

Islamabad Declaration on Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities

Islamabad Declaration on Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities

18th April 2006

Islamabad Declaration on Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities



Islamabad Declaration on Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities

Islamabad Declaration on Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities

ISLAMABAD DECLARATION ON ACCESSIBILITY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Having considered the Ordinance on Disabled Persons, 1981 and the National Policy for Persons with Disabilities, 2002;

Recognizing that more than 3.75 million persons in Pakistan suffer from Disability;

Affirming that persons with Disabilities, as other human beings, are entitled to the same basic rights as enshrined in all national and international standards, declarations and conventions;

Desiring to address the disadvantages and barriers placed on persons with Disabilities by society and mindful of the need to lessen the burden of poverty on their quality of life;

Recalling the United Nations Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities in 1993;

Recalling the resolution WHA58.23 on Disability, including prevention, management and rehabilitation;

Acknowledging the link between poverty and disability and that disability places a heavy economic burden on the families and communities;

Further acknowledging that the recognition of Disability and Accessibility has come about through broad consultation of national and international alliances;

Noting that the Government of Pakistan has committed itself to providing 2% job quota for persons with Disabilities in the 1981 Ordinance on Disabled Persons;

Further noting that Accessibility is inextricably linked with and fundamental to Social Inclusion;

WE,

Persons with disabilities, representatives of persons with disabilities, disability specialists, health specialists and other specialists from the disability field, State representatives, services providers and managers, advocates, architects, legislators and lawyers, assembled at the Islamabad National Consultation on Accessibility, held on 17th and 18th April 2006, together

DECLARE THAT

1. In all communications, the term 'Persons with Disabilities' be used instead of 'Disabled Persons' signifying the importance of the human being rather than the impairment.
2. Accessibility is a fundamental right of all human beings and should be enjoyed equally and appropriately by persons with disabilities.
3. In order to address Accessibility, an enabling environment be created to give adequate representation and voice to persons with disabilities and organizations of/for persons with disabilities.
4. Disability does not mean inability and persons with disability must have access to the same range of services, opportunities and facilities as citizens at no additional cost.
5. Accessibility issues need to be included as part of any sustainable development and innovation and should be culturally relevant, socially acceptable and economically viable.
6. The concept of accessibility goes far wider than improving access to a range of jobs, services, recreation and facilities.
7. Accessibility should ensure that everyone has the opportunity to use the full range of information and communication technology,

transport services, public utilities, buildings and open spaces that make up the places in which we live.

8. Accessibility services be included in public funded programmes, civil society interventions, corporate social responsibility and private sector initiatives.

9. A mechanism be formulated for implementation of the 1981 Ordinance on Disabled Persons and the 2002 Policy on Disability.

To this end, WE, the participants at the Islamabad National Consultation on Accessibility, in solidarity of efforts already taken at the national and international levels, do jointly and individually,

AGREE

10. To support, promote and defend the rights of persons with disabilities to Accessibility in their social, educational, recreational and economic spheres of life and to enjoy the same rights and status as other citizens.

11. To support and promote the social inclusion of persons with disabilities by implementing actions that encourage, facilitate and promote Accessibility.

Accordingly, WE the participants at the Islamabad National Consultation on Accessibility,

CALL UPON

THE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN, TO

12. Consider all persons with disabilities as full and responsible citizens of the country and to ensure that they enjoy the same rights, privileges and opportunities as other citizens.

13. Fulfill its commitment to persons with disabilities as espoused in the 1981 Ordinance of Disabled Persons and the 2002 Policy on Disability.

14. Develop and use standardized definitions on the types and grades of disability using internationally agreed definitions so that persons with disabilities may access the statutory benefits available to them.

15. Incorporate and integrate Accessibility within the National Action Plan on Disability.

16. Incorporate and integrate Accessibility within the Education For All initiatives, Poverty Reduction Strategies and Decentralization process.

17. Ensure representation of persons with disabilities and organizations of/for persons with disabilities in all discussions, planning and legal formulation directly or indirectly affecting persons with disabilities.

18. Eliminate the tariffs, duties and taxes imposed on assistive devices and vehicles for persons with disabilities

THE CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS AND NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS, TO

19. Include programmes for persons with disabilities in their development agendas and incorporate Accessibility in their areas and priorities of work.

20. Give voice to persons with disabilities while building capacities of communities for development and ensure Accessibility for their adequate participation.

21. Support and facilitate organizations of/for persons with disabilities to access assistive and information and communication technology for improved Accessibility.

THE ELECTRONIC AND PRINT MEDIA, TO

22. Highlight and communicate to the general public, in consultation with organizations of/for persons with disabilities, issues of disability and disseminate information on Accessibility.
23. Provide accessibility options for persons with disabilities in consultation with consumer groups.

THE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE, TO

24. Fulfill their moral and legal responsibilities towards persons with disabilities by ensuring employment of persons with disabilities according to the stipulations of the 1981 Ordinance of Disabled Persons.

ARCHITECTS AND TOWN DEVELOPERS, TO

25. Disseminate information about Accessibility amongst their professionals and ensure that it is incorporated within the teaching curriculum.
26. Ensure that Accessibility standards are met while designing all new buildings, parks, open public spaces, housing estates, pedestrian walkways and public comfort places.

LEGISLATORS AND LAWYERS, TO

27. Defend the rights of persons with disabilities in all legal formulations where appropriate, in consultation with organizations of/for persons with disabilities and ensure that Accessibility is duly incorporated in all such enactments.
28. Strengthen the existing 1981 Ordinance of Disabled Persons and the 2002 Policy on Disability and in consultation with organizations of/for persons

with disabilities determine the deficiencies relating to Accessibility and ensure that measures are taken to rectify them.

29. Examine the existing Traffic Rules and Licensing Regulations for inconsistencies in consultation with organizations of/for persons with disabilities, and ensure their suitable amendment to reflect Accessibility

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES THEMSELVES, TO

30. Educate and apprise themselves of the existing laws and regulations and the statutory benefits relating to persons with disabilities and ensure that they are familiar with the procedures to access them.

31. Be aware of the different Accessibility options for their respective disability and ensure that concerned stakeholders are informed of these needs.

32. Work with the Government of Pakistan, civil society organizations, national and international development organizations, chambers of commerce, legislators, architects and town planners, universities and teaching institutions, disability and technology experts to develop a feasible and cost effective plan of action on Accessibility that can be incorporated within the National Action Plan for Disability.

REAFFIRM OUR COMMITMENT TO

33. Sensitize key policy and decision makers about the Policy on Disability in order to enhance the allocation of resources and augment pro-disabled practices for implementing Accessibility.

34. Improve the knowledge base and strengthen the organizational and institutional capacities of key stakeholders to implement initiatives aimed at promoting Accessibility in development.
35. Document and promote experiences and good practices in Accessibility at local, national and international levels and share these experiences with key stakeholders to tailor them in line with cultural practices, social norms and economic system of the society.
36. Create opportunities to develop networks of key stakeholders in addressing the issue of Accessibility holistically at national and local levels.
37. Promote research and exposure visits of key stakeholders to understand the significance of Accessibility.
38. Promote individual contact of organizations of/for persons with disabilities with other donors, national organizations and media to create awareness and promotion of Accessibility issues.
39. Conduct workshops with key stakeholders, activists, forums and communities to raise awareness and interest in Accessibility issues.
40. Develop closer co-ordination between government ministries, departments, civil society organizations and consumer groups for purposes of undertaking campaigns on Accessibility at the national and local levels.
41. Integrate Accessibility in disability related fora and identify a focal person to develop strategies for Accessibility and procedures for liaison and coordination with key stakeholders.
42. Develop an action plan for Accessibility for three years with clear and achievable milestones and identify key stakeholders and actors needed to be involved in the programme.
43. Undertake sensitization workshops on Accessibility with educationists, architects, legislators, town planners, policy makers, public service providers, disability, development and advocacy organizations.
44. Develop models and pilot projects depicting best practices in Accessibility as demonstration models for the government.
45. Coordinate with schools of architecture and town planners to develop guidelines for culturally relevant, socially acceptable and economically viable Accessibility options in building designs.