



**Commission for Social Development**

**Fifty-fourth session**

**Multi-stakeholder panel discussion**

**“Implementation of the Post-2015 development agenda in light of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities”**

10.00 – 13.00 | 5 February 2016

**DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE**

**Introduction**

The work of the United Nations in the field of disability has been centered on economic and social development since the inception of the Organization. From the early 1980's, the Commission for Social Development (CSocD) has been promoting and monitoring the implementation of the disability-relevant instruments from the social development perspective<sup>1</sup> in the context of the implementation of the disability relevant instruments, including the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons (1982), the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities (1993) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006).

In 1994, the Assembly appointed the Special Rapporteur on Disability of the CSocD to monitor the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities.

In addition, in accordance with ESCOSOC resolutions<sup>2</sup>, the Special Rapporteur on Disability of the CSocD had also the mandate to: (a) raise awareness of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and the Standard Rules as well as the outcome document of the General Assembly High Level Meeting on Disability and Development; (b) promote the inclusion of persons with disabilities and the mainstreaming of disability issues in development programmes and strategies at the national, regional and international levels; and to (c) promote international cooperation, including technical cooperation with all relevant stakeholders, including organizations of persons with disabilities.

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<sup>1</sup> As per Report of the Secretary-General entitled Monitoring of the implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities (E/CN.5/2011/9)

<sup>2</sup> ECOSOC Resolution 2008/20 and 2011/27

ECOSOC, in its resolution E/RES/2014/6, recognized that the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on Disability would expire on 31 December 2014<sup>3</sup>, and decided that the Commission should consider at its fifty-third session the possibility of another monitoring mechanism, with a view to strengthening the mainstreaming of disability in social development.<sup>4</sup>

At the 53<sup>rd</sup> session, the CSocD further decided to organize a multi-stakeholder panel discussion on disability during the 5<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission which has a priority theme for 2015-2016 biennium, “Rethinking and strengthening social development in the contemporary world”<sup>5</sup>.

## **Background**

Over the past decade, the international community has made marked progress in mainstreaming disability in the development agenda and emphasized that it is impossible to genuinely achieve internationally agreed development goals without incorporating the rights, well-being, contributions and perspectives of persons with disabilities in development efforts at all levels.<sup>6</sup> In response to this call and to address the persistent gap between policy and practice, the General Assembly convened a High-level Meeting on Disability and Development (HLMDD) in 2013 which reiterated the international commitment to mainstreaming disability in the global and national development agenda.

Following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit in September 2015, disability has been integrated into the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development. The new framework would require the mainstreaming of disability in operationalizing disability-inclusive targets of the Agenda 2030.

During the 53<sup>rd</sup> session of the CSocD, it was recognized that the evolution of institutional mechanisms on disability should reflect the changing international development landscape and its changing demands, including for enhanced policy coherence for development. The idea of a possible future mechanism on monitoring progress made by Member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for persons with disabilities was mentioned.

In this context, the CSocD will convene a multi-stakeholder panel discussion, entitled “Implementation of the post 2015 development agenda in light of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities”, with a view to further elaborating on how the existing mechanisms and entities within the UN system can contribute to strengthening the mainstreaming of disability, enhance awareness and cooperation at all levels on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to consider the possibility and modalities of another monitoring mechanism on disability for the CSocD during its 54<sup>th</sup> session. .<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> E/RES/2014/6, operational paragraph 2

<sup>4</sup> Ibid., operational paragraph 4

<sup>5</sup> <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N15/053/55/PDF/N1505355.pdf?OpenElement>

<sup>6</sup> See A/RES/69/142; A/RES/68/3; A/RES/67/140.

<sup>7</sup> E/CN.5/2015/L.5, para 3.

## **Renewed commitment of the international community to the mainstreaming of disability in the 2030 development agenda**

The commitment of the international community to advance the mainstreaming of disability in development has been greatly strengthened and reflected in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Disability is specifically mentioned 11 times in target areas in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including in education, growth and employment, inequality, and accessibility of human settlements<sup>8</sup>.

It is notable that the collective efforts by the international community to address disability in inequalities and inclusion are also evident through the new development Agenda. While the indicators to measure these goals are still under development, the international community has begun to put in place mechanisms to support the operationalization and monitoring of progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

### **United Nations institutional frameworks on disability: processes and mechanisms, and mandates-holders with a focus on disability**

The General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and its CSocD promote the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the disability-specific instruments, including the Convention on the Rights of Persons, World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, the Standard Rules on Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities and with disabilities as well as the mainstreaming of disability in the global agenda, including the most recently adopted 2030 development agenda for sustainable development(2015).

In alignment with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006) and the Outcome Document of the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on Disability and Development<sup>9</sup> (2013), the international community now has an extraordinary opportunity to advance the new 2030 Development Agenda for disability-inclusive society and development that benefits all.

The Human Rights Council promotes the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as an integral part of its mandates and appointed its Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Among other components, the Special Rapporteur has the mandate to: a) make concrete recommendations on ... how to contribute to the realization of internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities, how to promote development that is inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities and how to promote their role as both agents for and beneficiaries of development; b) to work closely with other mandates in the field, with a view to avoid unnecessary duplication, including, to c) to cooperate closely with the Commission for Social Development, upon request<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Available at

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/7891Transforming%20Our%20World.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> A/68/1. Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities: the way forward, a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond.

<sup>10</sup> A/HRC/RES/26/20, para 2c; 2f; 2g

The Committee on the rights of Persons with Disabilities, as part of the United Nations human rights treaty system, monitors the implementation by the States parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities through its established monitoring framework.

**Panel Discussion on Implementation of the Post-2015 development agenda in light of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

The Panel Discussion will:

- Take note and discuss the recent progress in the disability-inclusion in the 2030 Global Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- Discuss how existing UN institutional frameworks, including the existing mechanisms and entities within the UN system, can contribute to strengthening the mainstreaming of disability, enhance awareness and improve cooperation at all levels, to advance the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; and to
- Discuss the possibility and modalities of establishing a new monitoring mechanism for disability in development for the CSocD.

**Structure:**

The panel will consist of six participants (five panelists and a moderator). Each panelist will be invited to make a 10-minute presentation. Following their presentations, the moderator will open the floor for questions and an interactive discussion. The panel discussion will be chaired by H.E. Mr.I.Jinga, the Chair of the Commission.

The panel discussion will provide a basis for the consideration by the CSocD to decide how it contributes to the disability-inclusive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The discussions and proposals will be reflected in the Chairperson’s summary.

<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Suggested speaking time</b>
Chair: Opening remarks	2 minutes
Moderator: Context-setting	5 minutes
Panellists (5): Presentations	10 minutes per panellist
Moderated interactive discussion	Interventions limited to 3 minutes or less followed by responses from panellists. There will be no formal statements.
Total duration of the high-level panel discussion: 3 hours	

The panel discussion will take place at the United Nations Headquarters (Conference Room to be confirmed), in New York, on 5 February 2016, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm.