The Declaration on Social Progress and Development (1969) affirms the fundamental freedoms and principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and emphasize the need to protect the rights and welfare of persons with disabilities.

Economic and Social Council adopts resolutions that indicate an increased awareness that recognize disability and persons with disabilities from a social dimension.

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The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is adopted. It is a global development plan that specifically includes persons with disabilities, under five goals in seven targets. Disability and persons with disabilities are also included in other global development frameworks, such as the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on financing for development.

The General Assembly convenes a High-Level meeting on Disability and Development (2013) at the level of Heads of State and Governments who commits to achieving the MDGs and all internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities, as well as to mainstream disability in all development efforts.

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) (2006) is adopted as an international treaty to promote, protect and ensure all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all persons with disabilities.

Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities (1993) is adopted. The Rules serve as a guidance for policy-making, taking action to remove obstacles and creating equal opportunity for persons with disabilities in society and development. A Special Rapporteur on Disability (1993) of the Commission for Social Development is established to promote and monitor the implementation of the Standards Rules.


The Declaration on the Rights of Mentally Retarded Persons (1971), followed by a second disability-specific instrument, the Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons (1975) are adopted. These declarations are the first UN instruments that specifically address persons with disabilities.

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