**Closing Remarks Constructive Dialogue with Bangladesh**

(CRPD Committee 25-26 August 2022)

Ms. Vivian de Torrijos

Thank you Chair. Good Morning.

I’d like to thank the delegation from Bangladesh for our constructive dialogue. On behalf of myself and my co-rapporteur Danlami Basharu I sincerely thank the head of delegation Dr Hassan Mahmud and his group.

 We appreciate Bangladesh’s comprehensive report and response to the List of Issues. I would also like to acknowledge and thank Civil Society and most especially organizations of people with disabilities and families who contributed with shadow reports.

 All of these contributions are invaluable to our dialogue and had been the basis of our work over these past two days.

I have been a personal scholar of your country because I am a fan of Nobel Prize Muhammed Junnus for a long time and follow his achievements. He is a major contributor to the development of the economy through the widespread of microcredit with the Grameen Bank helping thousands of women.

Bangladesh, a country with more than 167 million inhabitants and almost 14 million persons with disabilities agglomerated in just 164 kM2 has an impressive track record of growthand development but most initiatives for people with disabilities are specialized and segragated.

During the course of these two days meetings, we have carefully listened to and learned of the Bangladesh government's steps to ensure human rights and fundamental freedoms and promote respect for the inherent dignity and of equal rights of Persons with disabilities.

The dialogue has given us a vital stage to reflect on whether the bridges we are building between the standards of the convention and the experiences lived by people with disabilities in the Republic of Bangladesh are in accordance with their reality.

In that sense, we have found some important issues that require consideration from the State party to ensure the full implementation of the Convention. My colleagues on the Committee have raised several critical issues during the Constructive Dialogue including:

Lack of reliable and comprehensive data available on persons with disabilities.

City roads unwelcoming not only people ina wheelchair but also persons with all types of disabilities.

Members of the Committee are extremely concerned about the indolent approach to rulings in the justice system and accessibility where persons with disabilities are concerned.

We note also wide spread stigmatization and exploitation of children with disabilities used as beggars and their lack of access to social and health services and an inclusive quality education system, adequate care, health, nutrition and participation and we are very concerned and shocked about reported cases of fatalities, resulting from INFANTISIDE and feticide, among children with disabilities as a result of their disability. This is absolutely deplorable.!!

We also noted the persistent multiple and intersectional discrimination against women and girls with disabilities, the lack of revision of the Rights and Protection of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2013 to include the rights of women with disabilities belonging to marginalized groups, and to review the National Women Advancement Policy (2011)

We know about the existence of immense brothels surrounded by high walls, that function as prisons of girls and women sex slaves.

In these places hundreds of girls with disabilities are born and die without having known freedom. Girls who were stolen from their homes, recruited under deception in the streets or used as a bargaining chip to pay debts.

Finally, the dialogue served to remind us that civil society is an essential part of the entire implementation of the CRPD for sustainable security, human rights and sustainable development. I encourage family and parents to strength the DPO´s

A strong civil society promotes responsible citizenship and makes democratic forms of government work.

But that is not exclusive for success. The State party urges to implement monitoring and implementation of the Convention as a key obligation.

An independent monitoring mechanism that meets the requirements of the Paris principles for this purpose is recommended.

Distinguished delegates:

The committee shall incorporate and will elaborate on all these issues-

The concluding observations will be officially presented to the delegation through the diplomatic channel for their concern.

I would like once again to express my sincere appreciation for the State party’s efforts to promote the human rights and well-being of persons with disabilities .

Thank You.