**Statement for the General discussion on the right of persons with disabilities to work and employment**

-To leave no one behind, states parties should develop and provide jobs that fit for the persons with severe disabilities

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**Contact**

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I’m Hanbyol Choi from Korean Disability Forum[[1]](#footnote-1), in Republic of Korea. As we all know, persons with disabilities, especially with severe disabilities are one of the most marginalised groups in the labour area. It is basically due to the concept of ‘work capacity.’ The society has long defined persons with disabilities as ‘incapable to work’. It leads to the charity-perspective even in the policies for protection of this right of the persons with disabilities.

Thus, expressing sincere support to the committee’s call for the elimination of ‘work capacity’ or ‘fit for work’, we request to include “the obligation of states parties to provide ‘right-based public jobs’ for the persons with severe disabilities’” in General Comment 8.

1. **It should be public jobs**

Persons with severe disabilities are hardly employed in private sector; as they evaluate labourers with productivity. Thus, to ensure their right to work, it is required for the public sector to provide jobs for persons with severe disabilities. Also, It is government’s duty to substantialize public values and encourage citizens to engage in activities for the public value.

1. **The jobs should be ‘fit for persons with severe disabilities’, instead fit people to the jobs**

Everyone has the right to work. It is engraved in various international human rights regulations, including Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the ILO Declaration of Philadelphia. In order not to leave anyone behind, governments should develop jobs for persons with severe disabilities who have long been deprived of this right to work, in accordance with the international human rights regulations.

For instance, in ROK, the Seoul city kicked off this project in July 2020. The city employed persons with severe disabilities for three kinds of jobs for; artistic works, improving disability awareness, and advocacy. The persons with severe disabilities worked to promote and realise the UN CRPD in the Korean society and they were all paid more than minimum wage. Their work improved disability awareness and broaden the concept of labour. Currently, Korean government is planning to introduce the jobs throughout the country from 2021. Hope that this can be world-widely adopted so that the persons with severe disabilities also can fulfil their right to work and participate to the society.

1. Korean Disablity Forum(KDF) is an umbrella organization of 17 DPOs of ROK and it has been worked for disability-inclusive SDGs and implementation of UNCRPD since 2012. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)