16th Session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Tuesday, 13 June

María Soledad Cisternas Reyes, Special Envoy of the UN-SG on Disability and Accessibility.

The original version of this document is in Spanish.

At the Second Summit for Democracy 2023, a global call was made to build a better and fairer world for all.

In turn, for the elaboration of "Our Common Agenda", it has been indicated that "gender and human rights will be cross-cutting issues in the fulfillment of all the SDGs."

Consequently, the harmonization of policies and strategies with the CRPD shall reach underrepresented groups of persons with disabilities.

Underrepresentation has historically affected women and girls with disabilities, which is why they must play now a central role in the formulation of political instruments of harmonization.

UN Women has pointed out that gender equality is currently 300 years away. I ask them: Will we women with disabilities be 600 years away?

Today there is talk of "gender trolling" whose objective is to silence women and remove them from public life. I ask you: Are we women with disabilities exposed to a structural "gender trolling"?

Women with disabilities know this and we demand: a.- that the feminist movements include in their work agendas the social, political and economic equalization of women and girls with disabilities in relation to other people, also incorporating them in their general committees; b.-that the Women's Ministries or equivalent Ministries include women and girls with disabilities in their gender agendas, executing intersectoral coordination so that they can exercise their rights and freedoms without barriers; c.- that the United Nations Commission on the Legal and Social Condition of Women consider broadly and transversally women and girls with disabilities. Women with disabilities cannot continue to be just an enumeration or classification. The inclusion mandate of the CRPD is categorical and d.- that the strategy on gender parity in the UN, incorporates specifically women with disabilities, intersecting with UNDIS.

- Special mention to persons with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities with whom, as a society, we have debts in terms of deinstitutionalization, elimination of forced

treatment, independent living and inclusion in the community. We are in the era of rights and not favors.

On the other hand, it is also necessary to harmonize with the CRPD the policies and strategies on digital accessibility for persons with disabilities. For this reason, I reiterate what I expressed at the COSP15: the Global Code of Conduct, which will promote integrity in public information, scheduled to be developed at the Future Summit (2024), shall include as key principles accessibility, affordability, and availability of technology for persons with disabilities. I emphasize that the participation of persons with disabilities and their organizations will be fundamental in this Summit.

Digital accessibility is relevant in the exercise of different human rights and also in the exercise of the right to the city, especially if this city wants to be a truly "smart city" in the use of technology, which we must connect with compliance with the SDG11.

From another angle, it is important to mention that the policy summaries "Our common agenda" speak of three steps to be followed at the global level: appointment of an envoy for future generations; formulation of a political declaration that defines the duties of States towards the future and an intergovernmental forum for member states to share experiences and innovations, advancing in compliance with the Political Declaration.

The rights of persons with disabilities based on the CRPD and its link with the SDGs shall be clearly explained and applied for the aforementioned Political Declaration, which will therefore be an express area of work for the Intergovernmental Forum and for the Special Envoy. Not contemplating this will mean "leaving 15% of the world's population behind" in compliance with the so-called Common Agenda.

The concrete harmonization of policies and strategies with the CRPD will undoubtedly contribute to strengthening the multilateral system, which is the final objective of the aforementioned Common Agenda and which also involves strengthening citizens.

Finally, in relation to reproductive rights, I share with you the news of a model protocol for the maternity of women with disabilities and a video that will be shown next. I thank the mothers with different disabilities who offered their testimonials.

A special thanks to the Secretary General for trusting a woman with a disability to be his Special Envoy.