



**STATEMENT**  
**THE 3<sup>RD</sup> ASEAN DISABILITY FORUM**  
**11<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> December 2013, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam**

**We**, the participants of the Regional Conference on Raising Awareness of the 3<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Disability Forum (ADF) – A platform of engagement for DPOs and multi-stakeholders to promote and implement the ASEAN Decade of Persons with Disabilities, from 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> December 2013, in Bandar Seri Begawan, organized by Brunei Darussalam Disabled People’s Organization in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports.

**Appreciate** the commitment of the Government of Brunei Darussalam in particular the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports in ensuring the protection and the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities.

**Follow up** the establishment of the ASEAN Community by 2015 made up of the three pillars namely the Political-Security Community, the Economic Community and the Socio-Cultural Community as laid down in the Siam Reap Declaration (2012).

**Refer and support** the UNESCAP Incheon strategy “Make the Right Real” in The New Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities (2013-2022).

**Express** great appreciation to the ASEAN Member states for the successful development of the ASEAN Decade of Persons with Disabilities (2011-2020).

**Do hereby agree** to declare as follows;

1. To encourage all ASEAN Member states to ratify the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons With Disabilities with allocation to the national budgets;
2. To recommend to countries without representative councils of cross persons with disabilities to form such councils to be involved in policy making mechanisms;
3. To shift from a charity-based approach to a rights-based approach in decision making in all matters affecting PWDs, based on the UN-CRPD principles;
4. To recognize DPOs and associations representing rights of PWDs as the prime resource on issues pertaining to and affecting PWDs;

5. To promote an inclusive society which removes barriers and build accessibility including practicing the political and human rights, acceptance and participation;
6. To enhance a support system for families, carers or personal assistants and the community in promoting and supporting independent living;
7. To harmonize the eight principles of the Convention on the Rights of Persons With Disabilities into ASEAN Governments' laws and policies as well as ASEAN mechanisms;
8. To ensure early intervention services and inclusive lifelong intervention for persons with disabilities in transition to a full and meaningful participation in all affairs of society;
9. To accelerate awareness raising activities in close partnership with all the stakeholders including the mass media;
10. To promote rights based approach of persons of disabilities through advocacy activities to all levels of society;
11. To conduct research to produce evident-based recommendations to advance their employment, make available affordable assistive technologies and devices, institutionalize participation in governance of persons with disabilities;
12. To establish a monitoring mechanism to ensure accessibility of the built-in environment including Information Communication Technologies and Assistive Technologies.

We, therefore, respectfully submit these recommendations and request the Government of Brunei Darussalam to disseminate this document to ASEAN member states.

We, DPOs in ASEAN, encourage DPO in The Republic of the Union of Myanmar and ADF Secretariat to organize the ASEAN Disability Forum (ADF) in 2014 in parallel with the ASEAN Summit.

The ASEAN Disability Forum expresses its utmost gratitude to the Government of Brunei Darussalam for its hospitality and successful conduct of the 3<sup>rd</sup> session.

