COMMITEE: Social, Humanitarian & Cultural Committee (SOCHUM)

COUNTRY: China

DELEGATE: Aslı ÖZSOY

AGENDA ITEM: Unemployment of people who have physical and mental impairments

China, officially the People's Republic of China, is a country in East Asia. It has a population exceeding 1.4 billion. China spans the equivalent of five time zones and borders fourteen countries by land, the most of any country in the world. While initially founded as a socialist state with a centrally planned economy, it now has a mixed economy, described by its government as “Socialism with Chinese characteristics”. China has enjoyed almost 30 boom years with GDP growing in double-digits, raising 500 million people out of poverty. China’s GDP (Gross domestic product) was 17.73 trillion USD in 2021. In other words, the amount of all income generated in the country from the sale of goods and services. With a GDP of 23.32 trillion dollars, the USA is by far the world's largest economy in this ranking for 2021. It is followed by China in second place with a GDP of 17.73 trillion dollars.

Nearly 85 million women and men in China (6.2% of the population) are living with a disability; approximately 44 million of which are 60 years of age or older. Men account for approximately 52 per cent of people with disabilities, and women account for 48 percent. Nearly 54 percent (9.42 million) of working-age disabled people (16-60 years old) are in paid employment. The digital economy not only removes physical and geographical access barriers, but it also levels the playing field for people without paid work experience.

Enacted in 1982 (and later amended), the Constitution of the People's Republic of China ensured protection for individuals with disabilities: "Citizens of the People's Republic of China have the right to material assistance from the State and society when they are old, ill or disabled. China has taken significant strides to address the unemployment challenges faced by people with disabilities. We have implemented several policies and initiatives to promote their employment and integration into the workforce. Our efforts are guided by the principles enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), which we ratified in 2008.

We, as the delegation of China, are aware of the physical effects that unemployment of the people with physical and mental impairments, and we are taking actions to combat unemployment among people with physical and mental impairments, China has adopted a multi-faceted approach. Our key initiatives include:

**Legal Framework:** China has enacted comprehensive legislation to protect the rights of individuals with disabilities, including employment rights. Our laws prohibit discrimination based on disability and ensure equal opportunities for all. We are committed to enforcing and strengthening these laws to foster inclusive workplaces.

**Vocational Training and Skill Development:** China has established vocational training programs tailored to the specific needs of people with disabilities. These programs provide skills training, capacity building, and career guidance to enhance their employability. We aim to equip individuals with disabilities with the necessary skills to actively contribute to the economy.

**Inclusive Hiring Practices:** China encourages employers to adopt inclusive hiring practices and create accessible workplaces. We promote diversity and inclusion in the workforce, recognizing that the talents and capabilities of individuals with disabilities contribute to a vibrant and innovative economy. We urge employers to consider the abilities and potential of persons with disabilities during the recruitment process.

**Supportive Employment Services:** China has established employment support services that assist individuals with disabilities in their job search and career advancement. These services include job placement assistance, counseling, and training. We are committed to expanding and improving these services to ensure comprehensive support for persons with disabilities.

**Accessibility and Reasonable Accommodations:** China is actively promoting workplace accessibility and reasonable accommodations for employees with disabilities. We encourage employers to make necessary modifications and provide assistive technologies to ensure a barrier-free working environment. By removing physical and attitudinal barriers, we aim to create an inclusive workplace culture.

**Public Awareness and Education:** China recognizes the importance of raising public awareness and promoting understanding about disabilities. We are actively engaged in public campaigns and educational initiatives to combat stigma and stereotypes. By fostering a more inclusive and accepting society, we can overcome the barriers that hinder the employment prospects of people with disabilities.

In conclusion, the delegation of China recognizes the urgent need to address the issue of unemployment among individuals with physical and mental impairments. We believe that by implementing the policies and initiatives, we can create a society that values diversity, fosters inclusion, and provides equal employment opportunities for all. We call upon all member states to collaborate, share best practices, and develop innovative solutions to tackle this global challenge.

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