

18 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 focused on content within Section D "*Priorities for Action*" in the pre-zero draft and I will submit these in writing as a formal intervention into today's consultation.

In particular, I would draw your attention to the following issues within the sections of I. National and Local Context:

Under the subheading *Understanding disaster risk*, number 14, subsection c), I would encourage emphasizing use of accessible formats to ensure that people with disabilities have maximum opportunities to benefit from the dissemination of risk-related information.

Further in number 14, in subsection k), I would encourage specific mention of technologies that are accessible to people with disabilities.

Under the subheading *Preparedness for Response, Recovery and Reconstruction – "Build Back Better,"* number 16, subsections a) and b), preparedness efforts should emphasize universal design principles, especially use of accessible formats.

Under the subheading *Investing in Social, Economic, and Environmental Resilience*, number 17, subsections c) and m), where attention, again, to universal design principles can help to ensure better outcomes of accessibility and the consequent safety and survival of people with disabilities.

I would also draw your attention to the following within the sections of II. Global and Regional Context:

Under the subheading *Preparedness for response, recovery and reconstruction*, number 20, subsections a) and d), where early warning mechanisms should also account for inclusion of accessibility as a priority.

And finally, possibly most crucially, under the subheading *Investing in Social, Economic, and Environmental Resilience*, number 21, subsection a), where access to

and transfer of knowledge and information should incorporate Best Practices for accessible means of including people with disability among targeted populations as a priority group.

It is our hope that you will favorably consider closer examination of these particular areas of the pre-zero draft as the Bureau continues to develop further refinements in the 3WCDRR consultative processes.

I am happy to clarify or recommend particular technical language and terminology in each of these passages if it is of interest to the Co-Chairs.

I thank you for your consideration.