

The Republic of Korea would like to express our gratitude to the Secretariat and Member States for their efforts in implementing “The Rehabilitation 2030 initiative”. We strongly agree on the need to include ‘rehabilitation’ interventions in the 5 essential services packages alongside prevention, promotion, treatment and palliation intervention, and on the need to strengthen rehabilitation in health systems.

If rehabilitation is to be part of Universal Health Care, there should be legal grounds established by the government, as well as rehabilitation governance set up under a nation’s health and social security system.

Bearing this in mind, the Republic of Korea legislated ‘Act on Guarantee of Right to Health and Access to Medical Services for Persons With Disabilities’ in 2015, which stipulated ‘rehabilitation hospitals’ as rehabilitation service delivery mechanism under national healthcare system. The Republic of Korea is also scaling up rehabilitation hospital services in local areas by setting up regional rehabilitation hospitals and public rehabilitation hospitals for children, while increasing accessibility for rehabilitation services by nurturing specialists. In addition, we are promoting a health insurance pilot project which includes home-visit rehabilitation services, aimed at providing continuous rehabilitation therapies and facilitating individuals’ return to community.

Furthermore, The Republic of Korea is promoting rehabilitation governance that links healthcare and welfare system, as exemplified by Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) that connects welfare services with rehabilitation for discharged individuals.

For the purpose of strengthening rehabilitation across healthcare systems around the world, the Republic of Korea would like to suggest that the WHO secretariat identify effective collaboration measures among Member States, international organizations and other stakeholders. On our part, the Republic of Korea is doing our utmost to share knowledge and information. For example, we are operating WHO Collaborating Center for Rehabilitation under National Rehabilitation Center, which has been holding international seminars in collaboration with WHO to share rehabilitation/healthcare-related information, and running overseas fellowship program to foster rehabilitation specialists.

The Republic of Korea will build on our experiences and historical cases to actively cooperate in promoting information/knowledge-sharing webinars and forums, and endeavor to explore ways to contribute to knowledge/information network-building among Member States and international organizations.