

Concerned that persons with autism spectrum disorders, developmental disorders and associated disabilities continue to face barriers in their participation as equal members of society, and reaffirming that discrimination against any person on the basis of disability is a violation of the inherent dignity and worth of the human person,

Recalling that early diagnosis, appropriate research and effective interventions are vital to the growth and development of the individual, and emphasizing that early intervention is crucial for addressing the needs of the individual with autism spectrum disorders, developmental disorders and associated disabilities, thus improving the opportunities to live a quality life with the ability to participate in the greater community and increasing the likelihood that an individual will need lower levels of support later in life,

Recognizing that the full enjoyment by persons with autism spectrum disorders, developmental disorders and associated disabilities of their human rights and their full participation will result in significant advances in the social and economic development of societies and communities,

Realizing that the challenge of meeting the needs of individuals with autism spectrum disorders, developmental disorders and associated disabilities is particularly acute in the developing world, resulting in increased difficulties for individuals and their families, as well as for the health, education and social welfare systems trying to meet their needs,

Recognizing the work of the World Health Organization in addressing autism spectrum disorders, developmental disorders and associated disabilities in its resolutions, notably through resolution 65.4 entitled "The global burden of mental disorders and the need for a comprehensive, coordinated response from health and social sectors at the country level", adopted on 25 May 2012 by the sixty-fifth World Health Assembly, requesting the Director General of the Organization to develop a comprehensive mental health action plan, for consideration by the sixty-sixth World Health Assembly,

Recognizing also that a major barrier to improving the health and well-being of children with autism spectrum disorders, developmental disorders and associated disabilities and their families is the paucity of knowledge and expertise to recognize symptoms and identify autism spectrum disorders, and also recognizing that the absence of effective routine screening that allows for early detection, in turn, limits access to care and early interventions and that, without research to develop and implement effective programmes, the emergence of appropriate solutions that improve the quality of life for individuals with autism spectrum disorders and their families does not occur,

Acknowledging efforts to increase awareness of the rights of those affected by autism spectrum disorders, developmental disorders and associated disabilities, including the commemoration of World Autism Awareness Day, which led to increased international public concern for autism and other developmental disabilities,

Taking note of the Dhaka Declaration on Autism Spectrum Disorders and Developmental Disabilities of 25 July 2011,

1. *Encourages* Member States to enhance access to appropriate support services and equal opportunities for inclusion and participation in society by providing, as appropriate, training to public administrators, service providers, carers, caregivers, families and non-professionals on the

needs and rights of persons with autism spectrum disorders, developmental disorders and associated disabilities;

2. *Recognizes* that, in order to develop and implement feasible, effective and sustainable intervention programmes for addressing autism spectrum disorders, developmental disorders and associated disabilities, an innovative, integrated approach would benefit from a focus, inter alia, on:

(a) Increasing public and professional awareness of autism spectrum disorders, developmental disorders and associated disabilities and reducing stigma associated with these conditions;

(b) Enhancing and increasing research expertise and service delivery, including through international collaboration, by training researchers, service providers, as well as non-professionals, in early diagnosis and interventions within health and other relevant sectors;

(c) Enhancing inclusive educational programmes suited to infants, children and adults with autism;

(d) Emphasizing the unique needs of each person with autism across a spectrum of different characteristics and experiences;

(e) Increasing awareness of the advantages of the inclusion of individuals with autism spectrum disorders, developmental disorders and associated disabilities in society through occupational and leisure activities;

3. *Encourages* Member States to undertake to collect appropriate information, including disaggregated statistical and research data, on autism spectrum disorders, developmental disorders and associated disabilities;

4. *Looks forward* to the development of the World Health Organization comprehensive mental health action plan, as called for in World Health Assembly resolution 65.4, and its consideration of autism spectrum disorders in the context of a broader systems approach;

5. *Calls upon* all States to ensure an inclusive education system at all levels and lifelong learning, as well as to promote vocational training and skills development programmes for persons with autism, in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and other local, national and regional policies;

6. *Also calls upon* all States to enable persons with autism spectrum disorders, developmental disorders and associated disabilities to learn life and social development skills to facilitate their full and equal participation in education and as members of the community;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member States and United Nations organizations as a contribution to the preparations for the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities, to be held on 23 September 2013.

Youth

Poverty and unemployment

As a follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, the Secretariat submitted to the Commission for Social Development a note [E/CN.5/2012/8] on the theme of poverty and