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Ecuador supports inclusion of disability issues in 2015 Millennium Agenda



"It is imperative to integrate into global society the more than one billion people with disabilities," said Ambassador Luis Gallegos.

The annual meeting of the Institute on Disability and Public Policy (IDPP) was held in Bangkok, Thailand from 9-17 August. At that meeting, the representative of Ecuador to the United Nations (UN) in Geneva, Luis Gallegos, mentioned several points to be discussed at the next High Level Meeting on Disability and Development at the UN, as well as programs that have been created in Ecuador for the disabled and the Ecuadorian experience in creating these programs.

At the IDPP meeting held in Bangkok, Ambassador Luis Gallegos said it is imperative to integrate in global society the more than one billion people with disabilities.

Gallegos also stated that disability was forgotten in the negotiations of 2000 for the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and should be integrated into the global agenda. The diplomat recalled that Ecuador chaired the negotiation of the UN CRPD, which has become the most successful global treaty of this century and developed one of the most effective programs to eliminate discrimination and promote social integration of these individuals.

In this vein, Gallegos noted the Manuela Espejo Programs and Joaquin Gallegos Lara as examples to the world community and those that Ecuador offered to share with UN states about their experiences with these plans under the Universal Periodic Review presented to the UN Human Rights Council in 2012.

Finally, the Ecuadorian representative at the UN in Geneva said human right mainstreaming in public policies in the National Development Plan is another major achievement for which Ecuadorians have been recognized by the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights as an example for other countries.

The High Level Meeting on Disability and Development at the United Nations will take place on 23 September in New York. World leaders will analyze and incorporate new trends on this issue into the agenda of the post-2015 Millennium Development Goals.

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