

50 YEARS OF JAIPUR FOOT
LESSONS LEARNT

15 May 2018
1700-1800 hrs | CR 6 | UN, New York

CONCEPT NOTE

More than 1 billion people are estimated to be living with some form of disability, according to WHO estimates. They represent 15% of the world's population.

2. Recent decades have seen the international community addressing the interests of persons with disabilities with greater attention and focus. The 2006 UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) is a landmark in global efforts in this direction. India is a party to the Convention. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development includes references to persons with disabilities in the context of education, growth and employment, accessibility of human settlements among others.

3. India has accorded special attention to this issue. The Constitution of India, through its Article 14, guarantees right to equality of all persons, including those with disabilities. India enacted a specific Act in 1995 to address this issue. More recently in 2016, an even more forward-looking Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act was adopted by India. The Indian Government has also launched the 'Accessible India Campaign' in 2015 to achieve universal accessibility, barrier-free environment and an enabling eco system. In 2016, India became the first country to ratify the 2013 Marrakesh Treaty that aims to facilitate access to published work for visually disabled persons. In 2016, India launched an online library of accessible books for persons with visual disability.

4. The work of national governments and the UN in the field has been complemented by numerous civil society groups. In India, a longstanding innovation has been the 'Jaipur Foot' popularized by *Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti*, a non-profit social enterprise, headquartered at Jaipur, India. It is among the largest organizations engaged in providing assistive technologies and has worked with over 1.7 million persons with disabilities by fitting/providing totally free of charge, artificial limbs, feet and leg replacements (Jaipur Foot variety), calipers, crutches, wheelchairs, hand-peddled tricycles and other aids and appliances, in 34 countries across the world.

5. The Panel Discussion will provide an opportunity to share experience on the Jaipur Foot innovation that has helped nearly 2 million persons around the world over the past five decades.