UNESCO Bangkok Expert Writers’ Workshop for the Development of Guidelines for the Inclusion of Children with Disabilities in Schools and in EFA Monitoring
6-10 June 2005
Windsor Suites Hotel, Bangkok

PREAMBLE

We the members of the Writers’ Workshop of the Guidelines for the Inclusion of Children with Disabilities in Schools and in EFA Monitoring, held in Bangkok 6-10 June 2005,

1. Acknowledging current endeavours by countries in the Asia-Pacific region to promote equitable access to Education for All (**number of millions of**) children and youth in the region, which is reflected in increased overall enrolment rates and an improved gender balance,

2. Noting, however, that efforts taken to date have concentrated on increasing overall student access with little attention, as yet, being paid to the particular needs of the most marginalised and disadvantaged groups,

3. Recognising that children and youth with disabilities currently constitute a significant proportion of young people who still continue to be denied access to an appropriate education because available evidence suggests that a mere 3%-5% of children with disabilities are in schools or accessing any form of educational provision,

4. Also noting that the above statistic is in sharp contrast to an enrolment rate of over 70% for non-disabled children in primary education in the Asia-Pacific region,

5. Call on Governments in this region to now give due priority to equalising opportunities of access to education for children and youth with disabilities and honouring their commitment, in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), of which all Asian-Pacific countries are signatories, as well as the other international instruments which have been endorsed by them, such as the World Declaration on Education for All (1990), the Dakar Framework for Action (2000), the Salamanca Statement and Framework for Action (1994), the UNESCAP Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons (1993-2002) and its Agenda for Action, as well as its second Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons (2003-2012) Biwako Millennium Framework for Action towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific, and

6. Urge countries in the Asia-Pacific region to take the necessary action to achieve the effective inclusion of all children and youth with disabilities in national education systems, with reference to these Guidelines for the Inclusion of Children with Disabilities in Schools and in EFA Monitoring, as well as other relevant publications.