

## Resolution 2

### FULL ACCESSIBILITY AND BARRIER-FREE ENVIRONMENTS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

*Proposed by: Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW)*

*Seconded by: Mexican Federation of University Women (FEMU)*

**The 32<sup>nd</sup> GWI General Assembly wishes to reaffirm resolution 1969/14 and resolves that:**

**National Federations and Associations (NFAs) urge their respective governments to meet the commitments made by signatories to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) by:**

1. **establishing, implementing and monitoring national standards to promote and protect the full enjoyment of human rights by persons with disabilities in particular their right to education; and**
2. **adopting and enforcing regulations to enable all persons with disabilities to participate in society to the fullest possible extent and enjoy full equality under the law.**

#### **Suggested Plan of Action:**

1. NFAs should determine whether or not their country is a signatory to CRPD by referring to: <http://www.un.org/disabilities/latest.asp?id=169>
2. NFAs should encourage governments at all levels to adopt legislation and administrative measures designed to implement the terms of CRPD
3. NFAs should promote inclusion of persons with disabilities in developing and implementing legislation and policies and in decision-making processes that affect them
4. NFAs should advocate for accessible information about assistive technology to be readily available to persons with disabilities and in government communications
5. NFAs should promote training in the rights of CRPD for professionals, employers and staff who work with persons with disabilities

6. NFAs should monitor the provision of education to people with disabilities and advocate for the removal of any barriers thereto, whether legislative, financial, attitudinal physical or pedagogical
7. NFAs should raise awareness in the media community that it has a role and responsibility to present images of persons with disabilities that are accurate and balanced
8. NFAs should make sure their venues are barrier-free
9. NFAs should encourage their governments to track progress and collect disaggregated statistics on the education, employment etc. of persons with disabilities to track progress.

**Supporting Statement:**

*As we embark on the crucial test of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) it is imperative that our vision includes persons with disabilities, recognising their aspirations, their concerns and their contributions. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) which came into force on the third of May 2008 emphasises in Article 1 that various barriers may hinder persons with disabilities participating in society on an equal basis with others. The environmental and attitudinal barriers and discrimination these persons face in their daily lives have the dual effect of denying their human rights and reducing their capacity to contribute to the economic development of the societies in which they live. There are also systemic and attitudinal barriers that disabled persons have to face. Barriers include all barriers that prevent persons with a disability from participating in society. Visible barriers include physical obstacles such as kerbs and stairs that impede mobility. Invisible barriers include printed material without Braille or information services without access devices for the hearing-disabled.*

*The World Health Organization states that 15 per cent of the world's population, or an estimated 1 billion people, live with disabilities. They are the world's largest minority. A report from the Global Campaign for Education and Handicapped remarked on the high levels of exclusion from education of children with disabilities. NFAs are well-equipped to assist in many ways to make the world more inclusive and to eradicate discrimination against persons with disabilities.*

REFERENCES:

<http://www.ncwd-youth.info/attitudinal-barriers-for-people-with-disabilities>

<http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?id=151#sqc5>

<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs352/en/>

<http://www.un.org/disabilities/convention/conventionfull.shtml>