



**SÃO PAULO STATE GOVERNMENT
State Secretariat for the Rights
of the Person with Disability**

Rio+20

Promoting Disability-Inclusive Development for a Sustainable Future

Rio de Janeiro, June 17th, 2012

São Paulo's Proposal

"The focus is no longer on 'what' should be done, but on 'when' and, mainly, on 'how' we can achieve what is needed."

Dr. Linamara Rizzo Battistella, Sao Paulo State Secretary for the
Rights of the Person with Disability

Considering the need to mainstream disability-related issues with due significance into public policies elaboration and implementation agendas, and aiming at national and international sustainable development, the São Paulo State Government presents its considerations and, finally, its proposal to the participants of this Forum:

- Considering the Sustainable Development Strategy of the State of São Paulo, inspired by the inducement toward green economy, poverty eradication and human development;
- Considering that the sustainable development concept, built upon the economic, social and environmental pillars of international growth and development, proposes the adoption of an economic model which emphasizes, among other factors, an equitable, people-centered growth, offering opportunities and benefits to every citizen, from every country.
- Considering that societies face contemporaneous challenges such as a graying population, impasses on public participation in decision making, and sustainable economic growth;
- Considering that instruments must be created in order to promote the rights of persons with disabilities to overcome barriers to their inclusion into society and into national development;
- Considering that 15% of the world's population, approximately 1 billion persons, experience some type of disability, among which 80% live in developing countries, many of them in poverty situation, and that it creates negative impacts ranging from high illiteracy rates and low education rates



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to restrained access to the job market, health services, and assistive technologies, which could enable the widening of their abilities and potentialities;

- Considering that social and productive segregation of persons with disabilities thwart them from accessing information and communication technologies which are a set of tools that have already been proved effective to accelerate and, mainly, intensify the efforts to overcome barriers that still prevents their full access to the most important goods and services available in society;
- Considering that the lack of public policies devoted to improve the quality of life of this society segment influences its economic and social reality, and that the existence of new dedicated government bodies within every level of public administration could bridge the gap between the demand for those policies and the existing government bodies responsible for creating, regulating and managing them;

Proposes:

- Following the example of the State of São Paulo, which has created the State Secretariat for the Rights of the Person with Disability in March 2008, the establishment of government bodies dedicated to the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities within the several levels of public administration, aiming at prioritizing public policies that meet the demands of this society segment, fully including it into society and assuring its participation in the sustainable development process;
- The United Nations Organization to encourage, guide and train its members countries to create these government bodies in every level of public administration, with emphasis on the city level, considering the great comparative advances that are been achieved by the State of São Paulo and the municipalities which have already established such bodies over the last four years.

Without the full participation of persons with disabilities, it is impossible even to think about sustainable development, not only due to the growing numbers of this society segment, but, fundamentally, to acknowledge that humanity, as well as the planet itself, is diverse, and that within this diversity we can find our greatest wealth.

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