ARTICLE 11 OF THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES SUMMARY

Submitted by: Federation of Disability Organizations in Malawi (FEDOMA)

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The chairperson and all members of the committee,l make this presentation on behalf of Federation of Disability Organizations in Malawi (FEDOMA)

CURRENT SITUATION IN MALAWI

The inclusion of persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies is currently a challenge. Right from preparedness, response and recovery, persons with disabilities have bemoaned their exclusion. Around 2016 to 2017, there were some efforts towards the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the disaster management sector, in programs such as awareness on the inclusion of PWDs, and participation in civil protection committees however this inclusion did not last for long.

Going to most of the disaster-prone districts today, one would find that some of the initiatives that persons with disabilities were a part of then, they are not a part of now, or the initiatives are totally not functional today. Some of such initiatives are mapping of evacuation routes, assembling points and drills or simulation among others. It is mainly Nsanje district which demonstrated continued existence of such initiatives and, to some extent, the involvement of persons with disabilities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Laws, policies and strategies on emergency situations as well as those on the rights of persons with disabilities, should be revised in line with the UNCRPD and Sendai framework for DRR

2.Ensuring preparedness measures include access to services by persons with disabilities during emergencies, since they are mostly and easily forgotten by relief service providers among others.

3.Include the provision of assistive devices in all disaster response programme.

4.Ensure the meaningful involvement of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in all disaster related programmes, this includes mapping of evacuation routes, assembling points as well as conducting of simulation and drills

CONCLUSION

It is our hope that the committee will take the recommendations presented by Malawians with disabilities seriously