**Key Points to include in CHOGM Statement June 2021 for Disabled People/Persons with Disabilities from Commonwealth Disabled People’s Forum**

**Health**

* Covid-19 has shown up the cracks in welfare and support for disabled people across the Commonwealth and the lack of inclusive equality and rights perspective.
* Disabled People have been disproportionately negatively impacted in access to information, health, food, support and education.
* Therefore, Governments must commit to working with DPOs/OPDs to ‘Build Back Better’ by implementing the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to specifically remove barriers to disabled people and bring about real cultural and attitudinal change.
* Many countries have adopted policies for people with Mental Health Issues that are out of date and run counter to the UNCRPD. They must undertake to review and change these in collaboration with people with Mental Health Issues and their representative organisations.

**Innovation**

* All Commonwealth Countries must prioritise upgrading the internet connectivity and ensuring it is fully accessible.
* National Sign Language should be taught in all schools/colleges so they are bilingual.
* School Curriculum including means of assessment should be diversified and differentiated to meet the needs of all learners.
* State systems for providing free and easy access to assistive devices should be available locally.
* All new infrastructure and public transport must be fully accessible.

**Trade**

* Enhanced efforts should be made through training and recruitment, with state incentives to get disabled people into skilled employment.
* Grants and training should be available for disabled people to start their own businesses and work cooperatives.
* Second chance skills and education for work should be made available to the millions of disabled young people who dropped out of school.
* Commonwealth Governments should encourage eco-friendly production and farming and cooperate in trading fair trade products, creating greater work opportunities for employing disabled workers.

**Respect for Law**

* Ensure that the UNCRPD is backed by detailed national legislation.
* Monitor implementation with DPOs and regularly publicly report.
* Legally pursue hate crime and discrimination against disabled people in through the Judicial System.
* Run campaigns of public awareness in the mass media to change attitudes to disabled people.
* Develop the capacity and run Disability Equality Training so that public servants, educators and employers understand the human rights/social model approach to disability and develop disability friendly policies and practices.

**Environment**

* Recognise disabled people are most at risk in environmental events such as earthquakes, volcanoes, flooding, typhoons and hurricanes or pandemics and have in place pre-planned rescue plans or measures to guarantee their human rights in the crisis.
* Plan to build preventative measures in the environment and built environment to reduce risk to disabled and others.
* All the above areas should all be approached equally from the perspective of disabled youth and disabled girls and women.