



## **The 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEM High-level Meeting on Disability**

### **Concept Paper**

#### **I. Background**

Disability is a common socio-economic issue faced by all countries. To further raise awareness on disability and to promote the development of work on disability in Asia, Europe and beyond through enhanced international cooperation, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang advocated the incorporation of disability issue into ASEM cooperative framework during the 10<sup>th</sup> ASEM Summit in 2014. The initiative gained support from many ASEM members, among them Germany, New Zealand, Pakistan and France were co-sponsors.

To make the initiative into action, China Disabled Persons' Federation (CDPF), along with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Beijing Municipal Government, hosted the first ASEM High-level Meeting on Disability in October of 2015 in Beijing, under the theme of "Break Barriers for Inclusive Development", in which the ASEM High-level Meeting on Disability Joint Initiative was formulated. The meeting reaffirmed the three pillars for future ASEM disability cooperation: advancing social development, promoting human rights, and steering economic growth.

The joint initiative called for efforts with a view to establish an appropriate long-term mechanism of ASEM disability cooperation, and suggested that such meeting be held every two years, for exchanging opinions on disability cooperation among ASEM members. To continue concerted efforts on enhancing ASEM disability cooperation, China is going to host the 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEM High-level Meeting on Disability on 14-15 September, 2017 in Beijing.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEM High-level Meeting on Disability will review efforts and progress made by ASEM members in promoting ASEM disability cooperation in the past two years, share knowledge and experience in promoting inclusive development for persons with disabilities, and will discuss an action plan for future cooperation in the field of disability among ASEM members.

#### **II. Objectives**

To stimulate practical cooperation in the field of disability among ASEM members so

that common consensus will be converted into real actions; To promote the improvement of work on disability for the well-beings of people in ASEM members and beyond.

### **III. Topics**

#### **Session One: Review and Situation Analysis**

To analyze the new situation of the work on disability in context of the UN 2030 Sustained Development Goals; to review efforts and progress made in promoting ASEM disability cooperation in the past two years, and identify priority areas of future actions.

#### **Session Two: Exchange and Sharing of Experiences**

To share knowledge and experience in promoting inclusive development for persons with disabilities in different aspects, such as rehabilitation, employment, poverty alleviation and social participation.

#### **Session Three: Suggestions for Future Actions**

To discuss proposals on key areas, project activities and procedures of future ASEM disability cooperation, and an action plan will be formalized.

#### **Observations and Field Visits (optional):**

All participants of the 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEM High-level Meeting on Disability are kindly invited to participate or observe a series of parallel disability-related events in the same venue, including meetings, forums and exhibitions on rehabilitation and assistive technology. After the meeting, participants will have chance to visit service facilities for persons with disabilities.

### **IV. Co-sponsorship**

Any ASEM member having interest in disability cooperation can be a co-sponsor of this Meeting. Co-sponsors are invited to participate and address the Meeting, and to give suggestions to the concept, time arrangement and agenda of the Meeting during the preparation period. They may also invite and coordinate speakers. Co-sponsors are welcome to financially support the Meeting if they can.

### **V. Participants**

The Meeting is supposed to be joined by officials from government agencies in charge of disability affairs, representatives from key disabled persons' organizations, donors of charity organizations and international development agencies. It is estimated that there will be a total of more than 100 participants.

### **VI. Time and Venue**

14-15 September, 2017 in Beijing China. The meeting will be held at the China National Convention Center.

**VII. Funding**

The organizer will cover expenses of hosting the Meeting. Participants should pay for their international travel and accommodation costs.

**VIII. Languages**

Chinese and English are both working languages and simultaneous translation will be provided.

**IX. Hosts**

The meeting will be co-hosted by China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, China Disabled Persons' Federation.