

Third Meeting Washington Group on Disability Statistics (WG) 19 – 20 February 2004, Brussels, Belgium

COMMENTS ON THE GOVERNANCE PROPOSAL FOR THE WASHINGTON CITY GROUP MEETING, BRUSSELS, FRIDAY 20TH FEBRUARY 2004.

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The document has been reviewed and it is quite comprehensive by bringing out the governance principals. The following suggestions have been as follows;

page 1:

I Membership

The City Group needs to expand their membership to other agencies, especially the Ministries/Departments responsible for Disability Issues. Although they may not be engaged in large-scale surveys, these Ministries/Departments do collect administrative data on persons with disabilities from the communities they live. There is need to start the process to bring them on board as they may act as advocates for data collection especially in those developing countries that still rely on /censuses as the only sources of disability data. This comment could appear under item 5 of subsection A: composition.

In addition, the list of member countries, by institution should be included.

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B. Responsibilities

For members to actively participate in the WCG meetings, they are encouraged to attend these meetings. There is need to target developing countries for active participation, since they lag behind in terms of methodology for disability statistics measurement issues and concept definition?

II Operating Principles

The WCG is expanding its good work and will gain more popularity. What happens if an institution requests for technical support from the WCG to conduct disability studies? We are much aware that the UNSD, NY has been spearheading these activities through training workshops. We need to add a clause on instances of the WCG being involved in such kind of work, and if so nomination of members to participate in such kind of work should be emphasized, i.e. for members to participate in such kind of work, if it arises, will be nominated by the WCG members.

The other issue of concern is that there is need to look into the aspect of building capacity by taking on Regional training workshops for members. We are all aware that the UNSD, NY is mandated to do such kind of work but the UNSD, NY pursue this in conjunction with the WCG. As a result, the need to report on these activities is hereby emphasized, during the annual meetings of the City Group. This will in a way facilitate the work of the WCG by getting to know what is on the ground through the training workshops and secondly by implementing the decisions that would have been made during the WCG meetings.

III Organisational Structure

After the current secretariat ceases to be a standing position, there is need to highlight that a chairperson for the secretariat is required and how he is to be elected. Whether the chairmanship of the secretariat shall

belong to the WCG members or it will be the participating members or the heads of the agencies/institutions that they represent?

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2 Responsibilities of the Executive Secretariat

We need to add a statement that the secretariat shall provide a report on the meeting to the membership list

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c 1. composition of meeting host and planning committee

It is indicated that the planning committee will be selected by the steering committee. This is to suggest that this should be rotational but taking into consideration the major regions.

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f presentation of WCG report to the UN Statistical Commission

It is indicated that the host will present the WG report at the annual UN meeting. It is proposed that the chair to the steering committee should be assigned this role if at all the host in this case is not regarded as the chairperson.