



THE 8TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON INCLUDING CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES IN THE COMMUNITY

# TOWARDS FULL CITIZENSHIP

## JUNE 15-17, 2004 STAVANGER

### DECLARATION

#### General Principles:

The right to full citizenship for all children, youth, and adults, including those with disabilities, is enshrined in *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (1948), elaborated on for children in the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* (1989), and addressed in several significant, internationally approved declarations, including the *World Declaration for Education for All* (1990), the Standard Rules on the *Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disability* (1993), the *UNESCO Salamanca Statement and Framework for Action* (1994), and the *Dakar Framework for Action* (2000). The UN Special Session on Children in 2002 resulted in a final document, *A World Fit for Children*, which was adopted by all member states. This final document contains a Declaration and a Plan of Action with clearly stated goals related to health, education, HIV/AIDS and the protection of children from abuse, exploitation and violence. Full citizenship means that every person has the possibility to enjoy the rights enacted and accepted by his or her country of residence. To achieve the goal of full citizenship requires mechanisms and support systems to secure the fulfillments of these rights, especially for children and other vulnerable populations.

#### Declaration of the 8<sup>th</sup> International Children's Congress:

Therefore, we, the participants in the 8th International Congress on Including Children and Youth with Disabilities in the Community Life, advocate that nations should:

- *Formulate A National Plan of Action with clearly stated goals related to accessibility, health- and social services and education for all children*
- *Ensure the right to full citizenship of Children with Disabilities in all aspects of community life such as health services, education, child care programs and recreation programs*
- *Strengthen the participation and influence of children and young people in society by giving them the opportunity to take part in the planning, design and management of the broad array of services and activities that affect their lives*
- *Promote inclusion of children and young people with disabilities in all sectors of the educational system such as daycare centers, primary and lower secondary school, upper secondary school, post secondary school and all forms of higher education, as well as transition between levels of education and employment training*
- *Strengthen preventive child welfare measures targeting children and families, and promote the participation of and communication among children, young people and those involved with welfare services for them*