Statement at Consultation Meeting on the Review and Update of the World Bank’ Environmental and Social Safeguard Policies

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My name is Nagase Osamu. I am a council member of Inclusion International, which is a founding member of International Disability Alliance (IDA).

First I would like to appreciate this precious opportunity as well as the work of the WB on disability and development, particularly since 2002 when then President Wolfenson appointed the first full time advisor on disability and development, based on the awareness that MDGs are not achievable without the inclusion of disability in development. The Bank also issued a phenomenal World Report on Disability together with WHO in 2011.

I have the following three major points to make today. First, the revised Safeguard should ensure cross-cutting integration of disability mainstreaming and inclusive development throughout all safeguard policies.

Secondly, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) should be reflected in the revision. Particularly the social model of disability, which focuses on removing the barriers in our societies which prevent persons with disabilities from effective participation in society, as well as mainstreaming of disability in development. In fact, CRPD has an independent article on international cooperation and in Japan, as part of harmonization in compliance with CRPD, international partnership, as a basic principle, and international cooperation, as an independent article, have been included in the revised Fundamental Law on Disability of 2011. Also Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), implementing agency of official development assistance of Japan, also have been putting disability and development into practice by working on projects on empowerment of persons with disabilities, including persons with intellectual disabilities, and making the environment in general accessible.

The third and final point is “Nothing about us without us”, which demands the participation of persons with disabilities. In fact, the Bank itself has been demonstrating this through the appointment of persons with disabilities in the Bank, including Judy Heumann from U.S., as well as Charlotte McLain from South Africa.