



I speak on behalf of the disability community.

We have heard recommendations regarding the Declaration. It was supported by all Member States that it should provide a framework for the post-2015 development agenda, be ambitious and it must reflect political commitments. Many highlighted that the Declaration should also reinforce existing international norms and commitments.

The disability community firmly believes that the Declaration must be phrased to advance human rights equally for all and recognize human rights as a core of the new development agenda. In order to strengthen the human rights framework to realize an inclusive society we would like to recommend that the Declaration explicitly references the UN CRPD, of which its core principles and obligations mandate the realization of inclusive societies based on respect for inherent dignity. An ambitious agenda is only successful if it is actually implemented and the Declaration will have to ensure that the needs of the poorest and most marginalized groups, including persons with disabilities, children, Indigenous persons and older persons are met throughout the entire framework.

On behalf of the disability community I would like to applaud the SDGs and support the notion that they should serve as the main basis of the intergovernmental negotiations. We consider that any potential technical review of the proposed goals and targets should be done in an open and participatory manner and with a view to improve and strengthen the proposals, **not weaken it**. For the disability community, of whom 800 million people live in poverty, it was a shortcoming that the SDG goal on Poverty reduction did not explicitly include a reference to persons with disabilities. We recommend that this should be remedied under the technical proofing of the targets. **In addition, we recommend the development of a global indicator, which ensures the inclusion of persons with disabilities, in particular their elevation from poverty.**

The expectation of the disability community is that no one is left behind, and goals and targets will only be considered met if they are met by all relevant social and economic groups. In closing, the disability community believes that the intergovernmental negotiations will produce a visionary and holistic universal agenda for all and will leave no one behind.