



Interessenvertretung Selbstbestimmt
Leben in Deutschland



An Inclusive and Equitable Agenda Post-2015

Statement for the Open Working Group Session on Promoting Equality – 5-6 February 2014

German Development and Disabled Persons' Organizations emphasize equality as a core principle for inclusive and sustainable development post-2015.

Equal rights and opportunities for persons with disabilities were not included in the Millennium Development Goals despite their important impact on the development and wellbeing of communities and societies as a whole. Persons with disabilities, who represent 15% of the world's population (more than 1 billion people), are denied the fulfillment of their human rights and equal opportunities, especially if they live in low and middle income countries, where they belong to the most marginalized and hardest to reach groups.

A post-2015 agenda based on human rights principles is more likely to contribute to an inclusive and equal society and sustainable development thus protecting the human dignity of all people. Representation and better access to quality education, health services, employment, housing, sanitation and clean water, land, financing and social security, and legal assistance enable persons with disabilities to fulfill their human rights on an equal basis with others. This in turn is a prerequisite for sustainable growth and development.

The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) stresses the protection of human dignity as the basis for equality and non-discrimination.¹

Key recommendations

1. Inequalities within countries and structural factors such as discrimination, lack of access to resources and participation have to be addressed in a post-2015 development agenda since the most marginalised and hardest to reach groups, especially in middle and low income countries, are disproportionately affected by economic hardship, environmental hazards and societal exclusion.
2. Mutually reinforcing discrimination based on factors such as gender, income, location, ethnicity, young / old age must be attended to, taking recourse also to other relevant UN human rights treaties, such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child etc.
3. Equal rights and opportunities for marginalized groups such as persons with disabilities should be a cross-cutting issue reflected throughout all goals, targets and indicators of the agenda.
4. The agenda should include a stand-alone goal on reducing inequalities which includes the eradication of the inequalities that persons with disabilities face.
5. All data should be disaggregated in order to measure the gaps between economic and social groups including persons with disabilities and identify who is being left behind.
6. The elaboration, implementation and monitoring of the emerging post-2015 goals should guarantee the equal and meaningful participation of the civil society, with special attention to marginalized groups such as persons with disabilities and their representative organizations.

Key facts around disability and inequality

The most marginalised and hardest to reach groups in middle and low income countries are disproportionately highly affected by inequalities. This in turn reinforces human rights violations against these groups and inhibits a sustainable development of societies as a whole.

- **Women** with disabilities are recognized to face multiple discrimination, experiencing exclusion on account of their gender and their disability.
- **Education:** Ninety per cent of children with disabilities in developing countries do not attend school. The global literacy rate for adults with disabilities is as low as 3 per cent and 1 per cent for women with disabilities.
- **Unemployment** among persons with disabilities is as high as 80 per cent in some countries. Often employers assume that persons with disabilities are unable to work.
- **Violence:** Persons with disabilities are more likely to become victims of violence or rape, and less likely to obtain police intervention, legal protection or preventive care. Research

¹ Preamble: (c) Reaffirming the universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelatedness of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and the need for persons with disabilities to be guaranteed their full enjoyment without discrimination.

indicates that violence against children with disabilities occurs at annual rates which are at least 1.7 times higher than for their peers without disabilities.

- **Access to health** is often denied to persons with disabilities due to inaccessibility or remoteness of health centers. Health workers may be inappropriately trained in addressing the needs of persons with disabilities and in addition, healthcare information is usually not adapted to the needs of persons with disabilities.

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