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**RI World Congress****27 October 2016****Plenary 7 – Question Time Debate: UN/WHO/ILO/ISSA/IDA**

CHAIR: Welcome back, everybody. Hello again. We must stop meeting like this! Thank you, thank you. I would just like you to turn around and applaud, or whatever, make a noise for our volunteers. I think our volunteers have done the most amazing job. Thank you, guys. [APPLAUSE]. You should also be using our handle on Facebook and Twitter @riworldcongress and #inclusiveworld. It is my real pleasure to introduce Sally Witcher to you who will lead this session. After a brief introduction, it is an opportunity for you to interrogate some of the most influential people that are wonderful in promoting disability rights, and I'm sure they're ready with their answers. We've got a woman who is arriving, Cieza - a car dashing her from the airport to here now, and another individual here, who was supposed to be here, Mr Hans-Horst Konkolewsky, was delayed this morning and couldn't get his flight. Without further ado, I will hand over to Sally. [APPLAUSE].

SALLY WITCHER: Thank you. Thank you all very much. Welcome to this session. It is an absolute privilege to be moderating this session as the World Congress draws to a close. As you will have gathered, my name is Sally Witcher, and, in my current job, I'm the chief executive officer of an organisation called Inclusion Scotland. [APPLAUSE]. There may be a few of them in the audience, possibly! [LAUGHTER]. What we are is a national network of disabled people and organisations led by disabled people, that span Scotland. Our aim is to ensure that decision-makers and policy-makers hear the views of disabled people ourselves and they understand the value of the lived experience that we have in getting good policy and decision-making, but we also want to go further. We want disabled people to become those policy-makers and decision-makers. [APPLAUSE]. We see disability as caused by not impairment, we see it as caused by negative attitudes, inaccessible builds, the way things are organised so it doesn't accommodate us, and things like communication methods that simply do not accommodate what we need in order to be able to understand. We take what we call a "social model approach" to disability. That is us - for us, I would say, RI stands for "rights to inclusion", not to say that rehabilitation has no role to play - of course, it does. Our focus as an organisation will be on disabled people's rights to be included. Our slogan is, "Nothing about us without us". That's enough about me, I'm sure, and about Inclusion Scotland. It's my great pleasure to

introduce probably the most distinguished and also scary panel that I have ever encountered. And I'm going to in a minute ask them to introduce themselves. So, all of these people are from organisations that have a great impact on the lives of disabled people, but we may not always know quite what they do or how that impact translates into people's everyday lives. So this is your opportunity to ask some really, I hope, difficult - in a constructive way - searching questions of people here who have a great deal of power and can do very good things to improve the lives of disabled people across the world. I'm now going to ask each of the panel members briefly to introduce themselves, and I would just remind everybody to keep speaking nice and slowly because we have translators of different kinds, and it's important that everybody here is included and understands the discussion that we have. I would like to start by inviting Colin to introduce himself, and we will work down this panel. And, basically, people are asked to say a few words about who they are, what their organisation does around disability, and what they will do in the future. Colin, over to you.

COLIN ALLEN: Thank you. Sally, for this great introduction for what we are here to do this afternoon. My name is Colin Allen, and I'm the President of the International Disability Alliance, and I'm the president of the World Federation of the Deaf. I have very much appreciated being here with you today, and to have this opportunity to share a few words with you about IDA. IDA is a network of alliances of people with disabilities and we have over 1,100 organisations around the world of people with disabilities and their families. We have eight global members, and we have six regional members. I think perhaps most of you may know who who are members of IDA, but we have a number of different organisations, and I would like to share anywhere names with you. We have the African Disability Forum; we have the Arab Organisation of Persons with Disabilities; we have the Asian Disability Forum; Downs Syndrome International; the European Disability Forum; Inclusion International; the International Federation of the Hard of Hearing; the Pacific Disability Forum; and we have Readis, which is the Latin America network of NGOs of persons with disabilities and their families; the International Federation for Spina Bifida Hydrocephalus; our 11th member is the World Blind Union, world Federation of the Deaf, World Federation of the Deaf Blind, and the world Network of Users and Survivors of psychiatry. So, as you can see, we are a very, very diverse network of people with disabilities as part of the international disability alliance. We are working together to promote the rights of persons with disabilities across the entire UN in their efforts to advance human rights, and sustainable development. We are there to support organisations of persons with disabilities, to hold their governments to account, and to advocate for change locally, nationally, and internationally. The cornerstone of IDA's work is very much the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. We are there to effect the full implementation of the UN CRPD and to ensure compliance through governments and the system through the active and co-ordinated involvement of organisations of persons with disabilities at nationally, regionally, and internationally. What is very important, of course, is our 2030

agenda, and the sustainable development goals. They're integral to our work. And we are working to promote this, and the lives of and thousands of people with disabilities across the globe. So often, we are excluded, and we find that this is a very unique experience that we can work together with this alliance of very diverse organisations and people, and it gives us the authority to represent people with disabilities at a global level, and within the UN system, both working in New York, and Geneva, with those systems. We've been asked to explain what we think IDA has achieved. And I think it is very complex actually to explain what we've achieved because we have worked exceptionally hard over the past years, and will continue to do so in a very complex arena. Of course, we have dedicated much time and energy to the CRPD but we are working to ensure that the human rights council are sensitive to our needs. We work with the treaty bodies, and we've been acting in supporting the special rapporteur on the rights of concerns with disabilities. We've worked to support organisations and countries that are going through the universal periodic review as part of the CRPD, and liaise with various UN agencies. The UN partnership on the rights of persons with disabilities, UN development programme, UNICEF, UN Women, and looking back, we have also worked to support DPOs to enable them, to empower them to develop capacity, to participate on the dialogue on, for example, Agenda 2030. I was proud to represent 23 different organisations in the high-level political forum which was looking at Agenda 2030, and I think that we were very successful in advocating for all of those needs. We made 18 interventions. People with disabilities were visible; we were part of Agenda 2030. It was very clear it was a crucial, vital, experience for us to be seen and to take the lead in dialogue in relation to Agenda 2030. We look at supporting organisations nationally, regionally, and internationally in how they can contribute to dialogue on this very important topic. And our approach is fundamentally based on human rights. Nothing about us without us is the heart of what we do. Thank you. [APPLAUSE].

SALLY WITCHER: Thank you very much. Colin. Could I, please, we started late, I know the panellists have a huge amount they want to say, but could I ask you to keep it to three minutes if you possibly can which will Lou more time for questions. Charlotte?

CHARLOTTE MCCLAIN-NHLAPO: My name is Charlotte McClain-Nhlapo and I'm the global adviser to the World Bank Group. Many of you know the World Bank has worked on disability inclusion in the last three decades. I will be the first to acknowledge that the Bank's work on disability inclusion has ebbed and closed. During the Wolfeneden years, we hired an advisory disabilities adviser. We held the first international conference on disability-inclusive development. In the following years, the Bank commissioned a number of very important reports that really began to shine a spotlight on issues of development and disability. One of those reports was a report on disability and HIV and AIDS. Another important activity of that time was the establishment of the global partnership for disability and development. It was a platform of development workers and disability experts, and it was set up to share

ideas and to build the knowledge base around disability inclusion. The Bank has also, over the years, used its convening power to see disability as a development issue. At an operational level, in line of the twin goals of the World Bank - which are reducing poverty and boosting shared prosperity - the Bank has supported a number of grants to fund disability-inclusive development, and I thought I would just give you an example of what some of these grants have funded. One would be a project in Malawi that looked at inclusive education; another one would be the development of sign-language dictionary in Vietnam; in Cambodia, we supported a programme that looked at early assessment for children with disabilities, and the placement of those children into regular schools. In Rwanda and Burundi, the bank looked at a project that was building accessible housing for previous combatants, social protection, and many of the different sectors has looked to include disabilities. I could go on on that point, but I only have three minutes. At an analytical level, which is an important piece of work the bank does, the bank, in collaboration with WHO, issued in 2011 the World Disability Report - an important report bringing together all the information on disability globally, and, as I said, WHO, I must have had a spell because Ella Cross walked in the room and she comes from WHO. Welcome, Ella Cross. That was an important piece of analytical works, but not the only important piece of analytical work the Bank has worked on. We have a number of internal sector pieces we've looked at. Most recently, we have a sector note on accessible transportation; we have a flagship report on social inclusion woven into disability throughout the report; we have a very interesting mapping of disabled people's organisations in Indonesia; and, again, a number of seminal reports have emerged in the Bank over the last couple of years. So, moving to where we are today, I just wanted to focus on that for a bit. So, the Bank kind of regrouped and appointed, for the second time, a disability adviser - and that would be me - and I've designed my work in terms of three pillars: the first pillar is to mainstream - to provide technical assistance to project teams, to teams that are designing projects that the bank supports, and to provide good examples on what inclusion would look like. A good example of that would be a project that I've currently been engaged in which is a project for education for all in India, which, in that regard, I have provided technical assistance specifically on what that means to include children with disabilities. Another very different project would be a project in Bhutan where the Bank team is supporting the design of accessible bus stops. And then something also very different is a project in Uruguay, where we are looking at supporting our teams on accessible tourism, so we covered the breadth of what the bank does. On a policy level, I've also been engaged in supporting a very important review of the World Bank's policies, or the World Bank safeguards, and I advised on the development of the new environmental and social safeguards. I'm really excited to announce that, in the current framework, we now have explicit reference to persons with disabilities. But not only do we have reference to persons with disabilities, we have reference to the importance of universal access, and also on the need to conduct all consultations in an accessible form. So these are some big achievements I think that have been made at

the bank in the last couple of years. In regard to my own immediate work, I'm leading - I'm currently leading the development of the first-ever disability-inclusive and accountability framework for the World Bank. This will be a document that pulls together the thinking of the World Bank and projects the direction in which we want to go for disability inclusion. I want to say that - I want to assure you that the principles of this framework come directly from the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and that forms the basis of our framework. I will be travelling from here to Kenya, Zambia, and Bangladesh to have consultations at country level with bank teams, but, most importantly, with disabled people themselves to ensure that their voice is heard in the process of developing this framework. Now, the Bank has also issued a non-discrimination directive, and this is a directive that really speaks to how the bank's internal processes work, and it speaks explicitly to the issue of disability. My second pillar is building the evidence base, and here I'm looking at drilling down and curating evidence for specific sectors. My sense is currently at the World Bank, it is not making the argument why we should be including persons with disabilities, the issue now is how do we do that? Having technical notes and briefs, having policy guidance to share with staff is important, so I'm currently working on a note on inclusive education, on mental health and development, on early childhood and disability, on accessible wash, and so forth. It's important for me to recognise that, in the last World Development Report, which was on the digital world, we were able to introduce into that specific reference to the need to have accessible ICT, and that for us was a very important advancement. So my third pillar, Sally, is to build partnerships with key stakeholders. Because we know that much of the knowledge resides outside of the bank, and, so, having strategic partners and fostering strong and useful partnerships is a big part of my work, and I'm happy to say that, in the last - just in the last year since I've been back, I've been able to enter into three formal partnerships. So, looking ahead, bank will work to implement the disability inclusive and accountability strategy that I referenced earlier on. We will be looking to ensure that the non-discrimination standards that I mentioned in the form of the new environmental and social safeguards are actually implemented, and that is going to require from the bank side a scaling-up in terms of the Bank's own knowledge base around disability inclusion. It's going to require us to curate and to share more constructively best practices on how we do disability inclusion, and then I'm hoping that we can sit back in a couple of years and look back at how we've actually progressed, and that I think we will be able to do as we begin to use some of the indicators that stem from the STG process. So, in closing, I would like to say that the World Bank is committed to disability-inclusive development, and stands ready to address the challenges - and I do want to emphasise the challenges of operationalising some of these frameworks. I look forward to seeing the Bank's portfolio grow to we are looking at 100% disability projects, and all projects are designed and taken into account of persons with disabilities themes. Thank you very much.

SALLY WITCHER: Thank you, Charlotte. I think we will come to you last, time to collect your thoughts. Welcome. Stefan, you're next.

STEFAN TRÖMEL: Good afternoon, everybody. I'm Stefan Trömel, based in Geneva. The ILO is the UN specialised agency, the oldest UN specialised agency, celebrating our 100th anniversary in a couple of years, and our area is particular employment and social protection. We have a slogan that I think defines quite nicely what our organisation is about, which is "decent work", and, in fact, from a disability perspective, what we are trying to ensure is that this means decent work for people with disabilities. Of course, we are fully committed to the UN CRPD, the act was involved with the relevant articles - in particular Article 27 on employment and Article 28 on social protection. From a conceptual point of view, we are fully embracing the human rights model of disability, and we are promoting both inclusive employment, definitely, but also inclusive vocational training, something which is not happening everywhere. For us, it was very important that the 2030 development agenda, sustainable development goals, contain good reference to people with disabilities, stickily in SDG8, which is focusing on decent work. It's important to have specific reference with people with disabilities there, and that is leading to more attention to the issue of having better employment stats on people with disabilities in the area on which we also work.

In terms of our main achievements, I would like to focus on one specific issue: we do a good number of different things, but I think there is one where I think we are doing something which is generating quite a good level of attention, and this is the work we are doing to engage more systematically the private sector in the employment of people with disabilities. We are doing that through the ILO Global and Business Network, a network we are co-ordinating we launched in 2010, which brings together large global companies that have good disability inclusion policies and national disability and business networks, also in particular in developing countries that bring together local companies as well as branches of global companies in different countries. We adopted a charter last year, a charter on global business and disability, to show the different areas in which we think the private sector needs to improve. It's important our work with the private sector, and the way they're doing this, basically, is we see ourselves not as a standard-setter, the ILO is a standard-setter in other other areas - we've a convention on disability from 1983, a bit old, I must admit - but, in this area, we see ourselves as a facilitator. What we have learned working directly with the private sector, is that, in order to engage other companies in the employment of people with disabilities, the strongest advocate and ambassador are the companies that are explaining to their peers why they're doing, what is the business case, what are the business advantages, and how they're doing it. Companies that are within our network might not be very familiar with the UN Convention on the rights of people with disabilities, but they're still doing very interesting work, and looking for people with disabilities for their talents and skills, and I think from that point of view, it is fully consistent with the

UN Convention, although perhaps, perhaps they're not so familiar with the actual wording. I think when we need to reach outside our disability world, we need to find ways through which to build bridges with other colleagues that are very important, our stakeholders, that might not necessarily work within the same framework as we do. I think it is a challenge, but it is quite an exciting challenge. And, for the ILO, its particular relevance to work with the private sector in developing countries, because, in developing countries that might not be so relevant here in Scotland, but in developing countries, thinking people with disabilities can work in the private sector is almost unheard of. It is not the expectation. The expectation is that people with disabilities, if at all, can get a livelihood, it's in the informal economy, through self-employment, usually quite basic survival activities. The whole system is organised around that - vocational training is organised like that, the expectation of people with disabilities, and their families is very much based on that. If we are able as we are starting to be able to show through specific examples of companies in Indonesia, China, now Zak beak, that the avenue is there, we think that's a game-change, we think that's an eye-opener for everybody in society. So, we are in terms of our huge prospects, we will continue to get the private sector engaged. We are launching a network on - in Bangladesh in December. Today, there is a meeting in Beijing with a good number of companies. The Chinese disabled people's federation, and a few other NGOs, as well as the Ministry to try to convince an increasing number of Chinese companies and branches of global companies operating in China to come together and establish a business and stability network in China - I think a very exciting opportunity. I will finish with one more area which we've within working on with the World Bank and other organisations. It's on social protection. What we are seeing right now - I attended a meeting yesterday in the ILO - there is a wave of social protection initiatives in middle- and low-income countries. The message from ILO is at every country in the world, there should be a minimum level provided to every citizen in developing countries. We ensure within the disability team that these initiatives to establish social-protection floors are inclusive of people with disabilities. Sally, I leave it there. [APPLAUSE].

2030. So there Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities so there UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities so UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

CHAIR: Thank you. Now over to our next Speaker.

NEW SPEAKER: I work for the council of Europe and I am heading the unit for Persons the rights of Persons with Disabilities.

It gives me great pleasure to be with you and to look at the Council of Europe with disabilities, and that is a pan organisation with 47 Member States that include 28 new Member States as well and my organisation promotes, protects and monitors the implementation of Human Rights for all including for person's with disabilities, who are entitled to have access and enjoy the full range of Human Rights and these rights are

safe, safe guarded by the (inaudible) and other Human Rights instruments, what has that met so for us? In April 2006 the council of Europe action plan was adopted by Member States with the express goal of improving the qualification of life of Persons with Disabilities in Europe.

Last year we took stock of progress and found the achievements in your Member States over the past 10 years are considerable and they include changes in legislation, service provision, physical environment, and progress towards challenging stereotypes and changing attitudes and needs regarding the Persons with Disabilities.

We understand that challenges remain, notably the implementation gap between standards and the reality in the Member States.

What does this mean in everyday life? It means that the Persons with Disabilities are still institutionalised against their wish, deprived of their right to vote and exposed to higher risks of violence and abuse, and deprived of the rights to arts and sports and discriminated when it comes to mainstream education and employment.

Based on these findings the new disability strategy of the Council of Europe 2017 to 2023 that is now in the process of being adopted shifts the focus from disability to ability. There are 5 rights priority areas: equality, and non-discrimination, awareness raising, accessibility, equal recognition before the law, and finally freedom from exploitation, violence and abuse.

Ladies and Gentlemen, while it is easier to recognise and work towards removing legal or physical barriers, it's much harder to tackle our assumptions, our prejudices and stereotypes whether it's about collecting reliable data or providing independent expertise and targeted analysis or still providing advice and training, the Council of Europe aims at improving the everyday life of Persons with Disabilities

Thank you for attention. (Applause).

CHAIR: Okay. Thank you very much. Now over to our next Speaker.

NEW SPEAKER: I work at the International Affairs Department, the China Disabled Persons' Federation and this Organisation was established in 1988 and in carrying forward humanitarian approaches, this Organisation is responsible for representing the interests of Persons with Disabilities and also protecting the legal rights of Persons with Disabilities and also by the Chinese Government it offers administration work, or disability work.

The Chinese Government attaches great importance to implementation of the UN Convention of the rights of Persons with Disabilities: much progress has been achieved on disability issues including legal protection, inclusive education, and accessibility etc.

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention of the rights of Persons with Disabilities.

In July, the Chinese Government organised a grand event to celebrate the adoption of the CRPD, and during that time, the General Secretary of the UN Mr Ban-ki Moon attended the Conference and highly recognised the achievements made by other Chinese Government. Also, this is a political commitment for the Chinese Government, to implement the Convention of the rights of person's with Disabilities in a pragmatic way, following the spirit of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

In the early morning today, Ladies and Gentlemen, I stood out side of the hotel where I stay and I saw my colleagues walking or running in the fresh air. I wanted to admire them as a person with a disability. One of my best friends, a lady with polio was among them. She got physically disabled when she was a baby due to the polio virus; she received rehabilitation in my home town.

And she can now walk a long a distance. Amazingly the further she walks, the stronger her leg becomes. But for me the situation is a little different and my parents could not afford the cost of the rehabilitation when I was a child. I had to walk with my hand supporting my leg.

It is important to have rehabilitation for people with disabilities and how crucial the early indication and intervention is for children with disabilities

Rehabilitation is closely connected with assistive devices. Now I can walk comparatively longer distance with the support of my stick.

The differences: do you know when I first used the stick several years ago? I was so excited. I said in my mind, "Wow, you people without disabilities can walk in such an easy way", so it was amazing and incredible for me but much easier for you.

Rehabilitation builds life. Today the meaning of rehabilitation has already expanded from traditional medical rehabilitation to social and Human Rights based rehabilitation including services in the areas of health, employment, education, and social services.

The paradigm shift is to look at equal living and of Persons with Disabilities in an inclusive way.

My dear friend the world has been entering the so-called fourth industrial revolution' it's linked to DNA-related research and robotics breakthrough and machines.

There are new issues now that no-one could have ever anticipated ten years ago. In travel, technologies and innovations have changed the meaning of rehabilitation. The so-called 3-D printing technology is expected to bring an entirely new way of rehabilitating Persons with Disabilities.

This suggests that a disabled person may routinely have stronger parts and the replacement parts may be even better than the original in many respects.

So we pioneer the scientists and engineers on further study in life and to look at rehabilitation, and to produce more or further innovation. But innovation for others to live a better way one day and that is my dream and with my brothers and sisters with disabilities.

Thank you very much (Applause).

CHAIR: Thank you.

Okay and then last but not least - apologise in advance for mis-pronouncing your names.

NEW SPEAKER: Yes everything was against me being here today, so take me being here as a sign of importance for me to be here with all of you.

I am the person for rehabilitation and disability at the World Health Organisation.

Disability has always been an important agenda for the WHO and one of our most important products in the disability arena, and a game-changer in the field. As already has been mentioned, the world report on disability that we published in 2011 together with the World Bank.

Regarding the current and future plans, the first word that summaries well how we promote inclusion in disability is the word "Universality" and these are for 3 reasons.

Universality in services: We are working closely with countries to strengthen the health system so that rehabilitation services and assistive products are provided to all who need them and this includes Persons with Disabilities but also our ageing population and also persons with acute and chronic conditions.

Universality, also because we are working VERY hard to see rehabilitation services and assistive products as part of universal health, and this means that persons receive rehabilitation and assistive products if they need them, if they need those service's without having to become poor because of these needs.

Thirdly, universality: because it's also the approach that we have to collect data on disability.

We don't see disability as yes/no matter; or as disabled/not disabled but a continuum. And therefore when we collect data on disability and we collect a lot of data, we collect data from everyone, not only to compare Persons with Disabilities, but to attain information about the specific needs of everyone in the disability continuum.

The second word besides universality that summarises well our current plans is the word, "Inclusion" itself.

WHO is strengthening community-based rehabilitation and not only as a rehabilitation services provided in the community, as I have already said, that we are doing very intensively but also promoting community-based disability inclusive development which is the strategy that focuses specifically on Persons with

Disabilities in the communities so that they participate in society on an equal basis with others 0 so thank you.

(Applause)

CHAIR: Thank you.

Thank you. You have now heard from all our panellists and now it's your turn.

What I would like to ask you is if you have a question you would like to put to may be somebody specific on the panel, or may be all the panellists; it's your choice. Could you indicate or could you say who you are and the microphone will come to you, I hope promptly. Say who you are and your organisation, and then briefly ask your question.

I will take two or three questions at a time. So who would like to start?

(Indicates).

FROM THE FLOOR: Good evening everybody. I am Sharon and I from Nigeria. My question is directed to the panel - you have rightly mentioned that in developing countries usually it's almost impossible to find Persons with Disabilities in the private sector, which is very true, because earlier this year I tried to promote employment for disabilities in the private sector and it been really challenging.

I think one of the limiting factors is the absence of statistical data on employment statistics for Persons with Disabilities what you have mentioned.

So I would like to know are what are the efforts that ILO is taking to help these countries to generate such statistics, you know? You know for evidence-based engagement, and if there is any present research ongoing I would like to know about it.

CHAIR: Thank you. Another question?

(Indicates) Somebody at the back may be?

FROM THE FLOOR: I am Kim and I represent the Royal College of speech and language therapists in Scotland and I am representing a group of people that want to make Scotland the first inclusive communication nation in the world, with a view to creating an inclusive communication world. The people that are in our group include people who have had a stroke, people who have dementia, people who have learning difficulties, not just those people who rightly, well, who have, sorry, hearing and visual impairment.

I wonder from the Panel what can your Organisations do to drive the creation of an inclusive communication world for all forms of communication support needs?

CHAIR: Yes thank you, Kim.

May be one more. Just at the front; the front right (Indicates).

Go on. Sorry it's a forest of hands.

FROM THE FLOOR: Yes, thank you very much. I am from Bangladesh. Thank you for your ILO presentation. The Article 27, about the rights of persons with disabilities, I want to share some experience in my country: after an incident, ILO took some initiative to develop the commercial industry and private sector and they worked a lot.

This year I visited the industry also and I motivated the company owner to employ Persons with Disabilities but all the factories are still very inaccessible.

So they will say "no you can't".

Regarding business and disability and the ILO: when I came to know they introduced this, I went to the office and this was with the Bangladesh Federation (name...) and I said I was from a network, and that I wanted to be included in this network and they said "No, we already include disabled people". I came to know they are a charity and NGO-based people.

So, my question: as part of the UN Convention, it's been mentioned that participation of disabled people's organisations is very much important. So this is my question: are you going to ensure participation of DPOs in this business and the Disability Forum?

Thank you.

CHAIR: Thank you very much.

So just to quickly recap, we have a question about the difficulties of employing disabled people in the private sector and the absence of statistical data, and what the ILO is doing about that.

We have a question about inclusive communications and how people on the panel, their organisations, are driving that agenda forward.

And then we have a question, again, about disabled people working in the private sector.

I thought that was a very interesting and very helpful illustration on how you get a gap between the very good intentions the reports and so on, but, on the ground, people's experience may not be quite the same.

So it's how do you join those two up so that happens in terms of rhetoric, in terms of policy, and strategy; because it really does make a difference to the lives of disabled people on the ground.

I think they were the clear issues and I think Stefan there are issues for you to address and then others if you would like to answer?

STEFAN TROMEL: Yes, thank you Sally. I will start with the colleague who had comments, from Nigeria.

I would say in our conversations with companies I don't think that there is an obsession about having better employment data. I think what they want to see is what is in it for them: what are the benefits for companies employing people? That is what we are very much trying to build them. What we are doing in countries like Nigeria to see if we can get companies at local level and see a few compatriots in the global world or branches that could have good inclusion of disability policies at a global level, add then use ambassadors towards other; that is our experience how to move things forward. It's not an easy process, it's a slow process, but let us not be too optimistic but it's working in the specific peer to peer process.

In the same time we are talking to Governments, basically the message we get from the private sector in many developing countries, you have convinced you we should employ Persons with Disabilities but it's difficult for us to find those they have the right skills. Public employment are not working, and they are probably, or very few employment services that can help match disabled people and companies and so we are saying there is a window for opportunity and engagement but if we can't altogether make it better for disabled people to make it easier for each other, we might miss the opportunity.

Very much we talk to Government and we want to change legislation to make it binding to employ Persons with Disabilities, that is fine, but are you employing Persons with Disabilities in the private sector and they look embarrassingly and say, "Well, not really".

Thank you for raising attention to that.

Bangladesh: that is an interesting experience. The ILO has been looking at the supply and demand side and we have been trying to ensure that more people with disabilities have marketing skills, and in a number of industries but we have tried to work with companies through the Bangladesh Employee Federation as mentioned to ensure on the one hand we would have more people with the right skills and we would have more companies interested to employ a Persons with Disabilities but many of them, as was rightly said, still barriers to access to the premises and all that.

That is working, but again it's starting. The network under The Federation will be launched in December and it's a few companies trying to show the way in Bangladesh but I think it's important to build on them.

That goes back to the question you were asking me the International Disability Alliance supported by Colin, where we definitely think there is a role for disability organisations in such a network but at same time also, and I come from a disability world myself, I am also aware that very often disability organisations are not able to partner effectively with companies. Organisations very often have a very strong and advocacy role but this time of advocacy work does not always make you an effective partner to the private sector. I think it's possible to do both: a strong advocate to the Government and an effective partner to the private sector but I think there is an effort that needs to be done among all of us to ensure that constructive relationships are built between the private sector and disability organisations.

Thank you.

CHAIR: Yes, Stefan, may I quickly pick you up on that?

CHAIR: You're talking about the relations between the disabled people's organisations and the - sector, and I think we would all agree that it's important that that is constructive, but it's perhaps not just for the disabled people's organisations to change the way that they engage, but also for the private sector to look at how it is engaging, and finding ways that takes everybody to be making adjustments. Don't just look to disabled people. There are bar yes, sir - I think the example given about the access. You can give people all the skills you like, but, if you can't get through the door physically, that's the end of that. [APPLAUSE].

STEFAN TRÖMEL: I fully agree with. Let me give you an example: I've worked on employment in Spain in the larger Spanish disability foundation for many years. We organised a lot of events on the employment of people with disabilities because it is one of the biggest challenges for disabled people in Spain. The first three or four years, we were organise organising small events without any company present. So we were there among disabled people and disability organisations, making criticisms like the one you said, and we said, "Perhaps we should change the way. Perhaps we should try to organise a meeting with employers in the premises of the employer organisation." We need to put in each other's shoes. That goes definitely both ways. Sometimes, employers also don't put themselves in the shoes of disabled people, and disabled and disabled organisations need to put themselves in the shoes of employers. What is hindering employers to employ people with disabilities? Much more dialogue is needed to understand each other. That's the only way forward. At the end of the day am employers are the ones who will be employing or not people with disabilities.

CHAIR: Would any other panellist like to comment?

COLIN ALLEN: Thank you, Sally, for letting me come in here. I just wanted to add something in relation to people with disabilities, and it is really two arrests, I think, highlighted for me. One is that of attitude, and the other is that of sympathy. We have to learn how to change our responsibilities to have a more positive attitude, because we're not looking for sympathy. So we have to change. I think there's some confusion here. We need to establish our human rights approach, and we should not be looking at a medical perspective. There are two ways, I think, for the business world to look at things, but we need to look ourselves as a disability movement, we need to engage in a positive attitude towards the business community, and, sometimes, we have to stop and say to ourselves, "It's not please pity us, we are disabled, help us," no, this is not the way. We must stop engaging in this kind of approach. We have to offer something positive. We have to make the world better in conjunction with others. [APPLAUSE].

CHAIR: Thank you. Okay, I don't know if anybody would like to pick you to up the point about inclusive communication? Would somebody?

NEW SPEAKER: We have an impactful programme of hearing loss where we promote alternative ways of communication based strongly, and not only sign language, and of course looking at -- looking at the cause behind the hearing loss. One of the tools that been extremely, extremely powerful in this programme are the themes in the World Hearing Day. So I think that could be also one of the approaches what I was thinking after your comment of promoting an inclusive communication wall, using the World Hearing Day from WHO, what nowadays is really having a tremendous impact around the world in order to promote that, so we can continue discussing afterwards.

CHAIR: Thank you. We are very, very pushed for time here.

NEW SPEAKER: I would like to comment regarding the communication. The action plan we are currently adopting - hopefully adopted by the end of this year - one of the priority areas that I mentioned was on accessibility and specifically, we would like to work on access to information, information technology, and communication sector, so this is an upcoming area of work for us, and therefore please reach out to me if you would like to know more. Maybe we can find a way to co-operate. Thank you.

CHARLOTTE MCCLAIN-NHLAPO: I would like to respond to your question around impact. As we develop this disability inclusion framework for the bank which, as I say, will be the first ever, we are planning to design into that feedback loops, and that's really important, because it is about accountability, and the accountability and regards to this framework is accountability of bank staff in relation to inclusion. It will eventually be broader than just the Bank, but it is an internally facing document that's going to look at accountability, and I think that will assist us in looking at impact, because accountability will be front and centre.

CHAIR: And feedback from disabled people?

CHARLOTTE MCCLAIN-NHLAPO: Feedback from different stakeholders.

AKIKO ITO: Related to the inclusive communication, I would like to offer my comments two points. The first is one outstanding feature of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is the provision of reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities. I think that the content of reasonable accommodation includes the communicating in the accessible way, including sign language, which will be recognised is the language for the deaf people, and also as today we have the real time captioning. It's much easier for people to communicate with each other in an accessible way. It is the first point. My second point is that the - it is related to the blind people. The Marrakech treaty now, more than 20 state parties had already ratified the Marrakech treaty. Really, you know, it is a fact that the intellectual property law really prevents blind people from reading books and documents in an accessible way, so we hope that now the Marrakech treaty has already entered into force after the 20 state parties ratifying eight, so we hope more state parties, or countries, could have an active consideration on ratifying or

signing, or ratifying the Marrakech treaty to more people, especially the blind people who could benefit from the inclusive or we call it accessible communication. Thank you. [APPLAUSE].

CHAIR: Okay, very quickly, we are very pushed for time, but could I just have some more questions from people who haven't spoken yet?

FROM THE FLOOR: Is this thing working? Yes. Tony Robinson, Inclusion Scotland. I happen to be blind, and I note the interests remarks from our colleague just there. We have had talk about physical access, we've talked about access to information. What hasn't been mentioned is information for access. Now, I'm a blind person, and whilst the internet helps me to some extent, I still have problems with (a) finding that these wonderful buildings exist, (b), where are they, (c), how do I get there? (d), what do they offer me? (e) how do I obtain or use that? We still have some way to go in this regard. I just leave that to you for comment.

CHAIR: Thank you very much. Okay. Just there. Yes, go for that.

FROM THE FLOOR: My name is Jed, and I work for a Scottish disabled people's organisation based in Dumfries and Galloway. I moved there in 1983 to make a difference to disabled people's lives. In February 2005, I became disabled myself. In yesterday's plenary, a speaker asked for ideas for developing the narrative around disability. Our movement slogan, "Nothing about us without us". We now have new concepts, co-production, partnership working. Our local authority social work department support this by holding events whereby organisations are brought together to find solutions to progress the way forward. However, in my experience, to find disabled people themselves at these events is very rare. I view this as social work departments paying lip service to nothing about us without us. For me, personally, this translates to nothing about me without me being a myth, or, at best, sporadic.

CHAIR: Thank you.

FROM THE FLOOR: I won't take long! When I became disabled, I also became abled. Only my potential had changed. My assets, resources and strengths had increased. For example, my focus and direction is solid; my determination to achieve my goals has increased ten-fold; my capacity to push boundaries and make a difference, make the most of each moment has soared. We should have a new slogan: nothing about us without us leading it. [APPLAUSE].

CHAIR: Thank you. Sorry, we really are out of time, so I'm afraid I'm going to have to ask you to leave that there, and, just very quickly take one other question at the front here. You've been waiting.

FROM THE FLOOR: Hello. Can you hear me? Can you hear me? Ah, hello. My name is Julie Pitt is and I'm here to give voice to those in prison. The UN CRPD has improved at ground level the possibilities for people with disabilities worldwide. However, at a recent input session at Disability Rights UK where I attended in regard to this, and feedback to the government, I again found that these people in prison with disabilities are forgotten. They are truly second-class citizens. Due to their crimes, they are written off, and human

rights are ignored. What, if anything, can your organisations do to help this subset of the disabled and wider communities? Because inclusive cannot just be for those we like. [APPLAUSE].

CHAIR: Thank you very much. There's a gentleman here who has had his hand up, and who I would like to give the last question to, please.

FROM THE FLOOR: I'm a health care professional, and I'm a member of Inclusion Scotland. Now, during the last - we have hired international experts on disability, and the excellent work that they do. As a health care professional for more than three decades, I have had the experience of caring for people with a wide range of disabilities. In spite of all the international declarations by the United Nations, the human rights commission, and in the UK, the Equality Act 2010, we continue to see that disabled people are being discriminated against this all aspects of their life, which sometimes occurs in various disguises, and it's very difficult to recognise. We want to know what this Congress can do to eliminate this discrimination.

CHAIR: Thank you, okay. I'm going to ask each of the panellists to answer which one of the questions they want to answer and make their closing statement. We need to get through this in five minutes. That is your mission, okay? Let's start this end. Keep it really short, everybody.

AKIKO ITO: I would like to offer my comment related to the involvement of persons with disabilities or the organisation of persons with disabilities. And also, let us start from the drafting of also the adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. As you remember, at the beginning, one outstanding figure while drafting the Rights on Persons with Disabilities, is to get persons with disabilities and organisations of persons with disabilities involved in the drafting of the Convention. Now we can say that much of the concepts or advanced ideas were integrated or included into the content of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Also, while reviewing the implementation of the state parties and the implementation of the rights of persons with disabilities, each time we encourage the organisation of persons with disabilities to get involved in the activities, especially the we encourage them to offer some additional or so-called shadow report, just it is much easier for the committee members on the persons - with the delegation by the state party. And it is based on the observation, I can say that more important goals have been played by the persons with disabilities through organisations of persons with disability.

CHAIR: Thank you very much.

NEW SPEAKER: I just wanted to say there is still a long way to go. I closely work in the same directorate with people who deal with the trafficking victims, with violence against women, LGBTI, Roma, and youth issues, and, let me tell you, persons with disabilities, when it comes to discrimination, we are unfortunately present in every sector, and, what we find which makes a difference is that getting together different people from different layers of society, different organisations, I deal with governments of 47 member countries, but we also have youth organisations, we have all the major umbrella organisations for the

rights of persons with disabilities, and trying to have a dialogue and have a common project, I think we can change one person at a time, one step in front of the other step, so it takes time, but I still believe that even though we have a long way to go, we will reach the destination. Thank you.

CHAIR: Thank you.

STEFAN TRÖMEL: I would like to comment on the issue of involvement of disability organisations. I think there is progress in terms of consultation in disability-specific initiatives. I think the big challenge we have, and I see that in the work. ILO, when we consult on general social protection, general employment, disability organisations are not sitting at the table. They're not being invited or even being asked to be invited. I would like to take the words of the special - when she is saying it's important to say nothing about us without us, but she's basically saying we need to think about a slogan also about "nothing about us", because everything that is happening - sorry, "No" nothing without us" because everything that is happening is relevant for people with disabilities.

CHARLOTTE MCCLAIN-NHLAPO: I'm optimistic. I think we've moved tremendously. There's been progress. In the last ten years, we've seen the entry of the force of the UN CRPD. We've seen new global diplomacy that is inclusive. From where I'm sitting, I'm beginning to see more. Yes, there is a lot more we can do, but I think we're in a good moment in time right now where we can, if collectively, gain traction to ensure that disability is included. I think - included. I think slogans like, "Leave no-one behind", this is an opportune point to be engaged and stay part of the process.

CHAIR: Colin?

COLIN ALLEN: This is perhaps more of a more general comment to share with you and maybe you can take it home to think about it. I obviously wanted to say the things that my previous colleagues have already said, but I think at a global level, as I said, we have a very successful partnership of global members within the International Disability Alliance, and your contribution to us is essential, but we need to be working at national level as well as at international level, and we need to be working with governments. We need to focus on that. The other thing I want to add as a deaf sign language user, I think we must respect people with disabilities, and actually empower all people with disabilities. Because DPOs are disabled person's organisations. They are the experts, they are the people who know. They are the people that can contribute to ensuring that society is essential for us to be part of the world - nothing about us without us? If you really believe that for people with disabilities or DPOs? This quote "nothing about us without us" is lost. You must take up the reins and be active yourselves. I would only say, as I have said and others have said in the past, we have to change attitude. Change attitude within ourselves as disabled people, and be part of the human rights movement; be part of the dialogue on STGs, to lead our lives within the world. Thank you.

CHAIR: Colin, thank you very much. Finally?

NEW SPEAKER: So I think that we have to change the narrative to an inclusive - we have done a great job in the first ten years' convention in terms of advocating for rights. And I think it is time to change this narrative towards advocating for services. And this requires chains of narrative because that will imply we advocate for services to all which is very much linked to all is about us. The impact will be larger.

CHAIR: Thank you. If I may finally say, I think it's been an interesting but short discussion. What strikes me is the fundamental and central role for everybody on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities the challenges of turning those rights into reality, of turning strategies and reports into the difference on the ground to disabled people's daily lives. But I suppose what strikes me most of all is that we need to be talking to each other. This event has been full of people with different ideas, different approaches, and we may not all agree with each other - we may have very different things to say - but we need to come together, we need to learn from each other, and we need to hear each other. That is the only way. Ultimately, we all share the same commitment, and that is to make a more inclusive and a better world for disabled people. That's all I wish to say. Thank you very much for all your questions. Thank you, panellists. And thank you, Stephen.

CHAIR: Thank you very much indeed, Panel; it's an amazing depth of knowledge, and I could ask you to head stage right, that would be wonderful. I am getting grief from all sorts.

Good. We'll go ahead with the Power 50. Pipers: they are coming in.

So quickly while these pictures are floating through, we commissioned a group of disabled people to look outside of the UK to identify the 50 most influential disabled people around the world and we didn't know what they would come up with, but they came up with these organisations and we throw the down the gauntlet to Denmark who will host the next International Congress, but these people were identified as the most influential disabled people.

(Applause)

(Pipers play)

CHAIR: Thank you so much for a fantastic performance there. We were welcomed to Scotland by two older Pipers and we have been starting to say good bye to Scotland; we should all thank Scotland for putting on this tremendous event, so thank you Scotland. (Applause) (music by Pipers).

So in bringing this amazing event to an end, we are going to welcome our Chinese delegation who are about to arrive and join us having brief conversations outside. I don't know what you thought about the power 50 but quite a few influential people there and I am sure you have your own ideas, people from different countries have done some fantastic things, so at least in bringing this chapter/story to close I would like to invite our out-going President to say a few words.

Jan.

JAN MONSBAKKEN: Distinguished guests, dear delegates, it's a great pleasure for me on behalf of Rehabilitation International to have the opportunity to speak to you at this closing ceremony.

This meeting, Conference, here in Edinburgh, has, for me, been a very special moment since I am leaving office - in about 10 minutes. It's a great relief, of course, to leave, but it's been a very successful way of leaving the office, as the IR President.

First of all, I would like to thank the Shaw Trust of being the organiser of this VERY important event here in Edinburgh, Scotland

(Applause).

By doing that I will be happy if Roy, Stephen and Andrew who are already here, if they could join me on stage.

(Applause).

To save time, I will speak as you walk. I will start with thanking Roy so much for making this Event being possible.

I approached Shaw Trust about 3 years ago asking them if it was possible for the Shaw Trust to organise our next World Congress and, relatively quickly, Roy answered back to me that, "Yes, we can".

I will also thank Trustees of the Shaw Trust also for entrusting Roy, me and others to have this event here in Edinburgh. I think it's always risky to have a World Congress, but they took the risk and I think they need a grand applause because they took the risk (Applause).

So without the courage of Roy and the Trustees there would have been no Congress. There would not have been any Congress if it had not been for Stephen either, because Stephen took the role of Director for the Programme and he has carried out a tremendous volunteer work to make this come true. So give a big, big hand for Roy. (Applause).

I would like to add, since he is the Programme Director, that from my point of view and from everybody that has been speaking to me during the Conference, everybody has been very delighted about the content the professional input during this Congress.

And, since IR, we are a multi-stakeholder organisation, organising people from service providers, like the Shaw Trust, and disabled people's organisations and professional organisations, and even Government agencies, I think we have been able to put together a programme based on this multi-stakeholder perspective. There have been so many good speeches from service providers and DPOs and from professionals and I think that it has been wonderful with Rehabilitation International.

The third I would like to thank is the Shaw Trust, and Andrew who has been heading the activities for this Event. From my point of view, I think he has done brilliantly (Applause).

I will also like to take this opportunity to thank the staff in the Convention centre for taking so good care of us here. This is a fabulous place. But the place itself can be reproduced everywhere, but the people that have been serving here can't be reproduced, so thank you so much (Applause).

We can't forget about volunteers. There have been so many volunteers working so hard to make this Congress successful, so give a big hand to all the volunteers (Applause).

But, without the speakers there would have been no Conference. So, I think we all also should be grateful for all the speakers coming from many continents to come to here to teach us what is new with rehabilitation and disability. So give a big hand to the speakers (Applause).

And to make a successful Congress we need sponsors and exhibitors, so thank you also. (Applause).

As this is my last official duty as IR President, I will use one hour - Oh, not one hour! One minute (Laughter). Yes, it's also to thank my fellows in the Executive Committee, the Member Organisations, and the Secretariat led by Venus over there. (Applause). It's been a four-year journey which I will write about in my autobiography, and it will be 2 chapters (Laughter).

Last, but not least, I will take this opportunity before I leave Office to introduce the new President of Rehabilitation International. I will ask Haidi to enter the stage. (Applause). Yes, before I allow Haidi to speak, I will welcome her as the new President of Rehabilitation International. I am looking very much forward to leaving all the responsibilities to you, and you have very broad shoulders, you will be able to take care of all the responsibilities.

I am also pleased that China will enter an important stage with the Presidency of an organisation working on rehabilitation and disability and I think it's about time that China can enter into such a position.

But most of all I would like to thank Haidi for accepting the President of IR when two years ago she was elected at President elect. And I have known Haidi for several years and I know her preferences and that is why I brought this Norwegian chocolate to her. She simply loves this chocolate and you can see here there is a red heart here and a brown heart. I think you need to have this chocolate to catch up with all the energy you need to have in the future as President of IR. So just phone me when you are out of Norwegian chocolate and I will bring you more.

HAIDI ZHANG: Oh thank you.

(Applause). Thank you for contribution. (Applause). Thank you.

THE NEW PRESIDENT OF IR, HAIDI ZHANG: Minister, distinguished, and President of IR international, Ladies and Gentlemen, dear friends, good afternoon. (Applause).

Today in Edinburgh, this breath-taking beautiful and historical Scottish town, I am taking office as President of IR, which is such an immense trust and responsibility on me.

First I would like to avail this opportunity to thank all of you here; your support to IR touches me deeply.

My special thanks go to the last President for the last four years as he has been dedicated to our Organisation, and made the important contribution: my dear Jan, thank you forever.

My special thanks also go to our Organiser and Member Organisation, the Shaw Trust, for presenting this wonderful Congress. Roy, thank you forever.

I would like to thank all the representatives of IR members; you come from all over the world, for future and further development of this Organisation. It's both an inspiration and a deep trust to me.

I would also like to give my sincere thanks to the Chinese team (Applause). Thank you. Thank you very much. You are representatives of workers for the disabled, rehabilitation professionals, Persons with Disabilities, and their families across the countries, as well as our compatriots from Hong Kong and administration regions. I know you all have a lot of expectations around IR.

Ladies and Gentlemen, dear friends, today rehabilitation is already an integral part of human health, and an injured person could be reborn through rehabilitation and thus reintegrated into the society.

I firmly believe that is the work or replication has a great significance and has profound implications to Persons with Disabilities across the world.

IR's replication is to help as many as possible disabled people, even those with a severe disabilities, so to have access to rehabilitation, to see the light and to hear the sound and to see, to stand, to walk, to run, to equally integrate into the society and to live a happy life ever happy.

IR have gone through 94 years for nearly one century. IR has been dedicated to promoting the rights and interests of the disabled as well as defending them, carrying out projects Worldwide, helping Persons with Disabilities with warmth and humanity, and today it's a tremendous honour for me to work for IR as part of our IR.

Ladies and Gentlemen, dear friends, as a person living with a disability myself, I know all too well what Persons with Disabilities bear each and everyday. I believe that the disabled constitutes part of human life. The issue here is how shall we help them? People with disabilities are more likely to be trapped in the predicaments such as discrimination, and prejudice, visible or invisible barriers.

Those predicaments encountered with Persons with Disabilities are shared by all human beings. To realise equality, sharing and inclusion are critical to develop for Persons with Disabilities

IR has been looking for favourable living conditions and a better environment for them. This cause is a noble one I think.

We should strive to improve the overall conditions of Persons with Disabilities in the world and enable them to have an equal access to rehabilitation, education, employment and other areas of opportunities and thus enjoy a dignified life.

Back to my home country: over the past 30 years China has also made a tremendous progress for the disabled in rehabilitation, education, employment, power alleviation, and accessibility etc.

There are any laws to protect their rights and interests have been adopted.

Their living conditions have seen a visible improvement. The power is strengthened and the disabled population is decreasing. Most of the provinces have already built up their own rehabilitation centres and many disabled children have had access to inclusive education.

Ladies and Gentlemen, dear friends, however, many Persons with Disabilities around the world especially the aged, women and children are still in severe difficulties today. Their rights and interests deserve our attention more than at only other time. Thanks to our joint efforts, the International community has paid more and more attention to Persons with Disabilities.

In 2015, during the Summit of the 70th anniversary of the United Nations, disability issues were incorporated into the UN 2030 agenda for sustainable development, which demonstrated the commitment of the international community to leave no-one behind.

This year also marked the 10th anniversary of the UN convention of the rights of Persons with Disabilities. We achieved the most comprehensive international document on rights and developments for Persons with Disabilities.

Ladies and Gentlemen, dear friends, in the coming 4 years, with my fellow IR colleagues I shall follow the proposed and principles of our IR Constitution as well as the newly adopted strategic plan 2017 to 2021 to combine our IR work closely with UN 2030 agenda for sustainable development and the CRPD, so as to achieve those disability-related goals and fully promote the rights and interests of Persons with Disabilities.

The strategic plan lays out the road map for IR's work in the coming four years, with rehabilitation, Human Rights, and power elevation and the inclusive development as priority areas. The disabled women and children, as a priority, grows.

Country projects a global network as important vehicle...

Accordingly, we shall advocate the international community to make more efforts to eliminate discrimination, to realise equality, sharing, and inclusion for persons with disabilities, with special attention paid to disabled and children for their survival and development.

We shall enhance co-operation with other international organisations, and play a more active role in world disability affairs.

We shall upgrade RI global network, encouraging more involvement from developing countries and conducting more co-operation projects. We shall make the best out of the expertise of RI professional commissions, to support and encourage world-advanced rehabilitation-related science and technology projects, particularly those on the spine cord injury, autism, et cetera. We shall establish an Africa fund, to conduct rehabilitation service projects, and to train rehabilitation personnel, especially to provide assistance devices for disabled women and children. I wish to found a permanent award for RI, to award those who have made outstanding contributions to our common cause. I believe that the above-mentioned measures will help improve the overall quality of life for persons with disabilities all over the world.

Ladies and gentlemen, dear friends, two years ago in Warsaw, I said I would like to build a bridge for persons with disabilities towards a better life with my colleagues. Today, in beautiful Edinburgh, let's start building this bridge! [APPLAUSE]. The other day, over the EC meeting, Jochen, one of our best friends, and leaving EC members, said to me, "Haidi, you should compose a song for RI." I said, "All right, I think the title of the song could be: March On, RI!" [APPLAUSE].

Thank you. Once again, I would like to thank each each and every one of you for your deep trust. Sincerely. Thank you all! . [APPLAUSE].

[Applause]

We're all allowed to dream, aren't? Perhaps, one day, we could dream of world where all the barriers of discrimination are removed. It would be a wonderful thing to see in my lifetime, but we've come so far, we've got so much more to do. I would like to have the privilege, if I may, of being the first person to publicly congratulate Madam Haidi in her new position. You're so strongly needed. Thank you.

As the sun goes down on Edinburgh, the sun rises for those in Denmark who will be hosting the RI World Congress in 2020. Would you like to join me on stage, if he's around? Hi there, thank you. As Gunnar joins me, if you ever get offered the job of putting on one of these events. Just say no. It's so much easier. I would like to thank you all my programme board members who contributed so much time to putting this show on. It has been a show, a mixture of education, learning, and entertainment, and I hope that you got a lot from it. So, Gunnar take to us Denmark.

Edinburgh 2016: thanks, my bonny friends, it's been braw. For three days of total refill, another steppingstone, a legacy booster. From the visions of transforming the world and many, many lives, we've

all been assured that societies are actually moving, and also about the fact that rehabilitation is moving societies. This is the solid legacy that we will build on, and we are starting at from tomorrow.

Let's make another great Congress in four years, and let's move societies as we go along. Let's meet in Denmark.

[Video] .

We will stand on the strong feet of the Edinburgh legacy. So, RI global front-runners, good guys and gas, delegates, Madam, professionals, activists, clients, and citizens, we want to count you in.

Let's simply put one foot in front of the other and start moving forward. And, let's move our societies as we go along. What do you say? Let's make another great Congress, Aarhus, Denmark, September 2020. Du er hygglit att se. Thank you very much. See you.

CHAIR: There's an old saying that you'll know, which is, if you always do what you've always done, you're always going to get what you've always got. So let's do things differently, and, today, in the last three days hasn't just been about talking - although that's been a strong theme about creating a new narrative, it's also about action and what we are going to do as a result of this Congress. We're going to put together a report covering the two hundred speakers' presentations - that should keep me busy until Christmas! And providing you each with a copy, and, of course, it will be posted online as well. But the chief executive of Shaw Trust, just wants to say a few words before we move into the final event.

NEW SPEAKER: I have the great honour of welcoming Madam Haidi into her new role, and we're truly, truly honoured to have you as our leader for the next four years. I also just want to extend an extra thanks to Dr Stephen Duckworth. Many of you may not know he's worked on this almost full-time. He's had some real health challenges the last three months, and he's done a lot of the work from his bed, and he's done it all as a volunteer, so, please, one more round ... [Applause] .

Jan has thanked Andrew and the volunteers, and I will reiterate that thanks, and I thought I would just pull out three things from the whole three days very, very briefly. It seems to me that the overwhelming message to stop doing is presuming and understanding of the needs of disabled people rather than simply just asking those individuals and participating, and letting those people with the disabilities inform the debate, so we wanted to stop in any way the ideas of presumption in the debate of how we solve the issues. As madam Haidi elegantly described how that can be done. We want to continue and develop the advances in technology, but make them cheaper and more accessible to all. The danger is, as we move into this massive digital advance, that the poor people of the world will be left behind because that digital

technology's not accessible, so we want to continue the drive to ensure that happens. And then we have to start really trying to make progress on the fact that there are 65 million people in the world today that need a wheelchair, and only 15 per cent of those 65 million people have access to a cheap wheelchair. So one of the things we have to start doing is solving that problem once and for all, and maybe the answer is through 3D printing, and technological advances, but the stride we must make is to make those wheelchairs affordable to everyone on earth that needs them.

I end my part of this incredible privilege we have had on behalf of RI, and Shaw Trust has been honoured to do this, with the words of a wise sage from a long time ago.

In the sky, there is no distinction of east and west. People create distinctions out of their own minds. And then believe them to be true.

Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE].

CHAIR: Thank you, Roy. Those of you who were here for the opening ceremony will recall that I mentioned, when Professor Stephen Hawking gave his address on video, that we would be watching another video of Dame Evelyn Glennie. She's a patron of the Shaw Trust, a deaf woman, but she's a world-renowned percussionist because she's performing in the Sydney Opera House, as you do! We're going to meet Evelyn by video in a moment, but, before that, I thought we might as well go out with a bit of a bang!

[Drumming].

[Drumming].

Come on, let me see your hands! Wooh! Let's go! [Drumming continues and changes rhythm].

[Drumming].

All right, give it up! Let's have a hand now! Oh, yes! Wooh!

[Drumming].

Here we go!

[Drumming].

Okay, can you hear me! Wooh.

Yee-ha!

[Drumming].

Let's go!

Wooh!

[APPLAUSE]. NEW SPEAKER: All right! Let me hear those claps! Go, go, go! So, applause from the stage to one another. Applaud one another. Yeah! So you had three fantastic days. Keep rolling. We're going to play a little bit. A little softer, keep playing a little louder. Don't let me hear you stop. Just follow. Let's have a game. Here we go. Right. Can you give me an "Oooh". NEW SPEAKER: Keep it rolling.

AUDIENCE: Ooooh! NEW SPEAKER: Clap and keep it simple. Use your feet as well. Okay! Ready for a party? All right! Okay, let's go over this half of the room. This half of the room. Going to keep that going. You're going to keep that the same, and this half of the room, we will try something more complicated. Are you feeling adventurous? All right. Hold it. You got that one? Yeah! Good all right. So we come to that right now, you know what I'm saying? Yee-ha! Okay. How does that work? Cool! Now we're talking!

A little softer. Yeah! Okay! So I'm going to play a little tune. All you've got to do is echo it back.

It's lovely to be invited and come up on stage and celebrate what has been probably a fantastic three days. Have you had a good time these three days? Yeah, fantastic! My name is Steve, and this is my band we have together. Like I said, the purpose of our finale closing, really, is to help you guys celebrating, and we are celebrating diversity, we are celebrating inclusivity, and accessibility for people of all different abilities throughout the world which you guys are doing here fantastic work promoting. If you're with me, put your hands on your shoulders, and shout out, "Tullulo". I did say as loud as we can! You can do better than that! Keep them in the air. We're going to lower them and relax and say, "Kee-raaa-ruu". Tuulow. I say "Batay". You clap your hands. Just once. Batay! I say boh, you stamp your feet or you hit the table. We've got a different sound, you see? Well remembered. Boh! Batay! Boh! Batay, would, would! Oh! Wakey wakey. Tullow. Keeraru. If I say, "Keena", look to someone, have a moment, and smile at them. Everybody, Keenaah. If I say batay keena, clap and smile. If you smile at the same person that smiles at you, you get double points batay, boh! They're on it. Batay bohkeena. We need a sound as well as a smile. How about

an "Ahh". And extend it with the palm. Batay boh keena. Are you counting your points! Fantastic. If I say "Hey, hey, hey, it's really easy, it's ho, ho, ho. AUDIENCE: Ho, ho. NEW SPEAKER: You've got it. Tullulah. Keeraru. We're going to try a rhythm. We're going to say anima. It's complex, so bear with us. We're going to be five claps and five stomps. Let's make it one, two, three, four, five, one, two, three, four you, five p let's try that off together. One, two, three, four, five. It's enough? Do it twice. Ready, here we go. That was two and a half! I said twice! Okay. That was easy enough? Okay, so this time, we're going to go three claps, three tables, again, twice. One, two, three, one, two three, one, two three, one, two, three. Ready? With me? Here we go! [Audience claps along] you've got it? Still got it on two and a half, haven't you! Had too much coffee! Okay. Too excited. Two times. Twice du-du. Ready, hear we go, one, two, one two, one two. Yes! And then once, twice. Does that make sense? One, one, with. Put it all together? Five, five, five, five, three, three, three, two, two, two, one, one, one... one. Think we get it? Yes? Confident? AUDIENCE: Yes! NEW SPEAKER: If you get it and manage it, at the end, fist in the air, let's have a big practice. I said, ready! Here we go! Amaneemap one, two, three, four, five.

Three!

Give yourselves a round of applause! Wooh! So, ladies and gentlemen, we are having lots of fun, and you might be thinking, well, we are kind of fun guys, and we play drums, and that's what we do. However, we're not the only ones here tonight, or this afternoon - I'm not sure - we're at the cusp, it's coming into night-time, that can play drums. How would it be if I told you backstage in the wings we have hundred of drums, and, together for the final few minutes of this conference, we are going to create our own drum band, and we're going to send off this conference on a high? Are you up for it? AUDIENCE: Yay! NEW SPEAKER: I don't believe you. Up for it? Yeah! We're going to hear first before from world famous percussionist Evelyn Glennie. She's going to give us a method about rhythm and communication, and, then, following that, we are all invited to take part in a mass drumming celebration of this fantastic 23rd Congress. Are you ready? Okay! Let's bring on the video.

Communication, what does it mean? I speak and you listen - maybe. The dog barks and the cat runs away. Maybe. But what does it really mean? We know there are several ways of communicating. There are hundreds of different languages used every day around the world, and not only verbal languages. From everyday technology, such as the traffic light turning from red, amber to green, telling us when we must stop and start, to binary systems, semaphore, complex encryption, scrambled text forming part of big data, which is all about communication. Likewise, hearing is not just about the ears. The body can feel sound from vibration. A deaf person can feel a draft on their skin and know it is wind. Likewise, I can strike a drum and feel the vibration through the muscles and parts of my body. So I would like to end by asking you: how many sounds will you discover today? And by what means?

NEW SPEAKER: Right, bring on the drums! While you're waiting, you can clap your hands and bang the table. Stamp your feet.

Keep that rolling. We have a whole load of volunteers out here who are going to come and bring you some toys.

Pick a drum. Bang the beat. Yes. Be loud and proud! Wooh! Yeah. You got it.

Here they come! Keep it rolling! Wooh! Here we go! Yes! Don't be shy now.

Wooh!

So, you want to hold the drum in the air! Not have it down below. It won't work. Yeah! I'm starting to hear you now. Wooh! . Keep it together. Don't lose it now. Stay with it.

Come on, let me see you stand! Everybody! Come on! Wooh! Everybody! Woo-oooh! Let me see your shoulders! Wooh! Wooh! .

Side to side! A little side to side. Wooh!

I said, are you ready! I can't hear you! Are you ready? AUDIENCE: Yo!

NEW SPEAKER: After me! Keep going.

Ba-baba-ba! Keep it going! . Let me hear that. This half keep going with that. This half, still take it. This half one, two, three stop. Listen, listen! Listen! Give them a cheer! Give them a cheer. Wooh! Get ready.

After four! After four! After four. One, two, three, four. No, no, no. No. No! Shh! Listen! Listen, with listen. Give them a cheer! Give them a cheer. Come on. I said, give them a cheer! Ready. After four. We flip.

One, two, three, four. Everybody cheer! Wooh! Hold on, hold on, hold on. Stop, stop, stop.

Stop! Stop! Listen, don't get me wrong, there's wrong with the drumming, the drumming's great, it's the cheering and the applause. It's rubbish. It's all ... . We're in Scotland! Okay. Cheer like

Scotsmen! Wooh! We are going to make a competition, a context we will see which are the best drums, and best cheerleaders. Are you up for it? You're drumming first, you're cheering, we will switch and we see which sides wins. Drummers, cheerers. One, two, three, four!

You're drumming! You're cheering! Keep going. Woah. Let me hear you cheer. Ready! One, two, three, four. Switch! One, two, three, four. Everybody! Come on! Everybody! Everybody!

Ten, nine, eight, seven, six, five, four, three, two, one! Yeah! All right! Talluah. Keeranu. Fantastic. Ladies and gentlemen, we're very nearly at the end. I know you're keen, people are taking photos, some are leaving to catch the bus, but we haven't finished quite yet. Are you up for one more piece? All right.

Because I've seen a few dancers in the room. What do you think it's doing? Have a bit of a party? Huh? We've got a whole load of dances. Let me give you two more minutes of your time. We're going to finish off with one last rhythm, and this is the final one, and I want you to put your intent going home into this rhythm. Whatever your action points are, whatever you're going home with, whatever you

got from this conference, put it into the next beat, so, that whenever you hear a drum out there in the world, you're reminded in this conference, at this time. Will you do that for me? All right, okay. And then we will see. You know, if we want to get some dances, we will get some dances. Drummers, let's get the beat going. Okay, so, it's up to you, you can make up your own tune. Let's get all the dancers on stage. Everybody pick up a drum. Yeah, we've got some dancers. Wooh! I see some drums coming up for the last minute. Come on, this is a big stage.

Come on! Yeah! Wooh,

No, it is not a good look, okay? Yeah!

Yeah. Clap your hands. Let's go! Wooh!

Ready!

Give yourself a huge cheer, everybody in the room! Wooh! Well done! We're done!