the rights of persons with disabilities are guaranteed everywhere in the world.

It is very unfortunate that persons with disabilities evoke sympathy rather than respect. This convention is a major step toward changing the perception of disability and recognizes that all people must be provided with the opportunities to live life to their fullest potential, whatever that may be. ~~It covers a number of key areas such as accessibility, personal mobility, health, education, employment, habilitation and rehabilitation, participation in political life, and equality and non-discrimination.~~ The convention marks a shift in thinking about disability from a social welfare concern, to a human rights issue. Also it turns out that it is actually good economics to ensure that disabled persons are able to live up to their potential. When there are no obstacles in their way, disabled persons are employees, entrepreneurs, consumers and taxpayers, along with everybody else.

Mr. President,

The convention calls for the "progressive realization" of most of its provisions, in line with the resources of individual countries. Some steps will require money for countries where resources are limited. It is hoped that international assistance—which has neglected the needs of persons with disabilities—will help. Mainstreaming the rights of the persons with disabilities in the developing countries will require continued effort from all stakeholders, in particular active support and expert assistance from the developed countries. To this end the Human Rights Council can play a constructive role by promoting increased advocacy for strengthened international assistance.

Mr. President,

Let me take this opportunity to reiterate that Bangladesh is committed to strengthen efforts to provide all possible supports to the persons with disabilities. We strongly believe that rights of persons with disabilities deserve not only special attention but also strong considerations and this issue needs to be anchored in a comprehensive manner in the process of a country's development. I thank you.