

Item17**The highest attainable standard of health for persons with disabilities**

The Republic of Korea would like to support the 10 strategic entry points and 40 targeted actions as outlined by 'The Global Report on Health Equity for Persons with Disabilities.'

As the first step towards advancing health equity for persons with disabilities, the Republic of Korea legislated 'Act on Guarantee of Right to Health and Access to Medical Services for Persons with Disabilities' in 2015 to establish a legal framework to guarantee the rights to health for persons with disabilities. Also, we have been running a healthcare management system for persons with disabilities in local communities, which links comprehensive health management system with healthcare resources in local communities. In addition, we have launched a pilot initiative for assigning dedicated physicians for persons with disabilities.

If disability is to be mainstreamed within WHO, it has to be discussed from multiple angles covering promotion, prevention, and treatment. Furthermore, there should be timely national health statistics data for persons with disabilities, which can be compared against other countries' data. The Republic of Korea has been producing 'healthcare statistics for persons with disabilities', official statistics data approved by national statistics office, and has been endeavoring to reflect it in health policies for persons with disabilities.

The UN has stipulated in its Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities that all national policies and programs should include disability, and suggested a paradigm shift in viewing persons with disability not as passive 'beneficiaries' but as free 'subjects' who can equally voice their rights, and lead active and healthy lives.

Disability inclusion with WHO can be promoted in the similar vein. Persons with disabilities and their representative organizations should be invited in the process of building health policy for persons with disabilities, so that they could represent their own stances. For our part, the Republic of Korea has been actively engaging with such organizations in establishing policies for persons with disabilities. For instance, representatives of organizations for persons with disabilities participated in the advisory board for health division when establishing 'The 6th Comprehensive Policy Plan for People with Disabilities (2023~2027).'

Should the guide for action on disability inclusion in the health sector, currently under development by the Secretariat, be provided to Member States, it would help effectively advance global paradigms to achieve the highest attainable standard of health for persons with disabilities. The Republic of Korea will actively cooperate in the process.