Iranian National Commission for UNESCO

Message for Festival

Esfahan- December

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Over one billion people – approximately 15 percent of the world’s population – live with some form of disability. Facing a wide range of barriers, including access to information, education, health care and a lack of job opportunities, persons living with disabilities struggle every day to be integrated into society.

This is unacceptable, and UNESCO is taking a stand. To tackle these challenges, UNESCO has led a number of initiatives, including the different Global Reports to empower persons with disabilities thanks to different elements like information and communication technologies, cultural dialogues and also the aret are the most importants of them. Our position is clear –all these elements can widen access of persons with disabilities to so they must be accessible for them.

Building on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Global Report addresses strong recommendations to all stakeholders – from decision-makers to educators, civil society and industry – on how concretely to advance the rights of people living with disabilities. These recommendations draw on extensive research and consultations. Studies launched in five regions have allowed UNESCO to understand more clearly the conditions and challenges faced by persons with disabilities around the world.

To empower persons with disabilities is to empower societies as a whole – but this calls for the right policies and legislation to make information and knowledge more accessible through information and communication technologies. It calls also for applying accessibility standards to the development of content, product and services.. We need the commitment of all Government and stakeholders to make this a reality for all persons living with disabilities.

To build the inclusive knowledge societies we need for the century ahead, we cannot leave anyone aside. We must do everything to replace exclusion and discrimination with inclusion and empower- ment – for this, we must harness the full power of information, cultur, and art . This is our shared commitment, and this kinds of events , favorable festivals , are great opportunities to help us move forward.

More than one billion people around the world, of whom nearly 93 million are children, live with some form of disability. Societies᾽ misperception of different forms and types of disability and the limited capacity of social actors to accommodate special needs often place people on the margin. Persons with disabilities experience inequalities in their daily lives, and have fewer opportunities to access a quality education that takes place in an inclusive environment.

Every year, International Day of Persons with Disabilities is an opportunity for the world to stand together against the discrimination of women and men with disabilities and to raise the flag for inclusion and empowerment through education, the sciences, culture and communication and information.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development connects inclusion and development

– this is vital, because persons with disabilities continue to face discrimination, violence, stigma, and exclusion. This is particularly true for the most vulnerable groups in society, such as migrants, refugees and indigenous people with disabilities. Women and girls also shoulder heavy burdens, lacking opportunities, at greater risk from abuse, violence and exclusion. These challenges throw a shadow over societies as a whole.

In this year of action to take forward the 2030 Agenda, our message is clear -- sustainable development will not be possible without the full inclusion of persons with disabilities at every level, without their roles and voices built into all decision-making and policies.

We need efforts to ensure that all women and men with disabilities around the world are integrated fully into all aspects of social, political, cultural and economic life, to build a world that is pluralistic, open, participatory and knowledge-based. This is how our societies will become truly

inclusive.

Regards to all mentioned above, Iranian National Commission for UNESCO is ready to support all these cultural, social and humanitarian events and also reaserches, educational and cultural projects to cooperate and being a partner for empowerment and opportunity making part for people with disabilities.