



Organización Mundial del Autismo World Autism Organization

Dear friends,

The first anniversary of UN declaration of the World Autism Awareness Day is about to be marked – next 2nd on April – and, even though the associative movement related with this disability began its way by the 70ies; after a hard struggle and efforts, eventually we feel that people with autism are stopping to be “*invisible citizens*”.

There is a long way done since Leo Kanner defined autism until these days where the current definition has been expanded to Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) or Pervasive Developmental Disorders (PDD).

It was a difficult peregrination but aims were always achieved. It slightly seems to make out its cause, but over all what we can reinforce is that treatment has been progressing spectacularly. An example is that due to the studies and researches from previous two decades have improving this treatment with important results. We shouldn't forget that the openness in definition is induced by knowledge. That is why the impact seems to be increased.

Indeed there are too many persons all around the world that suffers autism, so our first obligation is to watch over them to get a convenient attention, a law which defends their rights, as so to assure to obey and enforce the law.

In a world plenty of conflicts what could be the best example than our own children, so beautiful and faraway that they encourage us to become their protectors to assure a place inside the society along their cycle of life. It is our responsibility and we assume it with all the consequences and being immune to discouragement. Sooner or later we achieve our aim.

This year the World Autism Organization will be the representative from all this parents, professionals, related people and organizations and, of course, firstly states the indisputable presence of the people with ASD all around the world. In UN we will make our voice to be heard, which is the one from the people with autism, and we will demand that the law has been obey and improve that ones that already exist to give our collective a full satisfaction with them. People with autism are, like the rest of society, citizens with full of rights. They are our reason to keep working, because, my dear friends, people with autism spectrum disorder are **NOT** “Invisible Citizens” and all together, them and us, will keep on claiming the attention and care required.

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Even I cannot accompany you physically, please think that I am at your side and I will bear you all in mind during WAO's acts inside the UN.

These are happy days for celebrations but we cannot go with the flow, we have lots of steps to walk yet so we must keep together to achieve our common aim that is PEOPLE WITH AUTISM.

Madrid, 26th on March de 2008

M^a Isabel Bayonas Ibarra
President

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