CRPD COMMITTEE 20th SESSION

Closing –September 21, 2018

# International Disability Alliance

# Thank you Madam Chair

On Behalf of the International Disability Alliance I wish to warmly congratulate the Committee for a very fruitful and successful 20th session.

I also take this opportunity to express, on behalf of the national representatives of the organizations of persons with disabilities that came to Geneva to meet with the Committee, and on behalf of those who for several reasons were not able to come but that contributed with reports and briefings to the Committee, their warmest gratitude for the Committee’s welcome to their work, and for picking up on their concerns. The Committee has always been open to the participation of organizations of persons with disabilities in all its work, upholding articles 4.3 and 33.3 of the CRPD at its highest standards, in line with our “Nothing about us, without us!”

IDA celebrates the Committee’s statements issued during this session: the joint statement with CEDAW Committee, **Guaranteeing sexual and reproductive health and rights for all women, in particular women with disabilities, where the Committees make a call to States parties and all stakeholders to fully respect the autonomy of women, including women with disabilities, by taking a human rights based approach that safeguards the reproductive choice and autonomy of all women, including women with disabilities.**

IDA also welcomes and fully supports the Committee’s statement calling to States parties to oppose the draft Additional Protocol to the Oviedo Convention. It also expresses its satisfaction to the States of Bulgaria and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for declaring their opposition to the draft Aditional Protocol. In this vein, IDA also joins in to strongly request to States parties that are part of the Council of Europe and have not done so, to oppose the adoption of the Additional Protocol to the Oviedo Convention.

IDA also warmly congratulates and wishes to thank the Committee for the adoption of its General Comment no. 7 on the participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in relation to CRPD articles 4.3 and 33.3. This is one of IDA’s core principles and, as you are all aware of, IDA has also significantly contributed to this process, and thus expresses its great happiness for its adoption, and knowing that we will count with guidelines to reinforce our “Nothing about us without us!”

We also welcome the announcement that the Committee will start working on a new general comment on CRPD article 11. As has been mentioned in several occasions throughout this session, persons with disabilities are still left behind in the humanitarian action and responses, despite the strong link between humanitarian emergencies and disabilities. IDA welcomes the opportunity to contribute with its work and experience, advocating in the humanitarian field at the UN level.

We also welcome the announcement that the Committee will start working with the CRC Committee in a joint general comment on children with disabilities. IDA welcomes the opportunity to contribute again, with its member organizations’ experience and knowledge on the matters of concern.

Finally, we bid farewell to the outgoing members of the Committee. IDA acknowledges their hard work and leadership and expresses its enormous gratitude to your work and commitment. You will be missed.

For the rest of the Committee members and Secretariat, we look forward to meeting you again in the 21st session.

We wish you all safe travels back home.

Thank you.