

African Disability Forum, Arab Organization of Persons with Disabilities,  
Down Syndrome International, European Disability Forum, Inclusion International,  
International Federation of Hard of Hearing People, International Federation for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus, Latin  
American Network of Non-Governmental Organizations of Persons with Disabilities and their Families, Pacific Disability Forum,  
World Blind Union, World Federation of the Deaf, World Federation of the DeafBlind,  
World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry



## **Intergovernmental negotiations on the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda at the global level**

**STATEMENT  
by**

**International Disability Alliance**

28 April 2016

Excellences,

I speak on behalf of the International Disability Alliance, which is an Alliance of eight global and five regional network organisations of persons with disabilities, promoting the human rights of persons with disabilities and inclusive sustainable development.

Persons with disabilities would like to take this opportunity and thank the Co-facilitators for organizing open, transparent and inclusive informal consultations on the follow-up and review framework of the 2030 Agenda at the global level. Stakeholders have been active participants in shaping the process so far and it remains critical that our engagement in all processes related to the 2030 Agenda is upheld.

Persons with disabilities welcome the elements paper as shared by the co-facilitators. Allow me to elaborate and present recommendations on the different sections of the paper:

Persons with disabilities applaud the Secretary General's report: in several instances it invokes a multi-stakeholder approach to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, which we believe is in line with the core principle of the 2030 Agenda.

The themes of the High-level Political Forum have been decided, however the framing of these themes remain open. Persons with disabilities would like to recommend that every year the annual theme is assessed through the cross-cutting principle 'leave no one behind'. By addressing every year's theme through this lens Member States will ensure that the 2030 Agenda is truly realized for all.

National reviews at the High Level Political Forum are the litmus test of the 2030 Agenda. Participation of all Stakeholders should be encouraged. While we think that online interface dialogues are a good way forward for communicating

written inputs, we would like to highlight that this opportunity should be given to those in both developed and developing countries and in particular for those who are currently furthest behind. However, this alone is not enough. We recommend that prior to the national reviews, opportunity is given for multi-stakeholder dialogues, at all levels: national, regional and global. But it must be kept in mind that these dialogues should not limit the interaction between Member States and Stakeholders at the official meetings of the High Level Political Forum.

Persons with disabilities have concerns about the way participation is presented in the elements paper. We believe that by simply indicating that only those who have received standing invitations should be engaged is limited and violates the core principle of the 2030 Agenda, which we consider as the People's Agenda. Persons with disabilities celebrated the open, transparent and inclusive new Agenda that has laid the foundation for a new world. We are calling now on the Co-facilitators and Member States to protect participation, as introduced by resolutions 67/290 and 70/1. Persons with disabilities would like also to suggest the further strengthening of participation by raising accessibility standards of the global, regional and national processes. At the same time persons with disabilities are calling to be recognized as equal contributing participants within and beyond the High Level Political Forum, including in ECOSOC and its functional commissions.

Finally let me draw your attention that inclusion will not be realized as long the meetings at the UN are not made fully accessible to all, providing sign language interpretation and closed captioning.

Thank you.

#### **IDA Member Organizations**

African Disability Forum, Arab Organization of Persons with Disabilities, Down Syndrome International, European Disability Forum, Inclusion International, International Federation of Hard of Hearing People, International Federation for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus, Latin American Network of Non-Governmental Organizations of Persons with Disabilities and their Families, Pacific Disability Forum, World Blind Union, World Federation of the Deaf, World Federation of the DeafBlind, World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry