



International Disability Alliance (IDA) and International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC)*

Comments on the unedited draft of the 2017 report of the Inter-agency Task Force on Financing for Development – Progress and prospect

Please find IDA and IDDC's suggestions below in red.

Chapter II – Financing Investment

- (P. 15) Measures to increase long-term investments and address short-term vulnerabilities are thus mutually reinforcing. They improve the economic system's capacity to deliver widespread rising incomes, end hunger and malnutrition, and provide decent work for all. Similarly, investment in gender equality and women's empowerment is essential to achieving sustained and inclusive economic growth and sustainable development, **as well as the empowerment of persons with disabilities. When persons with disabilities and their families cannot access essential public services and support mechanisms that open up economic opportunities; when they cannot take part in income-generating activities or when they are prevented from making wider contributions to the lives of their families and communities, there are far-reaching economic, as well as, social consequences.**¹
- (P. 20) In the Addis Agenda, Governments committed to "promote incentives along the investment chain that are aligned with long-term performance and sustainability indicators." **This is particularly important in ensuring that infrastructure meets the commitments in paragraph 14, including on infrastructure accessibility and resilience.**
- (P. 20) The Task Force has identified several factors that shape these incentives, including institutional factors; short-term oriented compensation packages, particularly when long-term investors outsource management to asset managers with shorter-term horizons; firm culture; **public procurement frameworks**; and regulatory and accounting standards. In this regard, some

¹ Banks and Polack (2015). The Economic Costs of Exclusion and Gains of Inclusion of People with Disabilities. CBM/London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine: <http://disabilitycentre.lshtm.ac.uk/files/2014/07/Costs-of-Exclusion-and-Gains-of-Inclusion-Report.pdf>

long-term investors are taking actions to better align incentives with long-term investing.

- (P. 24) As infrastructure projects often profoundly impact local communities, ***inclusive and accessible stakeholder participation in decision making on PPPs is critical to ensure accountability.***
- Add a Box (below) on P. 33 (or where best fits)

Box 3: Persons with Disabilities: Leave No One Behind in Financing for Development

The SDGs' commitment to leave no one behind has implications for development financing, as recognized in the first paragraph of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

The world's one billion persons with disabilities were historically left behind by development, and their situation offers a lens for examining the inclusivity of the financing for development agenda more broadly.

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda contains six explicit references to persons with disabilities and disability, one to "inclusive education", one to "inclusive learning environment" and two to "accessible" technologies and infrastructures.

But available evidence suggests that, significant barriers to disability-inclusive financing remain:

- The World Report on Disability cites data from 51 countries showing that employment rates for women with disabilities are 19.6%, compared with 29.9% for women without disabilities; and 52.8% for men with disabilities, compared with 64.9% for men without disabilities.²
- Research by the International Disability Alliance indicates that budget allocation for persons with disabilities in some low and middle income countries can range from zero to 0.5% of GDP.³
- The International Labour Organisation recently reported that, of 183 countries reviewed, less than half had a non-contributory cash benefit scheme for persons with disabilities.⁴
- A recent analysis of some 2,500 World Bank projects found that just 2% were inclusive of persons with disabilities.⁵
- What is more, in some countries, austerity regimes have led to a **reduction** in domestic resource allocations for public services and social

² World Bank / World Health Organisation, *World Report on Disability*, 2011, p.237

³ International Disability Alliance, public resource mobilisation for implementation of the CRPD, working paper, quoted in Cote, Meeks and Tardi, *Leave No-One Behind in Financing for Development*, CIVICUS, April 2015 –

⁴ International Labour Organisation, 2014 World Social Protection Report: http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dqreports/---dcomm/documents/publication/wcms_245201.pdf

⁵ Jacob Sims et al, Tracking Investment in Disability Inclusive Development, AidData, 2015

protection, and this has affected persons with disabilities and other marginalised groups disproportionately.⁶

These data indicate the need for dedicated actions to ensure that the implementation of the financing for development agenda leaves no one behind, including:

- A progressive **increase in dedicated domestic resource allocation and international development cooperation to support the full inclusion of persons with disabilities and their families** in sustainable development.
- Binding accountability mechanisms to ensure that **private investments and infrastructure projects adhere to human rights standards, including the rights to accessibility and work enshrined in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.**
- **Transparent and accessible reporting** of domestic and international resource allocations for the realisation of disability rights, including through the introduction of a disability policy marker on the OECD DAC Creditor Reporting System, and full participation of persons with disabilities and their families in resource allocation processes.

Chapter II – Addressing Vulnerabilities

- (P. 28) “Extreme poverty is still suffered by 13 per cent of the world’s population, including women, persons with ~~disability~~ **disabilities**, indigenous persons, children and youth and the elderly.”
(Please use “persons with disabilities” keeping in line with language from the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities).
- (P. 28-29) Social protection floors are meant to convey at least minimum benefits to all people at every stage in their life cycle (children, mothers with newborns, support for those without jobs, persons with disabilities, the elderly) through nationally designed and owned social protection systems. **This is especially important as with 183 countries reviewed, less than half had a non-contributory cash benefit scheme for persons with disabilities.**⁷

Chapter III A – Domestic Public Resources

⁶<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Development/Pages/PromotingHRbasedfinancialregulationmacroeconomicpolicies.aspx>

⁷ ILO (2014). World Social Protection Report 2014-15: Building economic recovery, inclusive development and social justice: http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/documents/publication/wcms_245201.pdf

- (P. 35) To further strengthen the link between taxation, expenditure and the accountability of the State, fiscal transparency is critical. ***The Task Force recommends better disaggregation of budget data, including by sex disability and age to improve tracking of spending related to the SDGs and to speed up efforts to improve transparency, with increased capacity building for countries that need assistance.***

Chapter III.B. – Domestic and international business and finance

- (P. 55) Long-term investment, sustainability and stability of the financial system should be mutually reinforcing. Moreover, without a long-term perspective, firms won't incorporate long-term risks, such as climate change, into their investment decisions. ***Efforts by the private sector to better align their internal incentives with long-term investment and with sustainable development indicators should be supported, as should UN 56 system initiatives (such as the Global Compact, the Sustainable Stock Exchange Initiative, Principles for Responsible Investing, and the UNEP Inquiry.). The Task Force also specifically recommends that accountability processes be implemented to ensure private sector activities meet the SDGs' commitment to leave no one behind, for example by ensuring equal access to employment for persons with disabilities, in line with AAAA paragraph 16.***
- (P. 67) There have also been a range of complementary initiatives, in partnership with the private sector, geared to encouraging businesses to incorporate ESG criteria into their decisions-making. (See Box 1.) While there are a number of existing sustainability indices (such as, for example, Dow Jones Sustainability Index, FTSE4Good), efforts are being made to create a set of publicly available corporate sustainability benchmarks that are more closely linked to the SDGs, ***however further benchmarks should be identified, including persons with disabilities.*** These would rank companies across a range of indicators such as climate change, gender, access to health care and other key aspects of the SDGs. This would go a step further in providing transparent information to investors and civil society and investors on how companies are aligning their activities with sustainable development objectives.

Chapter III.C. – International Development Cooperation

- (P. 74) The United Nations system is also moving to implement a more coherent approach in response to the 2030 Agenda, including through guidance provided by the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review resolution adopted in December 2016. ***Culminating a two-year dialogue among Member States, the 2016 QCPR provides a framework to reorient the UN system as a whole towards improved effectiveness and impact in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.***

- (following the above paragraph, add as a new paragraph) Official development assistance remains an important supplement to domestic resources in meeting the SDGs' commitment to leave no one behind. Yet at present while the OECD DAC Creditor Reporting System allows allocations for gender equality to be tracked, there is little data on resource allocations for other marginalized groups, such as persons with disabilities. A number of individual donors are starting to introduce disability policy markers to their own internal reporting systems (for example the UK Department for International Development), **and the Task Force recommends that the international community review lessons from this experience with a view to tracking more comprehensively ODA allocations for persons with disabilities and others who have been left behind.**
- (P. 134) There is also a notable lack of statistics on disabilities. In response, in 2015 the UN Statistics Division and the Washington Group on Disability Statistics started a project aimed at developing international guidelines for the measurement of disability and enhancing the capacity of national statistical systems to collect and generate relevant, quality disability statistics based on those guidelines. This project will be completed in March 2019. Furthermore, for the purposes of SDG data disaggregation by disability the short set of questions developed by the Washington Group on Disability Statistics can be used as a methodology at low cost.

** The International Disability Alliance consists of eight global and six regional Members and the International Disability and Development Consortium has 26 full members.*