

Mosharraf Hossain, ADD International  
Interactive Dialogue: End Poverty and Hunger, 12.00 – 3.00pm Friday, 25 Sept.

*Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

The only way to end poverty and hunger is by ensuring participation of the most marginalised people in the implementation of the SDGs. I mean their participation in the decision-making process.

While the MDGs achieved a lot, they failed to reach the bottom 10% leaving the most marginalized excluded. Today, 8 in 10 people with disabilities in developing countries live in poverty. Only 10% of children with disabilities in the Asia and Africa go to school. This exclusion must stop.

As Mahatma Ghandi said, ***No culture can live if it attempts to be exclusive.*** It's a milestone of human history that the overarching aim of the SDGs is ***Leave No-one Behind.***

Now we need local and global solidarity. We need

- partnership between people of north and south
- ownership by marginalized people at the grassroots level
- and participation of people with disabilities so that no groups are at risk of being left behind.

Working in partnership with marginalised people, we have to look at the barriers they face. Only they can tell us how to overcome these barriers. So we need to work in partnership with them to end poverty and hunger.

We need their participation from the grassroots to the global level:

**Firstly**, member states should engage people with disabilities to develop national and regional targets of the SDGs.

**Secondly**, at the grassroots level, the participation of marginalized people is imperative, as they know their community and what works for them. Member states must ensure they are included in the decisions that affect their lives. The foundation of the disability movement is ***“Nothing about us, without us”***.

**Finally**, We must have representation in the global platform. The United Nations should ensure participation of women, persons with disabilities, older persons, indigenous peoples, children, youth, ethnic minorities and others in the **High Level Political Forum** to review progress of the SDGs based on data disaggregated by sex, age and disability.

The targets of SDGs will only be met if all segments of society - political, economic and social - reach an agreement to bring transformational change in the lives of every citizen.

This time we need the development goals to work for everybody and only by targeting the most marginalised can we succeed. Thank you.

