

## Make the post-MDG framework inclusive of persons with disabilities

The International Disability Alliance<sup>1</sup> and the International Disability and Development Consortium<sup>2</sup> call for the following recommendations to be taken into account in order to create a more equitable and inclusive post-MDG agenda:

### Setting the framework for fostering equity and inclusion:

- The new sustainable development framework must enable a **focus on the poorest, most marginalised groups, such as persons with disabilities, ensuring their effective participation in all stages of the process including in the negotiation phase.**
- The framework needs to be driven by the human rights-based approach, with **equality and non-discrimination** as priority themes. To ensure this leads to concrete action, there should be a **stand-alone goal on equality and non-discrimination**, as well as the obligations to pursue these principles across the new framework.
- The current **understanding and definition of poverty, progress and development should be revised** so that it goes beyond income, consumption and wealth.

### Provisions specific to persons with disabilities:

- **The new framework has to be inclusive of persons with disabilities and compliant with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). All goals should be inclusive of persons with disabilities.** There need to be specific indicators related to the inclusion of the persons with disabilities within each of the goals.
- Mechanisms should be in place to ensure the effective **participation of organisations of persons with disabilities** at every stage of the process.
- **Mandatory disaggregation of data** by disability, as well as producing **new datasets on persons with disabilities.**
- A revision of **overseas development assistance** to include **disability related markers.**
- Any **new global partnerships** must include persons with disabilities in their international cooperation efforts.
- **As established by article 32 of the CRPD**, all projects and programmes, whether mainstream or disability specific, have to be **compliant with the CRPD**, and promote the rights and full and effective participation for persons with disabilities, **including by supporting the work of representative organizations of persons with disabilities.**
- In accordance with Paragraph 135 of the Rio +20 Outcome Document, 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.

Implementation of these recommendations will help us to achieve the vision expressed by the UN Task Team for the future that rests on the core universal values of human rights, equality and sustainability<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> International Disability Alliance (IDA) web site: [www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org](http://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org)

<sup>2</sup> International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC) web site: [www.iddcconsortium.net](http://www.iddcconsortium.net)

<sup>3</sup> Realizing the Future We Want for All Report to the Secretary-General by the UN Task Team, June 2012

## Why is this crucial?

According to the World Report on Disability published by the World Health Organization and World Bank<sup>4</sup>, there are an estimated **one billion** persons with disabilities across the globe. They face barriers to participation in society, such as in accessing development programmes and funds, 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<sup>5</sup>. Furthermore, 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.

**Persons with disabilities were absent from the Millennium Declaration and have remained so throughout the Millennium Development Goals processes:** According to the UN System Task Team report on the post-2015 agenda, the MDGs have not reached the poorest and most marginalized people. The exclusion and invisibility of persons with disabilities is indicative of how the present framework fails. This has been compounded by a lack of reliable statistics on persons with disabilities. They face discrimination on multiple levels, yet remain absent in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the MDGs<sup>6</sup>.

## **Growing commitments of the system to make international cooperation inclusive of persons with disabilities:**

- The CRPD has come into force and has seen an almost unprecedented speed in terms of ratification; today 124 countries have ratified. It is the only human rights treaty with a stand-alone article on international cooperation which calls on all States Parties to ensure that international cooperation programmes and policies are accessible for and inclusive of persons with disabilities.
- The UN Secretary General's Report 'Keeping the Promise: Realizing MDGs for Persons with Disabilities Towards 2015 and Beyond' outlined how this landmark Convention should be translated into an inclusive development framework.
- The MDG Summit Outcome Document of September 2010 highlighted the need for inclusion of persons with disabilities.
- The World Bank and the World Health Organization published the first World Report on Disability in 2011 which provided evidence on the global situation of persons with disabilities.
- In 2011, the Busan Outcome Document on aid effectiveness embraced disability as a principle underpinning effective development.
- The UN Partnership to Promote the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Fund was established in 2012 to mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities in the UN system.
- The Rio +20 Outcome Document clearly recognized the participation of persons with disabilities in the sustainable development agenda.

There has been, therefore, a marked progress in terms of commitment to the inclusion of persons with disabilities within the UN system which needs to be translated in broader and deeper commitments in the post 2015 framework.

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<sup>4</sup> *Report on Disability 2011*, published by the World Health Organization and the World Bank

<sup>5</sup> A/RES/65/185 Realizing the Millennium Development Goals for persons with disabilities towards 2015 and beyond; A/RES/66/124 High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Realizations of the Millennium Development Goals and other Internationally Agreed Development Goals for Persons with Disabilities

<sup>6</sup> A/RES/64/131 Realizing the Millennium Development Goals for persons with disabilities