

12th session Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples 15-19 July 2019

Agenda Item No 9: Future Work of the Expert Mechanism, including focus of thematic study

Indigenous Person with Disabilities Global Network (IPWDGN) and Indigenous Disabled Women Association Nepal (NIDWAN)

Delivered by: Pratima Gurung

Thank you Madam Chair, I am Pratima Gurung speaking on behalf of Indigenous Person with Disabilities Global Network (IPWDGN) and National Indigenous Disabled Women Association-Nepal (NIDWAN).

Madam Chair, I would like to highlight that Indigenous Peoples with Disabilities comprise of 54 million all around the globe. I would like to highlight on the study conducted by UNPFII in 2013 highlights indigenous persons with disabilities face multiple and intersectional discriminations are in vulnerable and risk situation both in normal and emergency situation. They face regular, systematic, including direct and indirect discrimination in diverse forms in many aspects of life.

Since 2013 disability caucus has been formed in UNPFII and the follow up meeting with UNPFII members has been held every year by the members of Global Network.

Similarly On 7-8 July in 2016, the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, Catalina Devandas and the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, Victoria Tauli Corpuz, co-organized an Expert meeting on indigenous persons with disabilities that highlighted indigenous persons with disabilities face exclusion, marginalization and multiple layers of discrimination based on their disability, their ethnic origin and their gender. The experts identified and discussed knowledge gap at grassroots level to global level, risk of cultural and social assimilation, diverse social perceptions of disability among different indigenous

communities, situation of risk and vulnerability of indigenous women and girls with disabilities, lack of access to services and support for indigenous persons with disabilities, insufficient statistical information on indigenous persons with disabilities and need to invest in disaggregated data

And for the first time ever the situation of indigenous persons with disabilities was discussed as a priority human rights issue at the 9th session of the EMRIP and then the global network of Indigenous persons with disabilities has been holding several follow up meetings with EMRIP members and suggesting for it.

There are number of challenges faced by indigenous persons and women with disabilities that hinders their daily lives and are left behind. In my country Nepal they are excluded in disability, indigenous, women and state mechanism and discourse. The issue is still not recognized as a human rights despite the ratification of ILO 169, UN Declaration and UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. More than 10 years have passed and there is no national plan of action on ILO 169 and implementation of the UN Declaration.

They are number of challenges faced by indigenous persons and women with disabilities related with health, education, employment, access to resources, meaningful participation, representation and maintaining dignified life. There is no data, information and evidences on them and only narratives we hear from the ground are raised in such kinds of forums which is inadequate because our participation in such forums itself is difficult so our issues most often remains left out. There are number of reports that have highlighted that study on persons with disabilities is required like the EU report 2016, ILO Report 2016, Concluding Observation in 2018 to the government of Nepal and many more.

Keeping these urgent issues, we would like to recommend the EMRIP members and Chair to draw the attention to conduct a study on indigenous persons with disabilities issues.

So we recommend the EMRIP members

1) To conduct a upcoming thematic study on indigenous persons with disabilities and the issues affecting with them in consultation with Special Rapporteur of Indigenous Peoples and Peoples with Disabilities and Indigenous Persons with Disabilities Global Network covering the issues from all around the globe.

2) To call upon and request the EMRIP members to hold the follow up meeting with indigenous persons with disabilities members and to document the issues and intervention raised in the EMRIP session and recommend and discuss in formal and informal meeting and also recommend to the UN agencies at both regional and country level.

3) To call and integrate disability as a cross cutting issues in indigenous framework and include in indigenous navigator in related with SDG- 2030 agenda in the respective countries where the program is launched.

4) To call upon UN agencies and other International Development Partners to recognize the challenges indigenous person with disabilities face and frame strategies to mainstream them in policies and programs.

Thank you!