

Réunion : Réunion de haut niveau sur le handicap et le développement

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Durée : 9'02'' (122 mots/minute)

Orateur : Jan Eliasson, Vice-Secrétaire général de l'ONU

Difficulté : *

Éléments à fournir : /

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Mr Chairman,
Minister Balisacan,
Minister Hautala,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,
Dear friends,

I understand this has been an extraordinary day. Today's High Level Meeting is a milestone in the history of the United Nations. Member States have shown leadership and commitment to adopting a new tool, an action-oriented final document to strengthen our work to realize disability inclusive development at all levels.

And on behalf of Secretary General Ban Ki Moon, I want to thank you warmly for all your efforts, all your work for an extremely important cause, which I would characterize as practical solidarity with people with disabilities. And by that a reconfirmation of every human being's equal value. This is to me what this is all about.

We are all aware of the challenge, but today we recognize the enormous opportunity of the more than 1 billion people with disabilities given the chance to make the most of their lives.

Let me repeat and highlight some key features of the document. But before that, can I just say something informally about the sad fact that evidently many of you were not given an opportunity to give your speeches and statements. I am a former President of the General Assembly and I can recall instances like this when I was President. And I just want to tell you how important it is that all voices are heard. But with modern technology evolving so much more than when I was President 70 years ago, you should know that every speech that you submit to the Secretariat will be posted on the website of the High Level Meeting. And that's where we have all the readers. There are so many people outside that follow this, so I would encourage all of you to really post your statements, particularly those who did not have a chance to speak, and I regret deeply that was the case. Because this organization builds on the universality, sovereign equality, and I really feel the pain that some of you had written

speeches with lots of your soul and blood and heart and then were not able to deliver, but please pass them on, I feel very strongly about that, I will follow-up this issue myself.

So, some of the highlights, as you know very well, I find it important that Member States have reiterated their determination to achieve the MDGs and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities.

Member States have also underscored the need for all to take urgent action towards the adoption and implementation of more ambitious disability national development strategies backed by increased international cooperation. There has to be an interplay between national and international action.

Persons with disabilities will remain disproportionately vulnerable to poverty without a targeted focus on their rights and concerns. I have seen that myself in my many years in humanitarian and conflict-related situations.

And without more coherent and targeted poverty reduction, we may not be able to achieve or sustain MDG progress. And I fully agree with Minister Balisacan and Minister Hautala when they stress the importance of listening to all voices, all persons with disabilities, as we work to formulate a global development agenda beyond 2015.

I have a special responsibility given to me by the Secretary General to follow this issue which will be with us for the next two years or so. And I can assure you that I will keep in mind the situation of people with disabilities, and I hope that your voices will be heard both in the meeting rooms at the United Nations but also back in your own countries, in your capitals.

I had a Prime Minister once who taught me something about how to measure the quality of a society. He said "Every society should in the end be judged by how it treats its most vulnerable people". That's the quality control of good societies, how are we treating the most vulnerable ones. It's a very useful rule to bring with you in life. And if you judge the situation of disabilities and then measure that quality, then I think we have a very important advice that we could use and for hopefully setting the direction in a more determined way.

The Member States also have resolved to undertake a range of what I call bold actions to achieve the full implementation of the normative framework on disability and development. One.

Two, to ensure that all development policies reflect the needs of all persons with disabilities.

Three, to develop plans, legislation, policy and institutional structures and capacities to advance the inclusion of persons with disabilities.

Fourth, to promote the inclusion of persons with disabilities in areas such as education, healthcare, social protection, employment and humanitarian responses, strategic areas.

To improve disability, for the fifth point, to improve disability data collection analysis and monitoring. There was another person who taught me something, a Finnish President Paasikivi, who said "The source of wisdom is knowing the facts". The source of wisdom is knowing the facts. And I think this data collection is very important.

Six, and last, to encourage the mobilization of public and private resources, on a sustainable basis at all levels, to mainstream disability in development.

Six very important points of action.

In his reports on disability and development, the Secretary General together with all relevant UN entities, will provide an update on progress in implementing the outcome document. These reports will serve as an important tool to keep the momentum for global wide action on disabilities and development.

I call upon all Member States, civil society and other actors, to implement the International Framework on Disability and Development, and the outcome document of this High Level Meeting. This is a shared responsibility. The Secretary General and I are fully committed to mobilizing the UN system behind these goals.

Mr Chairman,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In closing, you should be proud of your accomplishments today. We would not be celebrating, I would say, this achievement, without the tireless efforts of all of you in this room and without the work that you have done back in your own countries and in your own communities. You are helping to give life to core values and fundamental principles. The dignity of every human being, equality of opportunity, full participation. This is the core of your mission but it is also the heart and soul of the United Nations, the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Let's never forget those guiding principles for this organization which we stand for and that we have to show in practical deeds in life.

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