



Submission of the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities to the Pact of the Future

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Chapeau

The Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development was the first global development framework that made explicit references to persons with disabilities. It gave the 1.3 billion persons with disabilities around the world, particularly the 80% who live in countries of the global South, hope for inclusion in the development agenda and for improved conditions for their lives. With the world facing polycrises, that promise, however, is clearly in peril. With half of the world's 240 million children with disabilities likely to have never attended school¹ and seven out of ten persons with disabilities not being in any kind of employment², and the disproportionate impact of the COVID19 pandemic on persons with disabilities³, it is quite evident that our systems are inherently exclusionary and cannot respond equitably to all people, particularly those facing multiple intersecting forms of discrimination. The Pact for the Future must therefore put human rights at the centre and include a sharper focus on structural issues that continue to keep many communities at the margins of development. In this regard, we call on Member States to recall the human rights principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as well as several human rights treaties, in particular the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

Chapter I. Sustainable development and financing for development

Recalling that the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development established that persons with disabilities are equal partners in development, and as reaffirmed in the Political Declaration of the High-Level Political Forum adopted by the UN General Assembly in September 2023, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, we urge Member States to:

1. Ensure that the **multiple intersecting forms of discrimination** faced by persons with disabilities are addressed through all sections of the Pact for the Future, with a particular focus on disability, gender, race, youth, ethnicity, migration status, sexual orientation, among others.
2. Recognizing that **persons with disabilities are overrepresented among those facing extreme poverty and hunger**, ensure that all efforts to end poverty and hunger everywhere; to combat inequalities within and among countries; to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies; respects, protects and fulfils the human rights of all persons with disabilities.
3. Recalling the [Call to Action](#) launched at the Transforming Education Summit, actively **bridge the 'disability gap' in education** by making inclusive and equitable quality education a reality for persons with disabilities including for women and girls, persons belonging to ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities; stateless and internally displaced persons; migrants; asylum seekers and refugees.

¹ <https://data.unicef.org/resources/children-with-disabilities-report-2021/>

² <https://ilostat.ilo.org/new-ilo-database-highlights-labour-market-challenges-of-persons-with-disabilities/>

³ <https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/content/ida-survey-experiences-persons-disabilities-adapting-covid-19-global-pandemic>



4. Promote a human rights-based approach to **Universal Health Coverage**, ensuring non-discrimination, progressive universalism, and inclusive health financing and governance with the full participation of organizations of persons with disabilities at all levels.
5. Ensure **full community inclusion and independent living of persons with disabilities** of all age groups and across the life course, including by adopting a human-rights-based approach in the following areas, amongst others: humanitarian assistance; assistive technologies; transportation; housing; accessible infrastructure and services in inclusive cities; comprehensive social protection which covers disability-related costs. In low and middle-income countries, community-based services and support remain underfinanced and underdeveloped, which can translate into a lack of autonomy and agency for persons with disabilities, and can be a driver of segregation and institutionalization in some contexts. Donors must follow the “do no harm” principle by ensuring that their investments do not fund institutions and other segregated settings, as defined in the CRPD Guidelines on Deinstitutionalisation, including in emergencies.
6. Commit to collecting **disability-specific disaggregated data** using recognized approaches such as the Washington Group Question Sets to track the impact of development efforts accurately. Recognize citizen-generated data as a complement to official statistics.
7. Ensure **greater investment in disability inclusive development** including strengthened mobilization of resources towards the rights of persons with disabilities and Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs); enhanced Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitments on disability inclusion, including through the [Global Disability Summit](#); and the Secretary-General led SDG stimulus, reflecting the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy.
8. Ensure there is **specific and targeted funding for persons with disabilities** in international development cooperation, including in climate action and climate mitigation efforts.
9. Include persons with disabilities in the contexts of **both climate adaptation and climate mitigation**,
10. Ensure that the **Just transition and the Green Economy address structural inequalities and barriers**, and achieved in an inclusive, accessible affordable, and sustainable manner and particularly include groups more at risk of exclusion, including persons with disabilities.
11. **Meaningfully engage civil society**, particularly Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs), reflecting the principle of "nothing about us without us" in **sustainable and impactful partnerships**, including co-production of policy and programs.

Chapter II. International peace and security

1. Strengthen **implementation of UN Security Council resolution 2475** on the protection of persons with disabilities in conflict and develop a stand-alone agenda item covering ‘Disability peace and security’ at the UN Security Council.
2. Recognize and enhance the crucial role played by Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) across the peace continuum in **promoting peace and justice for all**.
3. Support the **adoption of a new UN Security Council resolution** on the 5-year anniversary of UNSC resolution 2475, reflecting on progress towards implementation and addressing gaps, including the development of National Action Plans.



4. Strengthen the ***inclusion of persons with disabilities*** and their representative organizations (OPDs) ***in the UN Peacebuilding Commission*** and enhance the Peacebuilding Commission's role in ensuring inclusion of persons with disabilities across the peace continuum.
5. Include UNSC 2475 references and ***inclusion of persons with disabilities in all UN Peacekeeping*** mandates and reporting.
6. Integrate issues related to ***disability peace and security in all relevant UN mandates***, including commissions of inquiry, groups of experts, and other reporting, data and evidence collection mandates relating to conflict or post-conflict settings.
7. Include ***disability-specific crimes against humanity*** in the draft Crimes against Humanity treaty.

Chapter III. Science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation

Recalling the UN Secretary General's Policy Brief on Global Digital Compact, particularly the focus to ensure that human rights are the foundation for an open, safe and secure digital future, and we urge Member States to:

1. Ensure that Article 9 and Article 32 of the ***CRPD are considered as central to Digital Infrastructure and Cooperation***, recognizing that persons with disabilities have a right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress on an equal basis with others.
2. Foster an environment conducive to ***harmonizing policies and accessibility standards*** by revitalizing inter-governmental coordination and collaborations, including organizations representing persons with disabilities, and focusing on social and institutional innovation.
3. Prioritize the ***generation of disaggregated data*** and support local governments in localization efforts to gather crucial information for systematically addressing barriers to inclusion and accessibility.
4. Recognize that ***accessibility barriers***, along with connectivity, affordability, and resource challenges, ***contribute to digital exclusion***, affecting persons with disabilities, older persons, and intersecting groups. This impacts their ability to access technologies, public services, and information, particularly during shocks and disasters.
5. Ensure planning, development, and implementation of innovative and ***technological practices, including Artificial Intelligence, are responsive to current and future human needs***. This involves including persons with disabilities from inception, ensuring that strategies and research are informed by their needs and experiences.
6. Integrate ***Assistive Technologies*** as essential components of Social Security and Social Protection Programs, including Labour Market initiatives, to facilitate a just transition.
7. Accelerate ***investment in increasing understanding of accessibility and universal design*** across all governance levels, academia, private sector, urban planners, designers, technology and service providers, and innovators.

Chapter IV. Youth and future generations

Recognizing that youth with disabilities experience intersectional discrimination, which creates systemic patterns of social exclusion and vulnerability and often compounds their exclusion and deprivation, particularly in the case of young women with disabilities and youth with disabilities that are poor, indigenous, LGBTQI+ or belong to ethnic minorities, migrant communities, or other marginalized groups, we urge Member States to:



1. Commit to ensuring ***the meaningful participation of youth with disabilities***, through their representative organizations, in all processes involving youth and all processes related to disability.
2. Ensure that youth with disabilities have the ***right and freedom to access quality inclusive education*** on an equal basis with other learners, in accordance with their choice and with access to reasonable accommodations and any other supports they require to participate fully and effectively. This includes access to higher education and vocational skills training; and increasing scholarships for students with disabilities.
3. Commit to ***easing the entry to the labour market*** by opening routes to paid internships and economic empowerment, and supporting policies to promote skills acquisition, lifelong learning, and labour market participation, including social protection programmes that support employment.
4. Recognize the ***disparities in accessing health care*** - including mental health, sexual and reproductive health services, and the barriers facing youth with disabilities, including insufficient availability, accessibility and affordability of the full range of quality health care services, as well as attitudinal barriers and stigma against them.
5. Recognize that ***climate change disproportionately affects youth with disabilities***, and acknowledge their right to actively participate in sustainable and inclusive development.

Chapter V. Transforming global governance

Recognizing the UN Secretary General's call for a UN 2.0 and the Quintet of Change, and the commitment to inclusion, we urge Member States:

1. Ensure that transformation of the UN to enable it to deliver its mandate and be prepared to better respond to global crises must ***be rooted in human rights standards including non-discrimination and equality***, particularly for all marginalized groups including persons with disabilities.
2. Ensure the ***full implementation of the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy (UNDIS)***, including through adequate financial and human resources, and ensure accessibility of processes including providing sign language, Braille, captioning, easy-to-understand communication, and other alternate formats.
3. Consider going beyond UNDIS to developing a ***fully resourced UN System Wide Action Plan*** for persons with disabilities.
4. Particular attention needs to be given ***to making the UN fully accessible***, including information noting that progress towards accessibility for persons with disabilities remains limited and slow.
5. Strengthen the involvement and participation of civil society in all aspects of the work of the UN, including intergovernmental processes and negotiations, and in particular ensure ***meaningful involvement*** of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations as defined in CRPD [General Comment n°7](#)