

Disability rights need to be included in a development framework, underpinned by human rights

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There is wide recognition that progress within the existing MDG framework has not been equitable and that **persons with disabilities are** disproportionately represented among those **left behind** by recent development gains. The human rights of persons with disabilities as enshrined in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD) need to be translated into the new sustainable development framework. The **new framework underpinned by human rights** can serve as an instrument for people and countries to help unseat the structural obstacles to sustainable, inclusive and just development, and prevent conflict and stimulate implementation and enforcement of all human rights.

The **new framework must be accessible for and inclusive of persons with disabilities, and promote the rights and full and effective participation of persons with disabilities** in response to the growing commitments on international level:

- The **UN CRPD**, ratified by 138 countries, is the only human rights treaty with a stand-alone article on international cooperation.
- The **UN Secretary General's Report** "Keeping the Promise: Realizing MDGs for Persons with Disabilities Towards 2015 and Beyond" and the **report of the High-Level Panel** on the Post-2015 Development Agenda both call for disaggregation of data based on disability and the mainstreaming of persons with disabilities in the new development goals.
- The **Outcome Document of the High-Level Meeting on Disability and Development** stressed "the importance of ensuring accessibility for and inclusion of persons with disabilities in all aspects of development and of giving due consideration to all persons with disabilities in the emerging post-2015 United Nations development agenda."
- The **UN General Assembly Resolution 67/140** called for "realizing the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities towards 2015 and beyond."
- The **OHCHR study** on Art. 32 recognises that international cooperation activities need to be inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities to ensure the full realization of the objectives and purpose of the UN CRPD.
- The **MDG Summit Outcome Document** of September 2010 highlighted the need for inclusion of persons with disabilities.
- In 2011, the **Busan Outcome Document** on aid effectiveness embraced disability as a principle underpinning effective development.
- The **Rio+20 Outcome Document** stressed that governments must commit to the promotion of sustainable development policies that support inclusive housing and social services; a safe and healthy living environment for all, in particular for persons with disabilities.

The Secretary-General, when setting the goals for the post-2015 development agenda, recognised disability as one of the cross-cutting issues that needs to be taken into account when designing goals and targets. This is exactly how we would like to see the new development agenda – **the development and utilization of targets and indicators, which are inclusive of and sensitive to persons with disabilities.**

According to the WHO and World Bank *World Report on Disability*, there are one billion persons with disabilities globally who need to be explicitly mentioned and included in the new development agenda that:

- **upholds human rights for all, eliminates discrimination and diminishes inequalities**
- **builds on equal and meaningful participation of persons with disabilities at all levels**

- **stimulates transparency and implements participatory accountability mechanisms**
- **builds on indicators, disaggregated by disability in addition to gender, age and geographical location**