

Concept Note

DESA/DSPD Forum on Disability and Development¹

Operationalizing the Post-2015 Development Agenda for Persons with Disabilities

Co-sponsored by the Permanent Missions of Ecuador, Japan , Barbados, UK , and Kenya, Philippines(TBC), UN Habitat, UNESCO, DPI and LCD, GAATES, City of New York, City of Rikuzentakata, The Nippon Foundation, 100 World Resilient Cities network/ Rockefeller Foundation, Google(tbc)

United Nations Headquarters New York

Conference Room 6 (TBC) | 12 June 2015 | 10 am – 1 pm

Background

As the 2015 deadline for the Millennium Development Goals draws closer, the international community is finalizing a post-2015 development agenda. The emerging agenda will include the Sustainable Development Goals and the recently adopted Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 among others. In anticipation of a new international development framework, it is important that the global community begins to formulate strategies and develop mechanisms to ensure that future implementation is inclusive of persons with disabilities.

Recently, the United Nations Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (SCRPD) of the Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD), Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) convened an Expert Group Meeting on “Operationalizing the Post-2015 Development Agenda for Persons with Disabilities” in Beirut in April 2015. This Meeting brought together a range of experts from across the globe to reflect on past experiences and to develop a set of recommendations to guide the mainstreaming of disability in the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda.

This Round Table Discussion is organized in follow-up to the UN Expert Group Meeting, to invite further reflection on achievements in advancing disability-inclusive development and to support elaboration and discussion around the execution of the recommendations adopted at the Meeting. After a briefing on the Expert Group Meeting, the discussion will focus around two specific topics: 1) disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction and humanitarian response, and 2) inclusive and sustainable urban development.

The post-2015 development agenda and persons with disabilities

¹ The Forum on Disability and Development, officially launched in 2013, is an initiative of the Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of the Division for Social Policy and Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA). It aims to contribute to the on-going global efforts towards an inclusive, accessible and sustainable post-2015 development framework and agenda, through an exchange of experiences, expertise and innovative ideas to develop practical solutions for pressing issues with regard to disability-inclusion in development.

The international community has strongly voiced concern over growing inequality and exclusion of persons with disabilities in society and development. Countries have repeatedly stressed that it is impossible to genuinely achieve any internationally agreed development goal without incorporating the rights, well-being and perspective of persons with disabilities in development efforts at all levels. Recommendations for the inclusion of disability as a cross-cutting issue and the importance of including a disability-perspective in the post-2015 agenda are also highlighted in recent reports of the Secretary General.²

Recent inclusion of disability in the ongoing work towards the post-2015 development agenda is very promising. There are nine references to persons with disabilities in the OWG SDG proposal, of which two in the introduction and the remaining seven in the targets related to the goals on education , employment and decent work , inequality , cities and human settlements and implementation and global partnership for sustainable development. Besides these explicit mentions, there are three references to ‘the vulnerable’ in the targets relating to poverty and education and additional references to ‘persons in vulnerable situations’ in the targets relating to the goals on poverty, hunger and food security , education and cities and human settlements.

While the references to disability in recent SDGs are promising, significant efforts will be needed to ensure that the post-2015 global development framework and relevant major processes such as the Habitat III and UN Humanitarian Summit would give due consideration to disability issues and mainstream the rights, needs and concerns of persons with disabilities in their outcomes. More importantly, concerted efforts are needed to translate normative commitments to practical actions and impact on the ground to ensure the shortcomings under the MDGs will not be repeated. In this regard, persons with disabilities and their organizations should be consulted and engaged to inform all future development policies and programs at the global, regional and national levels in the designing, implementation and follow up of the post-2015 agenda.

DESA/DSPD Forum on Operationalizing the Post-2015 Development Agenda for Persons with Disabilities

This roundtable style event will discuss and identify entry points and emerging opportunities for actions and strategies to further mainstream disability in critical areas of the post 2015 development agenda. This will be guided by a focus on disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction and resilience - humanitarian crises responses and

² “A life of dignity for all: accelerating progress towards and advancing the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015”, A/68/202 and “The road to dignity by 2030: ending poverty, transforming all lives and protecting the planet”, A/69/700

urban development among other areas that are critical to sustainable development beyond 2015.

This will be achieved through an interactive dialogue that involves discussion of past implementation of disability-inclusive international development frameworks and best practices; factors that contribute to the success of mainstreaming perspectives of persons with disabilities in development; and methods to replicate and expand on such success and experiences.

The Forum will result in a set of practical recommendations for disability-inclusive implementation of these goals and to advance mainstreaming of disability in the core global discourses in particular those relating to the upcoming World Humanitarian Summit and Habitat III and their implementation.

Co-sponsors and speakers from (tbc)

Government of Ecuador, Japan, Barbados, UK, Kenya, Finland, the Philippines

UN Habitat, UNISDR, UNESCO, UNHCR

City of Rikuzentakata, Department of Transport of New York City ,

Disabled People's International(DPI), Leonard Cheshire Disability(LCD), Global Alliance on Accessible Technologies and Environments (GAATES) , CBM, University of Sydney, Doshisha University,

The Nippon Foundation, 100 World Resilient Cities / Rockefeller Foundation, Google,

Moderator:

UNDESA

For further information, please visit UN Enable site at www.un.org/disabilities, or contact the Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, DESA by email to enable@un.org

