

Khartoum – December 12th, 2018: Italy and Sudan celebrate the Disability International Day

In the framework of the Italian Cooperation activities in Sudan, the Italian Embassy in Sudan and the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation celebrate the International Disability Day at the Khartoum University in the presence of Mr. Badredeen H. Amed, Secretary General of the National Council for Persons with Disabilities.

The event has been organized in collaboration with OVCi Ngo, Sudanese Ngo Ustratuna (USADC), Bridging the Gap Project funded by EU and Tadmeen Project funded by AICS.

The evening was opened with the screening of three short video promoting the rights and the inclusion of persons with disabilities. “Disability” - stated the Ambassador of Italy Fabrizio Lobasso – “must be considered as a key to unlock our deeper understanding of life and Italy is committed to promoting empowerment and helping to create real opportunities for people with disabilities. This enhances their own capacities and supports them in setting their own priorities. Empowerment involves investing in people – in jobs, health, nutrition, education, and social protection”.

The Secretary General of the Council of Persons with Disabilities, from his part, recalled the relevance of the “*nothing about us without us*” approach, highlighting the importance of partnership and consultation of persons with disabilities in inclusion-related matters in Sudan.

The Italian Cooperation and other Italian entities such as NGOs are supporting the national organisations of persons with disabilities through a number of bilateral, European and multilateral activities in order to boost the development of social justice aimed at fostering the empowerment of PwD to become agents of change and embrace their civic responsibilities,

In the light of the important commitment in Sudan, Italy is exploring in the next weeks the pathway to the creation of a “Group of Friends of People with Disability” (GoFD) in Sudan, aimed at seeking common ground, share experiences and identify ways to bring about inclusive developments to the concrete benefit of persons with disabilities. The GoFD may involve the donor’s communities such as EU Members, Development Governance Agencies, UN Agencies, Multilateral Development Banks, and eventually the private sphere.

The goal would be providing a streamlined and continual consultation and sharing mechanism to improve the participation of persons with disabilities in daily life and to guarantee their inclusion in the civil society through coordination from all sectors.