

**9 Sept 2014**

**INTERVENTION: Open-Ended Consultation to the Co-Chairs of the 3WCDRR**

*From Matthew Rodieck, on behalf of Rehabilitation International's Task Force on Disability, Armed Conflicts, and Natural Disasters.*

Good Morning and thank you for the opportunity to address this session of the Co-Chair's Consultation with representatives of the Major Groups.

I am here today with my colleague Mr Hiroshi Kawamura, also a member of the RI Task Force and on behalf of the Nippon Foundation, as well as Ms Tchaurea Fleury, Human Rights Officer with the International Disability Alliance.

My remarks will be brief and I will submit these in writing as a formal intervention into today's consultation.

I would like to draw your attention to the letter recently submitted on September 1<sup>st</sup> to the Co-Chairs by Ms Maryanne Diamond, Chairperson of the International Disability Alliance.

Our intention is to emphasize the importance of engagement by People with Disability in these formal consultative processes for 3WCDRR, especially as it has been observed that contributions from People with Disability have largely been absent, and in some cases, systematically excluded from the regional platforms.

Ms Diamond's letter has proposed two main points:

First, that *People with Disability be afforded an Organizing Partner role* in these consultations to the Major Groups since there is not a Major Group formally focused on disability. We recognize that the system of Major Group contributions cannot be altered in the short timeframe remaining for the 3WCDRR and emphasize that an Organizing Partner role would ensure that People with Disability are included.

Second, that attention and appropriate resources be dedicated to ensuring *reasonable accommodation for People with Disability* in these consultative processes.

It is our hope that you will favorably consider the proposal to the Co-Chair about the disability-inclusive approach to these 3WCDRR consultative processes.

I thank you for your consideration.