

Multi-sectoral Collaboration

Groups 4-5

- 1. How to ensure participation of different ministries:** Disabled persons must take an active and leading role in advocacy for collaboration in different ministries; a higher council of ministries, donors, NGOs is needed; presence of donors in the coordination committees can lead to a conflict of interest; Education for all plan of UNESCO has also targets for 2015 and for monitoring the progress, inclusive education is one of the tools for promoting education for all; representatives of ministries in the meetings may not have any powers, so advisory councils do not work; involving a higher up personality like president or prime minister may be very important to make sure that cross-cutting issues like women, children, disability are addressed; the process of legislation needs to be monitored, some times the committees do not function but they should still be promoted; even more collaboration between the DPOs themselves is also needed; a nodal agency or a lead agency is needed, in India this is ministry of social justice and empowerment; in Mexico, within the national council, each must have clear plan of action; a separate budget for ensuring the functioning of the committee is necessary; networks where ideas can be shared are important; historically disability seen as a social welfare issue however, often social welfare is a very “weak” ministry; stakeholders must understand their roles and what they need to do; CBR committees are only on the paper or they may managed like a project and when the project is finished, the funds are finished; proper budget allocation for functioning of the committees is fundamental.
- 2. Collaboration between NGOs:** NGOs need to be accountable; all private stakeholders involved in rehabilitation services like hospitals, etc. also must participate in coordination; national guidelines and strategies are important so that all NGOs follow them and make sure that they do not promote completely contradictory strategies; countries may have different requirements for allowing NGOs to work; different NGOs may be involved in different activities related to disabled persons and so coordination among them is very important; some DPOs can become service providing organisations and many international NGOs believe that this is a good example of working for disabled persons; in Jamaica, the council of disabled people, formed by disabled volunteers works in spite of many difficulties – we may not have much funds but we have strong commitment and thus we are very strong; few blind persons get services in Ghana so a CBR programme for only blind persons was started by DPO while Government has a programme for all disabled persons; private service providers may need to follow the national curriculums; CBR programmes need to be truly inclusive – involving children, elderly, women, persons with different sexual orientation, etc. in a human rights approach; CBR and health are two different things, health is only one part and there are other parts like education, vocational training, etc. and role of DPOs, all of these are equally important components of CBR; lobbying with NGOs to make sure that all development projects include disability issues and be specially careful about inclusion of disabled women; NGOs often are in competition between themselves and they talk about coordination of ministries, but themselves do not coordinate and carry out parallel activities; at bottom level multisectoral collaboration is needed; DPOs are very important part of the NGOs and they must play a leading role in promoting the human rights approach and advocacy with different organisations; UN agencies are also INGOs and some times they also have problems of coordination with others; in Afghanistan, different UN agencies worked together to demonstrate the feasibility of a collaborative model of CBR; INGOs may compete among themselves for resources and waste resources; INGOs need to coordinated strongly and clearly by countries; DPOs can act as watch-dogs in making sure all agencies

work properly; donors is a separate group needing careful consideration; donors affect the programme strongly and some times they do not coordinate; INGOs need to support local people and local organisations to take charge and to carry forward the activities; standardisation of quality services can be useful.

- 3. Identifying strategy for collaboration among stakeholders:** a common shared goal is needed; responsibilities of each must be clearly spelled out; mechanisms of collaboration must be made transparent; problems are created by lack of trust, ego issues, difficulties in sharing our skills and ideas with others, etc.; role of DPOs may not be very strong and they do not have enough skills, so need capacity building; information for members of the coordination committee is needed;
- 4. Implementation of UN Standard Rules:** Rules may be amended (convention) so may be we should wait; governments must ratify the standard rules; Governments sign the conventions but are not aware about standard rules, and DPOs need to do lobbying; technical and financial support is needed for implementing standard rules; for the convention, there will be a monitoring process; standard rules do not have teeth, we must strengthen these with the convention; it is a powerful tool to promote changes in legislation; CBR programme can provide information about the standard rules and create awareness about it; apart from Standard rules, there are other instruments like ILO convention no. 159; standard rules have had the most important impact on the lives of disabled persons; initiatives like the questionnaire sent by WHO about the impact of application of standard rules is very important and makes the governments to realise that they have not done every thing; standard rules can be used to prepare country reports; compliance can be measured with other conventions also like that for women, children, etc.