

**Request to ensure that CBR is included in the World Health Assembly resolution on highest attainable standard of Health for Persons with disabilities**

From,

.....

To,

The Honourable Minister of Health,

Govt. of ....

Dated: .....

Respected Madam/Sir,

Greetings from the .....

We are writing to request you to ensure that CBR (Community Based Rehabilitation) is included with a central emphasis in the World Health Assembly resolution on highest attainable standard of Health for Persons with disabilities as a key strategy to be adopted in the 74<sup>th</sup> session of the World Health Assembly during May/June,2021.

CBR, Assistive technology and disability and Health are already in previous WHA resolutions:

- WHA 58.23, 2005: “disability, including prevention, management and rehabilitation”
- 66.9,2013” The new WHO action plan “Health for Persons with Disabilities”
- WHA resolutions 69.24, 2016 “a frame work on integrated people-centred health services” and
- 71.8, 2018 “Improved access to assistive technology”.

CBR is being practice in over hundred countries, benefiting children adults and older people with different disabilities in resource scarce settings. Examples of inclusion of CBR in Public health policy either as strategy/ activities/ guidelines/ programs include Indonesia, China, Mongolia, Vietnam, Philippines, Iran, Uganda, Zambia, Malawi, Mexico, Costa Rica, Brazil to mention a few.

Our specific recommendations to be included in this resolution are

- 1) Poverty is recognised as a barrier to persons with disabilities, especially in the Global South; and member states take proactive measures to ensure that health care, including habilitation and rehabilitation services, reach persons with disabilities living in poverty, with sufficient investment of human and financial resources and
- 2) Community based/home based habilitation and rehabilitation services (CBR) are integrated into primary health care centres and have a central emphasis as a key strategy.

As you already know, the World Report on Disability, 2011, estimates that 80% of Persons with disabilities live in low and middle income countries and majority of them in poverty and in recourse scarce settings.

Our Government along with other member states Championing the inclusion of CBR in this WHA resolution will be in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and you will place our country on the World stage ensuring that millions of Persons with disabilities and other vulnerable population groups living in poverty have access to quality and affordable habilitation and rehabilitation services in communities.

We will be happy to provide more information and any clarification that you may need and work with you on this.

Look forward to a favourable response from you.

Warm greetings

.....

.....