

## Resolution

**2010/13**

### **Mainstreaming disability in the development agenda**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Reaffirming* that the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development<sup>1</sup> and the further initiatives for social development adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty fourth special session,<sup>2</sup> as well as a continued global dialogue on social development issues, constitute the basic framework for the promotion of social

*Noting* that the entry into force of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,<sup>3</sup> which is both a human rights treaty and a development tool, provides an opportunity to strengthen the policies related to and the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, thereby contributing to the realization of a society for all in the twenty-first century,

*Recalling* the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons,<sup>50</sup> the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities<sup>51</sup> and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which recognize persons with disabilities as both development agents and beneficiaries in all aspects of development,

*Recalling* its previous resolutions concerning persons with disabilities and the relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly,

*Acknowledging* the fact that the majority of the 690 million persons with disabilities in the world live in conditions of poverty, and in this regard recognizing the critical need to address the negative impact of poverty on persons with disabilities,

*Noting* that persons with disabilities make up an estimated 10 per cent of the world's population, of whom 80 per cent live in developing countries, and recognizing the importance of international cooperation and its promotion in support of national efforts, in particular for developing countries,

*Convinced* that addressing the profound social, cultural and economic disadvantage experienced by many persons with disabilities, and that promoting the use of universal design as appropriate, as well as the progressive removal of

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<sup>1</sup> *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

<sup>2</sup> General Assembly resolution S-24/2, annex

<sup>3</sup> General Assembly resolution 61/106, annex I.

barriers to their full and effective participation in all aspects of development and promoting their economic, social and cultural rights, will further the equalization of opportunities and contribute to the realization of a “society for all” in the twenty-first century,

*Bearing in mind* that the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, provides a comprehensive normative framework, as well as specific guidance, for mainstreaming disability,

*Underlining* the importance of mobilizing resources at all levels for the successful implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and recognizing the importance of international cooperation and its promotion in support of national efforts, in particular in developing countries,

*Recognizing* that the achievement of the mainstreaming of disability at all levels remains a major challenge, and therefore that further efforts are required to give practical meaning to the concept of mainstreaming and its realization in United Nations activities in the development agenda,

*Welcoming* the fact that, since the opening for signature on 30 March 2007 of the Convention and the Optional Protocol thereto,<sup>4</sup> one hundred and forty-nine States have signed and seventy-seven States have ratified the Convention and eighty-nine States have signed and fifty States have ratified the Optional Protocol, and one regional integration organization has signed the Convention,

*Noting* that, in the report of the Secretary-General, it is stated that information on and experience in the implementation of disability mainstreaming in the development agenda is limited, and acknowledging that international, regional, subregional and national efforts to mainstream disability in the development agenda is relatively new and ongoing and urges further progress in this regard,

*Noting also* the progress made by the Inter-Agency Support Group on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the United Nations Development Group Task Team on Disability in mainstreaming disability in the development agenda, including in the work of the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, and urging further progress towards mainstreaming disability into their development agenda,

*Recognizing* that the forthcoming high-level plenary meeting to review the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals in 2010 is an important opportunity for enhancing efforts to realize the Millennium Development Goals for all, including persons with disabilities,

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<sup>4</sup> General Assembly resolution 61/106, annex II.

*Recognizing also* that the annual ministerial review, which is to focus on implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and the empowerment of women, provides an opportunity to highlight the situation of women and girls with disabilities,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;<sup>5</sup>
2. *Calls upon* those States that have not yet done so to consider signing and ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities<sup>3</sup> and the Optional Protocol<sup>4</sup> thereto as a matter of priority;
3. *Calls upon* Member States to enable persons with disabilities to participate as agents and beneficiaries of development, in particular in all efforts aimed at achieving the Millennium Development Goals, by ensuring that programmes and policies, namely those aimed at eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, achieving universal primary education, promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women, reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, ensuring environmental sustainability and developing a global partnership for development, are inclusive and accessible to persons with disabilities;
4. *Encourages* international cooperation in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, including through global partnerships for development, which are crucial for the realization of the Goals for all, including persons with disabilities;
5. *Recognizes* the need to promote participation, consultation, inclusion and integration of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in mainstreaming disability in the development agenda;
6. *Recognizes also* the need to promote accessibility to the physical, social, economic and cultural environment, to health and education and to information and communication, to the inclusion of persons with disabilities in all aspects of development, and of undertaking measures to make, inter alia, the environment and transport accessible to all persons with disabilities, and to provide accessible information and communications technologies;

7. *Urges* Member States:

- (a) To mainstream disability, including the perspective of persons with disabilities, into the design, implementation and monitoring of national development policies, programmes and strategies, and in this regard calls upon the United Nations system to support, upon request, as appropriate, national and

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<sup>5</sup> E/CN.5/2010/6

regional efforts and plans to develop methodologies and tools and to promote capacity building and evaluation;

(b) To conduct reviews and assessments, analysing the extent to which disability is mainstreamed effectively in the development agenda, with a view to identifying best practices and eliminating gaps between policy and implementation;

(c) To conduct disability awareness-raising campaigns, education and training for all those involved in the development agenda, in order to promote the inclusion of persons with disabilities;

8. *Encourages* the United Nations system, including relevant agencies, funds and programmes, in accordance with their respective mandates:

(a) To share their best practices, information, tools and methodologies on the mainstreaming of disability in their activities, through appropriate means, and to review them periodically, in order to take a coherent and coordinated approach in disability issues within the United Nations operational framework;

(b) To conduct disability education and awareness-raising campaigns and to step up efforts to recruit persons with disabilities at all levels, including in field positions;

(c) To enhance their accountability, including at the highest levels of decision-making, in the work of mainstreaming disability in the development agenda, including in the assessment of the impact of development efforts on the situation of persons with disabilities;

9. *Encourages* all Member States, concerned intergovernmental organizations and international and regional organizations, civil society, in particular organizations of persons with disabilities, and the private sector, to engage in cooperative arrangements that aim at providing the necessary technical and expert assistance to enhance capacities in mainstreaming disability, including the perspective of persons with disabilities, in the development agenda, and in this regard, encourages the United Nations Secretariat and other relevant bodies to find improved ways to enhance international technical cooperation;

10. *Urges* Member States and relevant entities of the United Nations system, including agencies, funds and programmes, and invites international and regional organizations, including regional integration organizations, as appropriate, and financial institutions to take concrete measures to mainstream disability, including the perspective of persons with disabilities, and accessibility requirements, into development cooperation and development finance activities;

11. *Stresses* the need to enhance accountability in the work of mainstreaming disability into the development agenda, including in the assessment of the impact of development efforts on the situation of persons with disabilities;

12. *Welcomes* the appointment of a new Special Rapporteur on disability of the Commission for Social Development for the period 2009–2011;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including on the coordination of the United Nations for mainstreaming disabilities into all their policies and activities, for submission to the Commission for Social Development at its fiftieth session.

*45th plenary meeting  
22 July 2010*