

WHO Executive Board Meeting (18th-26th of January 2021)

Statement submitted by IDDC and IDA

Handicap International Federation, supported by the International Disability and Development Consortium and the International Disability Alliance, welcome the negotiation of a draft resolution on the Highest Attainable Standard of Health for Persons with Disabilities.

We thank the core group, and in particular the Permanent Mission of Israel in Geneva for their leadership, and the transparent and inclusive consultations with civil society on the draft.

We appreciate the following elements of the resolution, which we regard as fundamental:

- the commitment to moving away from a medical approach to disability and adopting language aligning with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

- reaffirming the right to health of persons with disabilities and the principle “Nothing about us without us” as a precondition for ensuring disability inclusion

- insisting on the involvement of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations as essentials players in identifying and addressing all barriers to health faced by persons with disabilities.

The draft resolution comes at a crucial time, at the expiration of the WHO global disability action plan 2014–2021: better health for all people with disability, right after the UN adopted their Disability Inclusion Strategy, and when COVID-19 has been exacerbating existing inequalities. The current situation highlights the exclusion of many persons with disabilities from health care information and services and the urgent need to ensure that the right to enjoy the highest attainable standard of health, without discrimination on the basis of disability, is respected, protected, and fulfilled.

We confirm our availability and commitment to continue supporting the WHO and the Member States in the preparation of the World Report on the “Highest Attainable Standard of Health for Persons with Disabilities”, the implementation of the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy, and the creation of an inclusive global research agenda.