

The International Disability Alliance (IDA) and the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC) hereby submit the joint written statement to the President of the General Assembly thematic debate on “Ensuring Stable and Peaceful Societies.”

How can the nexus between sustainable development and peace and stability best be addressed in the post-2015 development agenda?

Sustainable peace and justice are key enablers for development and democratic states. When devastating conflicts and large-scale violence occur, the effectiveness of development on the affected population is highly diminished. In fragile states, weak institutions, corruption, and insecurity can lead to unpunished abuses, gross human rights violations and voiceless victims. It is thus essential that states and international organisations support the creation of participatory governance, which enables the representation of all citizens, especially the most marginalised, such as persons with disabilities, women, indigenous populations and older people. The lack of access to justice for the most excluded can reinforce the cycle of poverty, violence and impunity.

The representation of persons with disabilities is especially important since this population makes up 15 per cent of the world’s population or one billion people and 1 in 5 individuals in developing countries has a disability. Despite this, persons with disabilities are often excluded from all levels of democratic processes due to discrimination, social exclusion and poor accessibility, which adversely affect the right or ability to vote, to participate in campaigning, be involved in public consultations and to run for election. Consequently with the implementation of good governance, persons with disabilities would be empowered to participate meaningfully in transparent democratic processes.

The involvement and participation of all people, including persons with disabilities, in political, social and economic decision-making is essential for accountable good governance and peace and stability. Disability must be systematically included across all aspects of peace building and conflict management. Furthermore, provision needs to be made for disability awareness and inclusion training of security personnel, legal and judicial staff and government officials, at national and local levels, which will enable the active promotion of equitable and inclusive governance, in keeping with the tenants of good governance.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD) requires inclusive governance practices that actively encourage the participation of persons with disabilities at all levels of the democratic process. In particular, Article 14 of the UN CRPD provides the international legal framework for liberty and security of persons with disabilities. In addition, the UN CRPD

contains several Articles that concern governance and political participation, which include Article 13, access to justice; Article 21, the right to freedom of expression and access to information; and Article 29, the right of persons with disabilities to participate in political and public life.

It is important to remember that sustainable development can only contribute to peace and stability if *all* marginalised groups, such as persons with disabilities are included in the post-2015 development agenda, aligning with the post-2015 agenda theme of “leave no one behind.”