**Report on the Celebration of the 2017 International Disability Day.**

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**Submitted to**: Pathfinder International

**Reported by**: Ethiopian National Disability Action Network (ENDAN)

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**Title**: General Manager

1. **Introduction:**ENDAN has celebrated the 2017 day of persons with disabilities (IDPD) in collaboration with Pathfinder international on the 15th of December 2017 at Ethiopian National Theatre for half day. The event was organized under the 2017 theme of day of persons with disability announced by UN general assembly which is **“Transformation Towards Sustainable and Resilient Society for All”.** ENDAN has prepared two banners in which the mentioned theme both in Amharic and English has been printed.   
   More than 200 participants represented from governmental and non-governmental organizations, the community members, associations of persons with disabilities and their members, ENDAN members and their service users as well as the media have attended the colorful event. Among the participants, 123 men, and 117 women have attended the program. 132 of them were persons with disabilities. The two master of ceremonies who were facilitating the stage also made the program to be more organized.  
   The detail of the programs presented will be discussed below.  
   **2. Opening Speech:**  
   The event was started around 9:30 a.m with the introduction of schedule of the program by the two master of ceremonies. Then; the general manager of ENDAN, Ms. Hana Bekele, took the stage to deliver wellcoming speech.  
   The general manager has passed her gratitude in the first place to Pathfinder International for supporting ENDAN to organize the event. She also express her appreciation for stakeholders for coming to observe the 2017 day of persons with disabilities together with ENDAN particularly the state minister of the Ministry of Social and Labor Affairs. She has mentioned in her speech that ENDAN has been performing different activities since its establishment such as: building the capacity of its 26 member organizations through financial and technical support, facilitate information and experience sharing sessions among member and non-members. ENDAN has been also working on promoting disability inclusive development practice in the socio-economic sectors. Moreover, ENDAN has good experience to organize awareness raising programs in order to improve the attitude of the society towards persons with disabilities. The manager has indicated that the event organized on the 15th of December 2017 to observe the international day of persons with disabilities was among those awareness creation programs. As she informed, the event is unique in its kind because, ENDAN in collaboration with Pathfinder international has facilitated the opportunity for the first time to recognize and award 6 persons with disabilities who have contributed significantly for the better lives of persons with disabilities.   
   Then; the general manager of ENDAN has invited Mrs. Tadelech Dalacho, the state minister of the ministry of Social and Labor Affairs to officially open the event by delivering speech. Accordingly, the state minister has said that disability issue is no more the agenda of persons with disabilities only. Interventions done in the disability issue is made for ourselves, our society, our country and the world. Despite the effort made by the government to improve the situation s of persons with disabilities, their problems are not exhaustively solved. Hence, we are required to work jointly to promote development ensuring the reduction of the problems PWDs are facing.

Government executives; civic associations, religious institutions, general public and specifically persons with disabilities should increase their collaborative engagements. The state minister gave emphasis to the need for collaboration by saying that if ENDAN increases its effort and work in collaboration with its members , stakeholders, persons with disabilities, government and the public in no doubt would expedite the process of creation of an inclusive society. In addition, she mentioned that collaboration should be done not only to celebrate events but also to coordinate and implement our day to day activities.

**3. Song presentation by Blind/visually impaired persons:**  
ENDAN with the financial support of Pathfinder International has produced song on the basis of the theme of the 2017 day of persons with disabilities in order to create awareness on inclusive society for all. The song is prepared by visually impaired persons under the media and communication promotion called Fano Media and Advertizing PLC  
The Song was presented for the first time on the stage in the day of the celebration. It was 4 blinds, 2 men and 2 women who sang the song accompanied by a blind keyboardist.

1. **Presentations on disability inclusion in the SDG in general and the implementation of SDG as well as GTP II in Ethiopian case:**Following the song, two presentations were presented by Dagnachew Bogale and Ato Sisay Alemayew.  
   **Ato Dagnachew**, who is the disability consultant and African Disability Alliance Regional Director has presented on the inclusion of people with disabilities in the sustainable development goal (SDG). Ato Dagnachew has started his speech by mentioning that the SDGs are currently the principal guiding framework for all development initiatives, poverty-alleviation strategies and international cooperation across the globe. As Dagnachew mentioned, all international day of persons with disabilities (IDPD) themes since 2015 are rooted in the SDGs

The Millennium development goal which was on implementation before the SDG didn’t have any article that talks about the people with disabilities. So, Ato Dagnachew has explained the reasons why the SDG is intended to include the issue of people with disabilities in its goal. This and other talking points presented by him is annexed with this report. The second presenter was

**Ato Sisay Alemayew**, who is the human resource and employment sector director in the National Planning Commission. Ato Sisay presentation was mainly focused on the implementation of the SDG and GTP II in relation with persons with disabilities. Ato Sisay’s presentation is also attached with this report for further information.

**5. Dance performance by persons with disabilities:**After the two paper presentations, dance performance has been shown by hearing impaired persons. It was amazing for the participants to see persons with hearing impaired dancing based on the ritom of the music with out any confusion. The participants were appreciating and encouraging them.  
Next to them, children with intellectual disabilities coming from Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekaneyesus Center for Mentally challenged children has presented 2 songs about giving opportunity for persons with intellectual disability

All the dance performance presented by persons with disabilities on the stage was good opportunity which contributed to create awareness about the capacity and potential of persons with disabilities.  
**6. Short explanation on the 16 days gender based violence in relation with women with disabilities:**  
It is clearly known that the international disability day is comomerated with in the 16 days of gender based violence (December 1 up to December 16) every year. December 3 is proclaimed by UN general assembly since 1992 to be day of persons with disabilities in the world. So, ENDAN believed that it would be good to create awareness on gender based violence against women with disabilities on the event. Accordingly, Mrs. Dibabe Bacha, who is the executive director of Ethiopian Women with Disabilities National Association has provided brief explanation on the need to celebrate the 16 days gender based violence to show how women with disabilities are venerable for gender based violence because of their type of impairment and gender. Mrs. Dibabe has also mentioned that the association she manages is trying its best to improve the lives of women with disabilities by providing educational support, psycho-social support, reproductive health as well as awareness raising training for women with disabilities and the stakeholders, engage women with disabilities in income generating activities,. The association is also working in collaboration with EWLA and other justice institutions to end gender based violence against women with disabilities through referral linkage. Mrs. Dibabe has distributed white revans for men participants and make them to promise to end violence against women with disabilities.  
 **7. Recognizing and Awarding persons with disabilities:**   
After the presentation by Mrs. Dibabe, contemporary dance performance was presented by visually and physically impaired dancers. It was also astonishing for most of the participants seeing visually and physically impaired persons performing the contemporary dance with good coordination.  
Following the dance performance, the recognition and award ceremony has took place. The master of ceremonies have invited Lorate Yetnebersh Nigussie, the winner of the 2017 alternative novel price award and Ato Fasil Ayele, the chair person of ENDAN board to the stage in order to provide the award for the 5 award receivers of the 2017 international day of persons with disabilities.  
ENDAN has made the biography of selected 6 nominies to be written by journalist about the contribution they have done to change the lives of persons with disabilities and what makes them to be recognized and awarded. . The information was gathered about the nominies through interviewing the nominies and other persons who knows detail information about them. Then; the biography of these nominies were prepared by the journalist to be read on the stage while taking their award. Accordingly, the ceremony of award giving was surprise in that the ENDAN staff who is assigned to provide the letter which contained the name of each award receivers came to the stage and submitted the letter in the post for Ato Fasil and Lorate Yetnebersh so that they made official the winner turn by turn. Then; the profile of each award receivers is read and took his/her certificate and award from the two award givers.  
After Lorate Yetnebersh has completed giving the award and certificate, she has been provided thanks and appreciation expression gift for all she has done in the area of disability and particularly for the grate job she has performed to promote ENDAN during its difficult times. Then; Ato Fasil has given her gift, a sketch of her own picture. it was a surprise event.  
ENDAN has intended to facilitate the recognition and award program to develop appreciation and value giving for persons with who contribute their best to make a difference in the area of disabilities. This is because, there is very less trend to recognize those kind of persons with disabilities. So, ENDAN believes that it must be a tradition among persons with disabilities to give value for those who did grate jobs to improve the lives of people with disabilities. Moreover, the recognition and award program has a grate importance to show the role that persons with disabilities are playing for the development of the country particularly in promoting inclusion of people with disabilities. This kind of awarding program also inspires youth with disabilities to learn from the role models and make a difference in their part dispite all the barriers they may face in their lives. The recognition and award also encourages the award receivers to contribute more in the area of disability.   
Taking in to consideration the appreciation and output that the recognition and award ceremony results, ENDAN has received a lot of comments from participants and persons with disabilities to continue facilitating the annual recognition and awarding of persons with disabilities who are bringing meaningful change in the lives of people with disabilities.  
The list of the 2017 international day of persons with disabilities award receivers are:

1. Ato Amare Asfaw, visually impaired

2. Ato Minase Workneh, hearing impaired

1. Mrs. Woynishet Mulusew, Visually impaired
2. Ms. Roman Mesfin, deaf blind
3. Ato Mesfin, having multiple disability.

Then; children with intellectual disabilities and autistic have presented dance performance and song for participants. Finally, the program has been ended by the closing and thanks giving speech by the genral manager of ENDAN , Ms. Hana Bekele.  
  
the biography of each of the these persons with disabilities are attached with this report.  
8. Dance performance by autistic and persons with intellectual disability:  
Before the closure of the event, song and dance performance have been presented by persons with intellectual as well as au