**COUNTRY: Nigeria**

**FORUM: Social, Cultural, & Humanitarian Committee (SOCHUM)**

**TOPIC: Unemployment of physically and mentally disabled people**

The topic of unemployment among disabled people is an international problem and has many reasons varying from country to country. This problem is actually surprisingly big in scale as even the country with the highest employment rate among disabled people , Switzerland , only has %79 percent of their disabled people employed. And considering this statistic can get significantly lower in less developed countries, the global employment rate for disabled people should roughly be around %40.

In the past, many countries have put effort to combat this problem such as Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in the USA and the Equality Act in the UK. Many countries also have local rehabilitation services , skill training services and financial aid all to make more disabled people take part in the workforce. Non-governmental organizations also play a significant role in helping disabled people take part in the workforce and get involved in day-to-day life. Despite all these efforts , the employment rate for disabled people still tends to be in the lower-end of the spectrum in less developed countries. And the reason for this tends to be societal norms, misconceptions about the disabled and hierarchical barriers.

Nigeria has taken some steps about this to help alleviate the problem but significant roadblocks exist due to Nigeria being a lesser developed country. In Nigeria, the special needs education policy aims to promote inclusive education and help disabled people get employment opportunities. However, the implementation of this policy has been inconsistent around the country. As a result of this, unemployment rate among disabled people is still fairly high in Nigeria. There are several factors that contribute to this and many of those directly relate to Nigeria being a lesser developed country such as misconceptions about disabled people and social stigma, limited access to special education tailored for the differently-abled and inconsistent implementation of the country’s policy.

Considering these various points, an obvious solution for this problem worldwide and for Nigeria would be to implement more inclusive policies and find a way to ease the social stigma around disabled people, as the root of the problem comes from countries being in the lower-end of the spectrum when it comes to development. As some of the more developed countries already have a very promising employment rate for the disabled above %70 such as France, Canada, Norway and Switzerland.

REFERENCES: [https://www.google.com.tr/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwiQhZj7ppH\_AhUASvEDHahtCJYQFnoECAsQAw&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nationmaster.com%2Fcountry-info%2Fstats%2FPeople%2FDisabled-persons-employment&usg=AOvVaw09IQeXyOvr9sjpO0\_nIdqC](https://www.google.com.tr/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwiQhZj7ppH_AhUASvEDHahtCJYQFnoECAsQAw&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nationmaster.com%2Fcountry-info%2Fstats%2FPeople%2FDisabled-persons-employment&usg=AOvVaw09IQeXyOvr9sjpO0_nIdqC,)