





issue on the world agenda more than a generation ago and secondly through regular monitoring and reporting of the progress achieved at national and international levels. The United Nations General Assembly also created a United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability. Several United Nations agencies continue to be engaged actively in many regions around the world with technical and financial assistance. Two important aspects of this issue remain to be addressed. These are the lack of a comprehensive database on disability statistics and the application of benefits of treaties and conventions dealing with human rights and elimination of discrimination of populations with disabilities.

I appeal to all Member States, intergovernmental organizations, and non-governmental organizations, to work alongside the United Nations to further address the needs of the disabled persons. Today, let us reaffirm our commitment and our promise to make some progress in equalization of opportunities by, for and with persons with disabilities.