

Oral Statement on the adoption of draft resolution
A/C.3/69/L.10/Rev.1 entitled, "Realizing the Millennium
Development Goals and other internationally agreed development
goals for persons with disabilities towards 2015 and beyond"

1. This oral statement is made in accordance with rule 153 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly.

2. Under the terms of operative paragraph 13 of draft resolution A/C.3/69/L.10/Rev.1, the General Assembly would:

"Request the United Nations system, in particular the Statistical Commission and in consultation with the newly-appointed Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the rights of persons with disabilities, within the scope of her mandate, within existing resources, to update existing methodologies of disability data collection and analysis for persons with disabilities, to obtain internationally comparable data on the situation of persons with disabilities and to regularly include relevant disability data or relevant qualitative facts, as appropriate, in relevant United Nations publications in the field of economic and social development."

3. Pursuant to operative paragraph 13 of draft resolution A/C.3/L69/L.10/Rev.1, the Statistics Commission, as the highest decision making body for international statistical activities, especially the setting of statistical standards, the development of concepts and methods and their implementation at the national and international level, would have to consider the related methodological aspects of disability data collection and to obtain internationally comparable data on the situation of persons with disabilities, as follows:

(i) the convening of expert group meetings to consider and propose methodological aspects of data collection;

(ii) conducting subsequent pilot surveys in countries;

(iii) obtaining internationally comparable data on the situation of persons with disabilities;

- (iv) Regularly including relevant disability data or relevant qualitative facts, as appropriate, in relevant United Nations publications in the field of economic and social development;
 - (v) Should the methods be adopted by the Statistics Commission, assisting the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) to institutionalize the collection of disability data, using the proposed methods.
4. It should be noted that the adoption of internationally agreed methods of data collection does not guarantee that the availability of disability data would increase automatically and immediately. The National Statistical Office (NSO) of a respective country needs to institutionalize the collection of disability data, using the proposed methods, within their own programmes and priorities. The current capacity of NSOs in many developing countries to collect and produce disability statistics is still weak: Hence, the regular reporting of disability data by countries for United Nations publications needs to be anticipated only from a long-term perspective.
 5. The improvement in data collection methods, especially to seek international comparability of data, takes a long time and involves many technical steps. It requires a series of meetings of statistical experts from around the world to decide on the methodological aspects of data and subsequent pilot surveys conducted in countries.
 6. The implementation of operative paragraph 13 of the draft resolution, once the methodology has been decided by the Statistics Commission would fall under the responsibility of the Statistics Division in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.
 7. Should the General Assembly adopt A/C.3/L.69/L.10/Rev.1, the consideration of internationally agreed methods of data collection and the related outputs to be completed on a regular basis would result in a reorientation of the Statistics Division's mandated programme of work. However, in the absence of any information regarding the methodology and following decisions on the concepts and methods described in paragraph 3 above, the Secretary-General would then revert to the General Assembly on the

financial requirements, if any, in accordance with established procedures.