

Dr. Nawaf Kabbara* speech on Behalf of persons with disabilities in the world, during the closing session of the 65th UN DPI/NGO Conference: 2015 and beyond (Department of Public Information and Non-governmental Organization)

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It was yesterday 51 years ago when a great man stood in the Capital of this great nation and spoke about his dream. A dream deeply rooted in the American dream that his four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. Even though Martin Luther King dream may have not been fulfilled yet, but we can all join together today to formulate our own dream for the World in the post 2015 MDG era. A dream that should be deeply rooted in the charter of this great organization, the universal declaration of human rights and all related treaties and conventions including our own CRPD and related matters.

How much we would like to join Martin Luther King today and dream that the one billion persons with disabilities will not be judged in the post 2015 MDG era by their disabilities but by their abilities to participate and produce like any other human being on this planet.

Let us all dream that in the post 2015 era, all children in the World, regardless of their gender, color, race and abilities, will have equal rights to access nutrition, health and education.

Let us all dream today that in the post 2015 era, a black woman with disability will be able to move all over the World proud of her color, honored by her gender and delighted by her capability.

Let us all dream today that in the coming future, any old person will be able to live in peace and dignity free from the fear and worries of the need to secure food, shelter, and health care.

Let us all dream that in the post 2015 era, young people from all kinds and abilities will be able to face the future with confidence that their education and jobs are secured and that they have full access to participate in the making of the future of this World.

Let us all dream together that in the post 2015 MDG era; this great United Nations will be able to develop programs and policies based on the will of its global citizen to live in a better World based on peace, rights and equal opportunities for all.

Let us all dream that the post 2015 MDG era will help us reach a World free from poverty and marginalization and where empowering people, all people, is the goal that we all seek to achieve.

Let us all dream that water, sanitation, health care and shelter, will be available for all and that earth resources will be used in a rational manner to seek the interest not of the living people today but for future generations to come.

Let us all dream that in the post 2015 era, religions will be a force for people to get together, to spread love and acceptance and that civilizations will not be, as Rousseau perceived two hundred fifty years ago, a hopeless race to find solutions to the problems they create, but a real competition among nations to save our environment and climate from pollution and

abuses of resources, to find cure from cancer, HIV, and all other deceases, to make life easier for everyone, to eliminate barriers in front of people to move, interact, communicate, and achieve their dignity and freedom.

Let us all dream together that in the post 2015 era, Nietzsche will to power will not be a force of oppression and destruction but a source for better achievement, innovation and arts production and where everyone's will to power will be an added value in the making of a better accessible World for all.

Let us all dream that one's problem will not be solved on the expense of others but on the philosophy that anyone misery is the concern of all.

Dear Participants to this conference,

Dear listeners from all over the World,

I am coming from a region that looks to the World as it is reserving backward, but let me assure you that the Arab Spring is a movement full of aspiration by Arab people to achieve all of the dreams mentioned above and that all what they want is to be real participants in the making of a better World and future.

I am also here representing one billion persons with disability proud of what we are, strong believers in our capacities and capabilities, firmly committed to the struggle to achieve the rights and equal opportunities for all.

So let me conclude by a final dream that in the post 2015 MDG era no one will be left alone.

This is our message for you and this is our hope for the future.

May all live in peace and dignity.

Thank you

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