

Statement to be given by Katherine Kline, S.E.R.R. on behalf of GAP Persons with Disabilities at the UN-Habitat Governing Council Meeting in Nairobi. May 2017

I speak today on behalf of S.E.R.R., an ECOSOC accredited NGO and on behalf of the General Assembly of Partners' Persons with Disabilities Partner Constituent Group. We represent more than 1 billion persons globally living in both developing and developed countries. Although 163 countries have signed the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, there are still many implementation gaps which must be dealt with in order to protect our rights and to preserve our ability to live healthy, productive and fruitful lives.

An active global network advocating for the rights of persons with disabilities achieved 15 specific references to our issues in the *New Urban Agenda* which, along with references in Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, offer concrete guidance in nutrition, education, availability of decent work, public space and inclusion in decision making opportunities afforded to persons with disabilities. This active network is collaborating with a number of other GAP partners and with United Nations agencies to ensure implementation of these items. As a follow up to the High-Level Forum on Disability Inclusion and Accessible Urban Development held in Quito at Habitat 3, a second meeting will take place at the United Nations in June with the aim of galvanizing efforts for implementation of the New Urban Agenda from a perspective of accessibility and inclusion of persons with disabilities.

We gained success by advocating not only for our own constituency but through the common, collaborative efforts of the General Assembly of Partners with support of Dr. Joan Clos and Ana Moreno who encouraged us every step of the way.

I thank you.