**Statement on the Rights of Women with Disabilities**

**Issued by the Fourth Conference of the Arab Forum for Women with Disabilities**

**Cairo 12 December, 2022**

**In the basis of** the Arab Organization of Persons with Disabilities commitment to the rights of women with disabilities, and as a result of the bad experience lived by women with disabilities during the covid-19 pandemic,

**And in emphasis** of the role of women with disabilities in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

**And in recognition** of the United Nations Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities in all its provisions, in particular Article 6 on women with disabilities, **and**  the convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women, the 2000 Beijing Declaration and platform, and the 1995 Convention on the rights of the child,

**And in reference** to the recommendations of the third Arab forum of women with disabilities, April 2018, and to the General Comment No. 3 of 2016 on women and girls with Disabilities issued by the committee on the rights of persons with disabilities in November 2016 ,

**And in acknowledgment** of the major humanitarian challenges facing the Arab region that negatively affect women and girls with disabilities including their right to live in safe and equal environment,

**And based on the working papers submitted during the conference that covered the following topics:**

\* Responding at the social protection level to the impacts on women and girls with disabilities in light of the covid-19 pandemic.

\* Poor economic effectiveness of women and girls with disabilities, especially during the covid-19 pandemic.

\* Gender-based economic violence.

\* The situation of women and girls in emergency and crisis situations.

\* Women and girls with disabilities in decision-making and political action centers.

**We, women and girls with disabilities and mothers of children with disabilities participating in the Fourth Regional Conference of the Arab forum of women with disabilities under the theme:" Women with disabilities in the post-covid-19 recovery phase: from full economic empowerment to political participation", held on December 11 and 12, 2022 in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt, and organized by the Arab Organization of persons with disabilities, in partnership with the league of Arab states, the Arab Labor Organization, AGFUND, the International Disability Alliance, UN Women, CBM, and Feminism for women's economic rights(FEMPAWER), and with the participation of relevant stakeholders and women with disabilities from 17 Arab countries, namely Iraq, Libya, Lebanon, Palestine, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, Sudan, Jordan, Oman, Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Yemen, and From several African and European countries, Canada and New Zealand, representatives of ministries of social affairs in Arab countries, regional and international organizations concerned with disability, United Nations organizations, Arab NGOs working in the field, relevant regional and international experts, and civil society institutions concerned with women's issue and in the light of listening to the interventions of the attendees, and the living experiences of leading women with disabilities, and monitoring the main challenges addressed in the working papers and confirmed by the experiences of the participating countries,**

**Call for the adoption of the following principles and recommendations:**

1. **Ask** all relevant organizations, and all Arab and international institutions related to women's issues in general and women with disabilities in particular, to include women and girls with disabilities in the post-covid-19 recovery plan and provide them with social and economic protection.

2. **Work** to repeal all discriminatory laws and policies that prevent women and girls with disabilities from enjoying all their rights stipulated and recognized in the convention on the rights of persons with disabilities and all relevant international conventions on human and women's rights including reforming existing legislation to include articles related to the rights of women and girls with disabilities.

3. **Developing** mechanisms for the economic empowerment of women with disabilities, their rehabilitation, employment and inclusion in financial services

4. **Working** with the media to raise community awareness of the rights of women with disabilities and their abilities.

5. **Updating** the data collection system and adopting quantitative and qualitative indicators to measure the extent of the implementation of the rights of girls and women with disabilities within the legislation, laws and strategies in the Arab region،

6. **Encouraging** the private sector to invest in the projects of women entrepreneurs with disabilities, and technological programs and applications for training and supporting women with disabilities.

7. **Ensuring** the representation of all disability groups and taking into account the specificity of their needs in all public areas.

8. **Stressing** the need for women with disabilities to have access to decision-making positions and their participation in all legislative and executive bodies through:

Ensuring the participation of women with disabilities through quota programs

Developing and building the capacities of women with disabilities through mentoring, training and competency preparation programs.

Networking among women with disabilities to create blocs to support women candidates with disabilities.

Launching media campaigns to support women candidates with disabilities.

Evaluating the agenda of parties and trade unions from a perspective that addresses the rights of women with disabilities as a central issue to promote positive discrimination.

9. **Working** to integrate and mainstream the needs of girls and women with intellectual and psychological disabilities into all strategies, programs and budgets at the national level.

10. **Developing** of a regional program for the political participation of women with disabilities that addresses their capabilities, communication development and election laws for women with disabilities.

11. **Promoting** the participation of women with disabilities in the leadership positions of organizations of persons with disabilities to ensure the inclusion of women and girls ' issues in programs, policies, procedures and budgets.

12. **Strengthening** the role of the Arab Organization of persons with disabilities in networking with official institutions and bodies related to women in the Arab countries, in order to empower women and ensure their participation in economic empowerment and awareness in combating violence against women, girls and people with disabilities.