

Global Action Week 2014

EFANet, GTU Secretariat, May 22, 2014

Resolutions of the Policy Dialogue on Education and Disability

On the occasion of the commemoration of the Global Action Week 2014, we the participants at the Policy Dialogue EFANet in collaboration with partners, stakeholders and other Civil Society Organizations held at the EFANet Office, GTU Secretariat on the theme, 'Education and Disability'

Having heard the expert views of the disability specialists, the stakeholders' discussions and presentations;

Concerned about the right to education for all including children with disabilities, the exclusion and marginalization of persons with disabilities, the existence of discrimination and prejudice towards persons with disabilities that limit their participation in society;

Worried about the exclusion, marginalization, discrimination and lack of access for persons with disabilities;

Committed to the continuous advocating for education for all including children with disabilities and their participation in society to ensure the maximization of their potentials as means to promote sustainable development and a fair society in the Gambia;

Encouraged by the efforts and the open-door policy of the Government of the Gambia, particularly the Ministries of Basic and Secondary Schools) and Health and Social Welfare;

Committed to promoting education for all including those with disabilities in order to ensure that the right to education of every child in The Gambian as enshrined in the 1997 Gambia Constitution, the Dakar framework for Action and other similar internationally agreed frameworks is respected, protected and fulfilled;

Committed to promoting a strong and vibrant national education coalition in support of the education advocacy for partnership and involvement of all relevant stakeholders with the rest of the Gambian civil society;

Hereby resolve that;

1. Ensure the formulation and implementation of schools policies that promote the rights and needs of persons with disabilities is participatory
2. Authorities should ensure that in making legislations and policies for regarding disability, there should be the involvement of the disabled groups;
3. The Government should made efforts to strengthen the capacities of existing service providers, educational and training institutions in the country to better address the issues of disability;
4. Government to increase the budgetary allocation to the education sectors so as promote an all inclusive education ;
5. Efforts should be made to ensure the availability of sufficient data through regular collection, proper management and analysis of data concerning disability issues in the country;
6. The Government will ensure the existence of accessible, safe and secure learning environments for children and learners particularly persons with disability through the establishment and construction of suitable school infrastructure in both the public and the private schools. This includes making sure that classrooms, toilets and sport facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities in other public places (hospitals, airports, market places etc);
7. Government should ensure the domestication UNCRPD in promoting and ensuring that the rights, needs and aspiration of those disabilities are addressed;
8. Efforts should be made to ensure the full participation and inclusion of persons with disability in society including taking active part in management, and access to information such as ensuring the availability of sign language and interpreters on the media;
9. Promote the participation, acceptance and recognition of efforts of persons with disabilities in country's development undertakings.