

## **JONAPWD PRESENTS POSITION MEMORANDUM ON INCLUSIVE EDUCATION; SEEKS THE PROVISION OF INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES IN NIGERIA**

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In furtherance to strengthening her advocacy drives towards policy influencing on inclusive education for children with disabilities in Nigeria; the Joint National Association of Persons with Disabilities (JONAPWDs), an umbrella organization for all disability organizations in Nigeria, with support from USAID-Nigeria SACE Project, presented a position memorandum on making schools and basic education inclusive of and accessible to children with disabilities during the 2015 Joint Consultative Committee on Special Education (JCCE) Reference meeting held at Waziri Umaru Federal Polytechnic, Birnin Kebbi, Kebbi State from February 1st – 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016. JONAPWD's presentation at the reference committee session on Special Education is epochal in her zest to influencing the policy direction of government especially on making factual and informed inputs into the ongoing draft of the National Policy on Inclusive Education.

The memo highlighted the concerns of the disability community in Nigeria about the rising population of out of school children with disabilities and the apparent inadequacies, incapacitations and insufficiencies in the laws, policies, infrastructure, facilities, manpower, institutions and processes among others designed to provide basic education to all children including those with disabilities and the urgent need to assuage these phenomenon.

### **JCCE was invited to note that:**

- (i) children with disabilities constitute a very high percentage of out of school children in Nigeria
- (ii) infrastructural designs of schools in Nigeria at all levels largely are not accessible for children with disabilities.

### **JONAPWD urge that:**

- (iii) Federal Ministry of Education, State Ministries of Education, the FCT Universal Basic Education Commission, SUBEBs, LGEAs and other stakeholders to constitute and support Special Advocacy Committees comprising of JONAPWD and other NGOs concerned with disability matters
- (iv) NUC, NCCE, TETFund, UBEC, NTI should design modalities for supporting all levels of educational institutions to provide inclusive and accessible school environment to PWDs.

### **(c) JONAPWD employs the JCCE to recommend for approval: the**

- (v) Provision of inclusive and accessible school environment to children with disabilities.
- (vi) The constitution and support of Special Advocacy Committees comprising of JONAPWD and other NGOs concerned with disability matters by FME, SMOEs, FCT, UBEC, SUBEBs, LGEAs.

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