

**STATEMENT**  
**UPR PRE-SESSIONS ON HUMAN**  
**RIGHT SITUATION IN SRI LANKA**  
**DISABILITY ORGANISATIONS OF JOINT FRONT**  
**RASANJALI PATHIRAGE**

# Disability Organizations Joint Front - DOJF

- DOJF is non-profit voluntary organization established in 2001.
- It is an umbrella organization consisting 36 member organizations (DPOs) representing all categories of disabilities.
- Main objective is to lobby and advocate for the protection and promotion of the rights of Persons with Disabilities in Sri Lanka.

# National consultations for the drafting of the National Report

- Disability movement was not consulted in the preparation of **National Report** of the government of SL.
- However, we submitted our report to the 04<sup>th</sup> cycle based on the rights of Persons with Disabilities.

## Plan of the Statement

This statement addresses the following issues:

- (1) **Rights of Persons with Disabilities**
- (2) **Environment Issues**
- (3) **Business and Human Rights**

# 1. Rights of Persons with Disabilities

- Sri Lanka is state party to UNCRPD, the obligations of the state, under Articles 04 & Article 33 of the UNCRPD remain unmet.
- Gov. of SL not yet fulfill its commitment to legislative enactment of **Disability Rights Bill** due to the lack of political commitment.
- Due to long delay of formulating the **DRB** at NCPD, disability movement approached the Ministry of Justice and conducted two consultative meetings during October 2022.
- Gov. of Sri Lanka has not yet in agreement to Optional Protocol.

# Recommendation

Gov of SL, during the next two years:

- (a) Amend the draft DRB in accordance with Article 33 of the UNCRPD with specific provisions to establish two strong institutions (state coordination and independent monitoring mechanisms).
- (b) Take necessary steps for accession of the Optional Protocol to UNCRPD.
- (c) Implement the National Human Rights Action Plan (Chapter 6) – common for all recommendations.

## 2. Environment issues

- Sri Lanka admits that the Accessibility Regulation No. 01 of 2006 has not been implemented even to the required minimum levels.
- The lack of minimum accessibility in all public places and all other places is a major obstacle that prevents PwDs from living with dignity and independently in the society.
- Public transport system does not have the minimum expected accessibility standards. Railway stations, train carriages, bus stops, buses, sidewalks, footpaths, and accessible public toilet facilities are not found.

# Recommendation

Urge Gov. of SL and NCPD in order to address the disability accessibility issues.

- (a) Designate a Focal Point for each State institution to implement the Accessible Regulation No 01 of 2006 and make necessary amendments to the relevant legislative enactments during next two years of time.
- (b) During the design stage when a construction of sidewalks, paths, public toilets must be prepared in accordance with international standards and universal design.

# (3) Business and Human Rights

- Employment Quota system introduced for Public Sector employment (3% quota) in 1988 is ineffective.
- During 2020, under the Multi-Purpose Development Task Force Government introduced a 100,000 jobs program for low income-under educated persons but very few PwDs had the opportunity to get employment.
- Employment growth of PwDs in the private sector is insufficient.
- During the Covid Pandemic, a considerable number of PwDs lost their livelihoods in self-employment and wage employment.



# Recommendation

- (a) Gov. of SL should be implemented current 3% quota and made mandatory to both state and private sectors within next three years of time.
- (b) Expanding employment opportunities for PwDs in the public and private sectors and prepare them for employment and adaptive training to create a suitable work environment.

# THANK YOU

