

Toward Greater Complementarity between the UN CRPD and the UN SDGs in the context of Disability

7-8 December 2019, Doha, Qatar





1. Backdrop – Two Complementary Instruments Advancing the Overall Goal of Inclusion.



We, the conferees of the Doha International Conference on Disability and Development (7-8 December 2019) held under the patronage and active participation of Her Highness Shaikha Moza bint Nasser, came together in the spirit of the UN Charter to advance peace, justice and human rights for all and especially for the approximately 1.5 billion persons with disabilities in the world.

Recognizing, the progress made since the adoption of the the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), but acknowledge more must be done to ensure the rights, freedoms, dignity and inclusion for all persons with disabilities.

Acknowledging, approximately 1.5 billion of the global population have a disability, with an estimated 80% of people with disabilities living in developing countries and one in five of the world's poorest has a disability. Women and girls are disproportionately affected by disability - discriminated and marginalised for their gender as well as their disability.

Emphasizing, people with disabilities and their families in low and middle income countries are poorer than people without disabilities in nearly all socio-economic indicators including education, health, and employment. They continue to face multiple barriers to full inclusion and participation as equal members of society due to stigma, discrimination and abuse, and a lack of access to assistive technologies, physical and virtual environments, and essential services and rehabilitation.

In light of this, *expressing satisfaction* with the growing momentum for disability-inclusive development worldwide and new appetite from governments and the international community, greater attention on the UN CRPD and the SDGs, and new actors and coalitions involved.

Acknowledging, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 SDGs as a powerful framework for communities, countries and the international community as we strive towards achievement of disability-inclusive development.

Noting, the 2030 Agenda pledges to leave no one behind, including persons with disabilities and other disadvantaged groups, and has recognized disability as a cross-cutting issue, to be considered in the implementation of all of its goals as well as through seven targets and 11 indicators that explicitly make reference to people with disabilities.

Recalling, that the commitment to 'leave no one behind' demands we put the furthest behind first, including those people with disabilities who are amongst the world's most marginalised and under-represented. Notably those affected by multiple discriminations, including women and girls with disabilities and those with mental health conditions and psychosocial disabilities.

Recognizing, the 2030 Agenda is guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and grounded, inter alia, in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and International Human Rights Treaties. Therefore, the Agenda is linked to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its implementation, by, for, and with persons with disabilities should be in line with the CRPD.

Noting, the growing and significant contribution of the United Nations and its family of Specialised Agencies and Departments to aid the transformational efforts of States. In particular, we welcome with satisfaction the emerging practice of the UN CRPD Committee to reinforce its reasoning under the convention with reference to the comparable policy goals in the SDGs, and the historic adoption of the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy (UN DIS) in 2019 which is grounded on both the UN CRPD and the UN SDGs.

Affirming, that these powerful instruments must work in complementarity through their complimentary principles of inclusive equality and inclusive development, and can together drive transformational change in the lives of the most marginalised and under-represented people with disabilities.

Noting, Governments have committed to disability-inclusive development through other agreements including the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015), the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (2015), the Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action (2016), the New Urban Agenda (2016), and the UK-DIFID Global Disability Summit Charter for Change (2018).

Bearing in mind, tackling stigma and discrimination is essential to ensuring the rights, dignity, capabilities and contributions of all people with disabilities. Fully inclusive societies are not achievable without eliminating the negative practices and discriminatory beliefs that people with disabilities face at all levels. We need innovative policies, legislation, strategies and programmes that transform cultural norms, promote meaningful leadership, and challenge harmful stereotypes, attitudes and practices.

Recognizing, the right to full and equal participation of persons with disabilities as agents of change and beneficiaries of developments, and noting that people with disabilities are not yet sufficiently included in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the SDGs. The achievement of disability-inclusive development requires a participatory and inclusive approach in which all stakeholders, particularly people with disabilities and their representative organisations, are included and working in partnership.

Realizing, we will not eradicate poverty, implement the CRPD, nor deliver the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) without including – and being led by – people with disabilities. We commit to work together to address this and to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all women, girls, men and boys with disabilities.

Celebrating, the ground-breaking work of the UK Department for International Development (DFID) with the Global Disability Summit of 2018 and the accompanying Charter for Change, as well as the recent Disability Summit for the Americas in June 2019 (Argentina). The Doha Conference aims to continue the legacy of these important disability-inclusive development conversations.

Whereas, the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action calls on states to address the reproductive health rights of persons with disabilities, and it demands the elimination of all forms of discrimination that undermines these rights. We also welcome with satisfaction the commitments made during the ICPD@25 Nairobi summit (2019) to a greater inclusion of people with disabilities and anyone who has been excluded, so that everyone can access services and enjoy full and equal rights.

Hereby adopt, in the spirit of the Qatar National Vision 2030 which envisions Qatar playing a significant role in the global partnership for development, the **Doha Declaration and Roadmap** in order to sustain momentum for change and guide the efforts of all parties to seek greater complementarity between the implementation of the UN CRPD and the UN SDGs in the name of inclusion for all.

2. The Doha Declaration & Roadmap



Based on our analysis and discussions during the Doha conference, the following Declaration & Roadmap aims to support complimentary implementation of both the CRPD and the SDGs.

1. Achieving Greater Complementarity between the CRPD and the SDGs.

- We affirm the deep unity of purpose between the UN CRPD and the UN SDGs to achieve fully inclusive development and equality.
- We recognize that disability-inclusive development is an essential condition for a sustainable future and without the inclusion of around 1.5 billion persons with disabilities as both agents and beneficiaries of development, we will not eradicate poverty, deliver the SDGs or implement the CRPD.
- We must utilize the linkages between the CRPD and SDGs if we are to transform the lives of people with disabilities and eliminate the challenges and barriers they face.
- Including people with disabilities is not just the right thing, it is the practical thing to do – it will lead to healthier, fairer and more prosperous societies for everyone to enjoy and enable all citizens and nations to reach their full potential. We call for more intentional and determined efforts on the part of States to align policies, programmes and actions under both instruments to achieve greater complementarity of purpose and outcome that are by, for and with persons with disabilities

2. Eliminating stigma and discrimination to transform harmful norms, attitudes and behaviours

- We acknowledge that good law and policy is necessary but not sufficient. If the negative cultural assumptions on disability are left intact then otherwise positive developments might easily be undercut. That is why we see cultural shift as critically important and see both instruments as playing a positive and complementary role.
- We agree that the systems-change demanded by the policy goals of the UN SDGs can not only provide the material means for the enjoyment of human rights but can also help erode cultural barriers at all levels including the national, regional and local.
- We, therefore, urge Governments and others to reflect more deeply on these cultural barriers and to more intentionally seek complementarity of action under both the UN CRPD and the UN SDGs to erode the same.

3. The Centrality of Co-Production with Civil Society as the way forward.

- We strongly urge Governments to work closely with persons with disabilities and their representative organisations to ensure that future policy – especially one that intelligently seeks complementarity between the UN CRPD and the UN SDGs – is based on the lived experience and expertise of persons with disabilities.
- We encourage Governments and civil society to innovate with new models of co-production of policy to make the involvement of civil society central and meaningful.
- We see civil society as a key partner for change. We therefore urge Governments to support civil society and especially their active engagement in the policy process.
- We recognize that, in line with Article 4.3 of the UN CRPD, Governments and UN entities increasingly seek the involvement/expertise of organisations of persons with disabilities. We consider that in order to respond to the increased demand it is important to invest in the capacity of organisations of persons with disabilities.

4. The Welcome & Increasing role of the Private sector.

- We greatly welcome the increasing involvement of the private sector in all countries and in international and regional networks to achieve inclusion.
- We acknowledge the trend toward greater corporate diversity and employment opportunities on an equal basis with others in the open labour market.
- More needs to be done to guide and support employers – especially small and medium-sized enterprises – to provide reasonable accommodation in the workplace.
- And we endorse the growing practice of internalising the needs of disabled consumers at the initial stages of the design of goods and services. We see the private sector as a key partner for change and innovation alongside Governments and civil society.

5. Remaining Challenges by Sector Covered at Doha.

These conclusions and recommendations emanated from the panels convened at Doha and also reflect the input of many specialist pre-conference Workshops. They are put forward as guidance to policy-makers when reflecting on how to get the best from the UN CRPD and the UN SDGs.

These conclusions and recommendations apply inter-sectionally across all types of disability and including race, gender, ethnicity, age, religion and other status. The status of girls and women with disabilities was given special attention since they are often among the most marginalized.

Inclusive Education and Children with Disabilities

The need to Accelerate the Trend toward Inclusive Education for All.

- We are convinced that greater efforts are needed to ensure that persons with disabilities are not excluded from the education system by promoting an inclusive education system, including a disability-friendly environment and facilities as well as assistive technologies.
- Inclusive education should be geared towards belonging and active citizenship and not just active labour market participation.
- The principle and need for 'universal design' applies to learning systems as well school buildings.
- More attention needs to be paid to the broader eco-system of inclusive education including family support, peer and community involvement.

Children with Disabilities.

- Children with disabilities have a right to be protected, nurtured and empowered.
 - Their voice and autonomy must count for more in all processes that directly affect their lives.
 - Children have a right to grow up in a family or family-like environment. To be avoided are all forms of institutionalization for children.
 - More attention needs to be paid to the long term impact of poverty on children with disabilities and to counteract bullying, exclusion from school and other forms of social exclusion.
 - More attention needs to be paid to the unique needs and rights of children with disabilities during and in the aftermath of conflicts.

Acknowledging the Positive Role of Families.

- We acknowledge the important role of families and siblings in the wellbeing of persons with disabilities.
- We strongly encourage better policies and programmes for family support to enable families to contribute towards the full and equal enjoyment of the rights of persons with disabilities.
- We are particularly mindful of the human rights of carers and consider that more can be done to protect and support them.

Economic Empowerment

The Need for more inclusive Labour Market Policies and Laws.

- More can be done to ensure labour markets are accommodating and welcoming to employees with disabilities.
- The current trend toward supported employment in the open labour market, where needed, is broadly welcomed.
- More needs to be done to support entrepreneurship and the formation of small businesses by persons with disabilities as well as to encourage social enterprise.
- Governments have an important role to play as model employers and can help set standards for others as well as provide supportive policies and programmes to guide and materially assist the private sector.
- The ongoing work of the ILO on 'decent work for all' and its more recent on the Future of Work as it relates to disability needs to be heeded. Technological transformation presents many challenges as well as opportunities. The challenges that apply to all employees also affect persons with disabilities. At the same time, the opportunities offered by advances in technology may offer more prospects for accommodating workers with disabilities. The challenges cannot be ignored nor the opportunities lost.

Inclusive Health

The Need for More Inclusive and Non-Discriminatory Health Care Policies.

- We emphasize that most persons with disabilities are not in themselves sick or in need of health care services above and beyond the average population.
- Nevertheless, we emphasize the ongoing need to remove all discriminatory barriers – tangible and intangible – to access to health care by and for persons with disabilities.
- We call for for a more comprehensive approach to disability in health care policy-making that goes beyond the medical model and aims at the overall wellbeing of persons with disabilities.
- We call for respect and privacy in the delivery of health care systems and the training of professionals in the autonomy and rights of persons with disabilities.

The Need to Advance the Right to Reproductive Health.

- We strongly endorse the conclusions of the 25th meeting of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Nairobi in 2019.
- Important commitments coming from that event involve ending preventable maternal deaths, meeting unmet needs for family planning and tackling all forms of Gender Based Violence (GBV) and harmful practices. This cannot be achieved without including persons with disabilities in universal access to sexual and reproductive health as a part of universal health coverage.
- The barriers to be tackled include lack of effective access, stigma and cultural barriers and insufficient respect for the autonomy of persons with disabilities.
- We call for more efforts at the policy, strategic and programmatic levels to advance reproductive rights and accessibility to reproductive health information, services and commodities for persons with disabilities.
- We call stakeholders to take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social, educational and other measures to protect persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls, from all forms of discrimination, exploitation, violence and abuse in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities CRPD, the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women CEDAW, and the ICPD Nairobi summit commitment to end all forms of GBV and harmful practices.

Social Protection

The Need for Innovative Services & Effective Social Protection.

- We are conscious of the need for changes in how services for persons with disabilities are conceived and delivered. In the past, persons with disabilities were brought to services. The future lies in bringing services to people with disabilities where they live in their own lives and communities.
- We welcome the trend toward the personalization of services and indeed the devolving of budgets and choice (with supports where needed) to persons with disabilities.
- We encourage more innovation in the reform of services and welcome the active involvement of service delivery organizations as partners for change.
- We are aware of the tendency of many social protection regimes to create perverse poverty traps for persons with disabilities which needs a much more intentional focus to dissolve and avoid.
- We stress that the ongoing and additional needs of persons with disabilities must be supported to enable persons with disabilities to live in dignity and take advantage of their equal opportunities to actively participate in society.
- We emphasize that the goal of social protection should be social inclusion as well as protection.

Humanitarian Response

The Need for Heightened Protection of Civilians with Disabilities during Armed Conflicts.

- We welcome the lead given by the UN Security Council in June 2019 (UN Security Council Resolution 2475), to ensure that international humanitarian law (IHL) becomes much more sensitive to the visibility of persons with disability in armed conflicts.
- We encourage greater and closer dialogue between the international humanitarian law community and the international human rights community (especially under the CRPD) to bridge the gap and ensure meaningful protection of civilians with disabilities based on their voice and unique perspectives and needs.

The Need for a More Inclusive Response in Humanitarian Emergencies.

- We strongly urge the promotion of a fully inclusive humanitarian response to disasters whether man-made or otherwise which is evidence-based, equitable, inclusive in design and founded on the principles of dignity, safety, empowerment and protection of persons with disabilities.
- We consider that a self-standing budgetary line within all humanitarian response program budgets should be established for meeting the humanitarian needs of persons with disabilities to ensure no one is left behind.
- We are gravely concerned by the plight of the high number of persons with disabilities as asylum seekers, refugees and internally displaced persons around the world. We encourage the adoption of 'inclusive design' approaches to accommodate their needs.
- We warmly welcome the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action which was launched on 12th November, 2019. The Guidelines aim to ensure that all phases of humanitarian action are disability inclusive. And, the Guidelines also emphasise that persons with disabilities should not only be recipients of humanitarian assistance but also be empowered actors in any humanitarian response.

Accessible, Inclusive and Human Rights-based Environments & Cities.

- We stress that the enjoyment of human rights for all persons and the achievement of sustainable disability-inclusive development is the task and responsibility of all layers of governance: national, regional and local.
- We encourage local and regional authorities to officially align their policies and programmes with both the UN CRPD and the UN SDGs since local action can give immediacy in people's lives to the high goals of these instruments.
- We emphasize the need for accessible physical and virtual environments for all people with disabilities – no matter their geospatial location – whilst noting the particular barriers to inclusion and participation for those with disabilities in rural contexts
- We strongly encourage the emerging trend and growing role of inclusive, accessible and human rights-based cities, and encourage efforts toward tourist-friendly cities for persons with disabilities. We note the existence of leagues of accessible and tourist friendly cities and encourage others to join.
- We strongly support the trend toward inclusive sports and applaud ongoing efforts to make headline events like the Olympics and the World Cup both welcoming and accessible and leaving a sustainable legacy of inclusion.

6. Toward Smarter Policy-Making.

- Policy-making can become smarter to get the very best from both the UN CRPD and the UN SDGs. We emphasise the crucial importance of Article 33 of the UN CRPD with its vision of a constructive partnership between Governments, civil society and independent sources of ideas and research.
- Persons with disabilities are among those furthest behind and accordingly the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their indicators clearly state that disaggregated data are needed and should be collected for the purpose of monitoring advancement in the implementation of the goals for this segment of the population.
- We call the attention of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on the UN SDG Indicators (AEG-SDGs) and the UN Statistics Division to the need for taking immediate action and clearly recommend national statistical offices to move forward with the disaggregation of data by disability.
- We urge Governments to encourage the production and analysis of better quality and comparable data disaggregated by gender, age and disability at the global, regional and national level – and especially better qualitative data - to enable a clearer view of the actual situation of persons with disabilities to emerge which can serve as the foundation for more tailored and sustainable policy.
- To that end, we would like to acknowledge that there are appropriate and broadly tested methodologies in place to disaggregate data by disability. In order to ensure international comparability and comparability over time for the purposes of SDG data disaggregation for adults, we recommend the use of the short set of questions and tools developed by the Washington Group on disability statistics. For disaggregation by disability among children the recommended tool is the UNICEF/Washington Group module on Child Functioning. Both instruments can be easily and cost effectively inserted in all national data collection efforts.
- There is, in particular, ample space for national censuses to serve as a baseline to accurately gauge the obstacles encountered and the progress achieved in advancing the rights of persons with disabilities.
- Big data have a role to play in policy formulation. We nevertheless urge caution to balance the privacy and other right of persons with disabilities with the planning potential of big data.

- We acknowledge that the domestic processes for implementing and monitoring the CRPD and the policy goals of the UN SDGs remain institutionally distinct. Nevertheless, we are convinced that ways can be found to optimize complementarity. In particular, we encourage national focal points established under the CRPD and national mechanisms adopted to advance the UN SDGs to reflect deeper on the cultural barriers impeding the inclusion of persons with disabilities and to reflect more intentionally on how those barriers can be eroded.
- We acknowledge that the research capacity of many countries throughout the world needs to be boosted. In this regard, Universities and similar institutes have an important role to play in generating policy-relevant research which can expand the range of potential policy solutions. More could be done to encourage the establishment of academic centres of excellence and policy hubs. They should be encouraged and supported to work in line with 'inclusive research' methodologies with civil society.

7. Maintaining the Dialogue: Internationally, Regionally, Locally

- We are convinced that the dialogue initiated in London and continued in Argentina and now in Doha has been useful in helping us frame future policy challenges in order to get the best from both instruments and we strongly encourage further and intensive dialogue between States as well as between States, civil society, the private sector and the research community.
- Such dialogue should be encouraged and supported at the international level and particularly at regional levels.
- We consider that more subject intensive dialogues would be exceptionally useful on topics where change is particularly intractable including independent living, inclusive education, inclusive employment and the modalities of co-production of policy between Government and civil society.

