Honourable chair,
Distinguished delegates,

In stark contrast to years gone by, most death sare not due to rampant infectious disease outbreaks, but due to conditions that lead a more insidious course. Over 1 billion people are currently living with a disability, and would benefit from one or more assistive products. And this number is increasing - three decades from now, it will have doubled.


Lacking the ‘quick fix’ nature of other popular areas of global health, assistive technology can all too easily fly under the radar. Given this, we would like to draw your attention to the following actions that we believe would significantly benefit the many people with disabilities among us.

Firstly, it’s important to invest early, as this is a burgeoning area of healthcare that will only continue to grow and preparation is a key. Furthermore, to focus on priority assistive products, as these are the ‘best buys’ that will give real value for the money and resources we have. And lastly, to include young healthcare professionals in developing national assistive technology and rehabilitation programmes, policies, and strategies.

Youth, through various opportunities afforded to them, have and will continue to offer innovative ideas and solutions to the challenges around us. We affirm the importance of ensuring that the future health workforce is trained on the application and use of assistive technology.

Thank you.