August 27, 2018

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## *DRAFT* STATEMENT – for consultation

**20th session of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

**Opening Session**

**27 August 2018 – Geneva, Palais des Nations**

Distinguished Chairperson and Committee members,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (or GANHRI), it is my great honour to address you today and to have the opportunity to exchange with you.

The complementary roles of this Committee and national human rights institutions (NHRIs) in promoting and protecting the rights of persons with disabilities, has brought GANHRI and this Committee to establish a unique and long-standing fruitful cooperation. The rights of persons with disabilities is one of the priority areas of the current GANHRI Strategic Plan and we are committed to continue to support the work of our member NHRIs and this Committee in advancing the rights of person with disabilities.

Building upon our strong partnership, these past months, we have undertaken a number of important initiatives:

* In February 2018, GANHRI dedicated its Annual Conference to the role of NHRIs in monitoring the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and data collection, promoting the sharing of experiences and lesson learned.
* The Annual Conference comprised the first annual meeting between this Committee, NHRIs and national monitoring frameworks. The meeting took place in implementing this Committee’s decision to hold annual meeting with NHRIs and national monitoring frameworks. This historic event was an opportunity to exchange on good practices and lessons in monitoring article 19 of the Convention and ensuring the meaningful participation of person with disabilities.
* The Joint Declaration which was adopted by the Committee and GANHRI as outcome of the meeting identifies concrete steps moving forward in our collaboration.

This includes:

* To establish a follow-up group between the Committee and NHRIs to develop a common framework for monitoring article 19 of the Convention;
* To advocate for strengthening data collection and disaggregation efforts in line with Article 31 of the CRPD and Goal 17 of the SDGs, to ensure informed and effective policymaking;
* To develop and maintain a repository of good practices of monitoring the Convention and to continue strengthening the capacity of organizations of persons with disabilities;&
* To request that international development cooperation efforts enhance and promote, through capacity building programmes, the role of NHRIs and independent monitoring frameworks in monitoring the Convention.
* In May, GANHRI also contributed with a written submission to the draft General Comment No7 on Article 4.3 and 33. 3 of the Convention, by gathering the views and experiences of NHRIs across regions in promoting and advancing the participation of organisations of persons with disabilities and individuals in the monitoring and implementation of the Convention.
* In June, at the 11th Conference of State Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, GANHRI, together with the International Disability Alliance, OHCHR and UNDP, organised a side-event, to explore areas for strengthened multi-stakeholder cooperation and collaboration in follow-up to the Joint Declaration. GANHRI was also delighted to participate at this Committee’s event on the General Comment No 7, and to convene a NHRI caucus meeting to discuss ways and means for strengthened collaboration among NHRIs on the rights of persons with disabilities.

It is important to highlight, the excellent and crucial support received from the International Disability Alliance in the organisation of our annual meeting and the other follow-up activities by bringing the voice of organisations of persons with disabilities into the discussions.

GANHRI and its members are committed to advancing the rights of persons with disabilities and to continue to do so in close partnership with this Committee.

The Joint Declaration adopted in February provides concrete steps to strengthen NHRIs’ and the Committee’s joint work in monitoring the Convention, and we now look forward to the Committee’s views and guidance on how to move the joint declaration forward.