



Include Persons with Disabilities in the Sustainable Development Process

The International Disability Alliance¹ and the International Disability and Development Consortium² are calling for a clear recognition of the **rights of persons with disabilities** in the Open Working Group (OWG) process leading towards development of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Key recommendations

1. The SDG framework is **underpinned by human rights**, which is uniformly applied across all the new goals and targets.
2. All programming for climate change financing, mitigation, or adaptation must be required to specifically address those particularly **at risk due to environment changes**, including persons with disabilities.
3. The SDGs and their **associated indicators, targets and reports** must explicitly mitigate the inequalities experienced by persons with disabilities.
4. Data regarding climate change and environment sustainability must be disaggregated in relation to disability, as well as producing **new datasets on persons with disabilities**.
5. **Humanitarian responses** to the effects of climate change (including natural disasters and food insecurity) must include persons with disabilities.
6. Ensure **the effective participation of organisations of persons with disabilities (DPOs)** at every stage of the process.
7. **The new framework, future global partnerships, projects and programmes must be inclusive, accessible** and promote the rights and full and effective participation for persons with disabilities (Aligned to articles 4 and 32 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities).

Why is this crucial? Disability, poverty and environmental sustainability

- According to the World Report on Disability published by the World Health Organisation and the World Bank in 2011 there are an estimated **one billion persons with disabilities** across the globe.
- Persons with disabilities face **barriers to participation in society**, including access to development programmes and benefit on an equal basis from education, employment, health care, communication and transportation services.
- Persons with disabilities and their families, of whom 80 per cent live in developing countries, are **overrepresented among those living in absolute poverty**. "Households

¹ International Disability Alliance (IDA) web site: www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org

² International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC) web site: www.iddcconsortium.net

with a disabled member are more likely to experience material hardship – including food insecurity, poor housing, lack of access to safe water and sanitation, and inadequate access to health care”.

- Persons with disabilities are particularly **at risk to the effects of climate change**, such as natural disasters and food insecurity; they are also more vulnerable in situations of conflict. The impacts of climate change (extreme weather, sea level changes and agriculture productivity changes, leading to food insecurity) will affect the world’s poorest populations;
- Persons with disabilities are amongst those most vulnerable to **environmental change and degradation**. Of the estimated 200 million people displaced by the effects of climate change by 2050, at least 18 million are likely to be persons with disabilities.

Evidence and UN recommendations

- The first report of the Open Working Group for the SDGs contains explicit references to persons with disabilities and calls for mainstreaming disability, accessibility, equality, affordability, and non-discrimination.
- 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 Outcome Document of the **Rio+20** conference acknowledged that persons with disabilities not only face significant restrictions in all aspects of development, but should be considered a vulnerable population and included as one of the major stakeholders involved in the development of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In accordance with Paragraph 135 governments must commit to promote **sustainable development** policies that support inclusive housing and social services; a safe and healthy living environment for all, particularly, persons with disabilities.
- The **Secretary-General’s** latest report (August 2013) and the report of the **High-Level Panel on the Post 2015 Development** Agenda (May 2013). Both documents call for disaggregation of data based on disability and the mainstreaming of persons with disabilities in the new development goals. The Secretary-General, when setting the goals for the post-2015 development agenda, recognized 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 new development agenda – **the development and utilization of indicators and targets that are inclusive and sensitive of persons with disabilities**.

For more information on the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the Open Working Group process, please contact Vladimir Cuk, Acting Executive Director of the International Disability Alliance: vcuk@ida-secretariat.org or Elizabeth Lockwood, Ph.D., UN Advocacy Officer, CBM: Elizabeth.Lockwood@cbm.org