



STRENGTHENING THE DISABILITY RIGHTS DIMENSION OF THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK BY SUPPORTING THE MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

1. Background

Since 2000, when the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were adopted, the world has witnessed considerable progress in human development and in the promotion and protection of human rights. At the global level, extreme income poverty has fallen by half, primary school enrollment has risen sharply in even some of the poorest countries, and there have been significant inroads made against several diseases. However, the progress has been uneven and inequalities along both income and non-income dimensions have widened across regions and population groups. In many developing countries, gains made on MDGs – be it on health, education or child mortality - have not been successful in reaching the lowest wealth quintiles or marginalized populations, including persons with disabilities (PWDs). The analysis of the MDG experience clearly highlights the importance of taking inequality, discrimination and social exclusion more effectively into account both in the still on-going efforts to accelerate and expand progress on the current set goals and in the definition of the international development framework that will succeed the MDGs.

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), adopted in 2006, offers a new, binding legal framework to ensure that persons with disabilities enjoy their human rights on an equal basis with others. The Convention emphasizes the importance of mainstreaming disability issues as an integral part of relevant strategies of sustainable development, and demands that international cooperation, including international development programmes, is inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities.¹ In this context, it is of critical importance that a strong disability perspective be retained in the different consultation processes that will lead to the post-2015 UN development framework.

Work to create this framework has begun through an inclusive process aimed at putting people and their national priorities first. This bottom-up and inclusive approach – endorsed and advocated by the UN Secretary General – involves extensive consultations of

¹ CRPD, preamble, paragraph (g) and article 32.

governments, civil society, the private sector, academia and research institutions from all regions. National consultations with civil society and other partners will be held in more than 50 developing countries by mid-2013 and will be complemented by eleven thematic global consultations on: inequalities; health; education; governance; conflict and fragility; growth and employment; environmental sustainability; hunger, nutrition and food security; population dynamics; energy; and water. The results of the above mentioned consultations will be shared in various forms with the UN Secretary General's High-Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals agreed in Rio, and the full membership of the United Nations. In addition, an online platform – the World We Want 2015 – has also been launched to enable people in all parts of the world to share their views allowing citizens and civil society movements an unprecedented opportunity to influence the final outcome of this process from its earliest stages.

On 23 September 2013, the Monday before the start of the general debate of the sixty-eighth session, the UN General Assembly will hold a High Level meeting on Disability and Development (HLMDD) under the theme: "The way forward: a disability inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond". The HLMDD, which will comprise of a plenary meeting and two consecutive informal interactive round tables, will be an exceptional opportunity for dialogue at the highest possible level among Member States, observers and representatives of entities of the United Nations system, as well as representatives of civil society, organizations of persons with disabilities and the private sector. The HLMDD will adopt an Outcome Document in support of the aims and provisions of the CRPD and the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities. In light of the above considerations, it is critical that all possible efforts be made to ensure the success of the HLMDD and its full integration in the broader post-2015 dialogue.

2. Programme approach

The proposed programme promotes the full inclusion of persons with disabilities in the current negotiation process of the post-MDG framework as a way to ensure that the new framework for international co-operation which will succeed the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) at the end of 2015 will effectively include the rights of persons with disabilities.

To achieve this, the following specific objectives are set:

- To increase the capacity of national and global organizations of persons with disabilities (DPOs) representative of the disability community to be able to effectively influence the post-MDG negotiation process.
- To raise awareness among key staff in UN entities, both at headquarters and country level, on the need to include the rights of persons with disabilities in the post-MDG

framework and foster partnerships among DPOs and UN entities during all stages of this process both at headquarter level and at country level.

- To ensure through this partnership approach that all relevant documents that will influence the MDG Summit outcome document and the outcome document itself are inclusive of the rights of persons with disabilities and that the High Level Meeting on Disability and Development outcome document includes a detailed section on the post-MDG framework.

The activities that will lead up to the September 2013 MDG Summit define the scope of this programme. Efforts will clearly need to continue beyond that point; however, the process that will take place after the September 2013 MDG Summit is still unclear and therefore the advocacy activities will need to be planned once this process is better known. A focus of activities in the second phase should be around creating the conditions to ensure accountability for the implementation of post-2015 commitments

A number of initiatives could be used as entry points to influence mainstream post-MDG discussions in 2013:

- **The national consultations that are currently taking place.**

The objective will be to ensure that DPOs can contribute to these consultations with sufficient background information and knowledge to ensure that the conclusions of the consultations include the rights of persons with disabilities. Wherever possible, efforts will be made to ensure that disability is included as a thematic focus within the consultation itself. Furthermore, it will be ensured that DPOs establish close relations with the relevant UNCTs, which will remain after the consultation and which can lead towards jointly prepared project proposals to be submitted to the UNPRPD. Related activities will include: 1) physical meetings to be co-facilitated by joint UN/civil society missions in up to a maximum of seven strategically chosen countries; 2) on-going advice to DPOs and UNCTs in other countries to be provided by UNPRPD Partners on a demand-basis.

In the countries where there will be joint missions, direct assistance will be provided to UNCTs in working with DPOs to ensure the inclusiveness and accessibility of consultations. Resources should be made available to ensure that people with disabilities can reach and fully participate in meetings (e.g. travel costs, sign translation, accessible facilities). Particular attention will be given to the selection process to ensure that a cross section of disability groups and a gender balance is attained. In addition, a robust communication around the process will help advance the CRPD agenda in each country.

The rationale for choosing the countries to which a mission will be fielded, will include the following considerations:

- Consultations planned;
 - Organized DPOs in place;
 - Countries with influence and commitment to development in the international arena and in particular emerging nations;
 - UNCTs in receipt of grants from UNPRPD;
 - IDA/IDDC local partners with capacity to mobilize the disability movement at short notice
- **The eleven global thematic consultations.**

The thematic consultation on inequalities, which has included an online consultation on persons with disabilities jointly facilitated by UNICEF and IDA, has been the one that has paid most attention to persons with disabilities. The zero draft includes a large number of references to persons with disabilities and the IDA Chair has been invited to attend the leadership meeting that will bring this consultation to an end. Contributions have been or will also be made to other thematic consultations, in particular those on governance, health, education, conflict and fragility, water and environmental sustainability. Contributions to these consultations will include generic position papers on disability inclusion and the theme, including wherever possible regionally disaggregated data. The project will focus on mobilizing disability with expertise on various themes to give high level input into both the online consultations and the physical meetings around each theme.

- **The General Assembly High Level Meeting on Disability and Development of September 2013**

The consultation process leading up to the 2013 High Level Meeting on Disability and Development (HLMDD) will also provide synergies with the mainstream post-MDG process. In particular, the work with DPOs to prepare the national post-MDG consultations will be used to obtain inputs from DPOs and UNCTs to the HLMDD.

In addition, The World We Want website will be used to support multi-stakeholder consultations on the HLMDD which will feed into the HLMDD outcome document, While the details of the on-line consultation that will be taking place through the World We Want platform are still to be defined, it is envisage that the consultation process will take place over a relatively extended period of time, in multiple phases and multiple languages to ensure maximum inclusion. The proposed programme and the various UNPRPD partners will contribute to the effective participation of DPOs in these consultations.

The negotiation process of the HLMDD outcome document, which will have a strong focus on the post-MDG process, will coincide with the final stages of the negotiation process of the MDG Summit outcome document, allowing for more detailed references

to persons with disabilities which would provide guidance to the succinct references to be included in the MDG Summit outcome document.

If the 2013 Conference of States Parties to the CRPD will be held in July, a one-day Civil Society Forum will be organized by UN DESA and IDA with a clear focus on the mainstream post-MDG process and the disability-specific HLMDD process. Furthermore, a strategic presence of DPO representatives from the South will be ensured at the HLMDD.

- **The meetings of the High Level Panel of Eminent Persons which will meet in Liberia, Bali and New York and will draft a report to the Secretary General of the UN at the end of May.**

At each meeting the project will contribute to ensuring:

- Selection of a cross section of leaders from the disability movement in each country
 - Accessibility and inclusion support for the meeting where needed (as above-accessibility venue, communication and information including ICTs, etc.)
 - A robust communication on disability before, during and after each meeting
 - Preparation of high quality advocacy materials for participants for each meeting, based on the meeting theme.
- **The New York negotiation process of the end of May report prior to its adoption as outcome document of the September 2013 MDG Summit.**

Relevant UNPRPD partners will be available to support Member States as needed to ensure that the disability rights perspective is fully reflected in the outcome document, following the good example set by the recently adopted General Assembly resolution on the Quadrennial Comprehensive Review of the UN development system. In addition, the constructive engagement of and actual and effective presence of DPO representatives, in particular from the South, will be sought in relation to the September 2013 MDG Summit.

A specific events on disability should be prepared to accompany the HLMDD capitalizing on the disability advocacy till September 2013 (e.g. selected disability leaders who have effectively advocated at country level should be involved at the HLMDD). During this event a publication will be presented illustrating the outcome of consultations with DPOs conducted through the above-mentioned seven joint missions as well as through the World We Want online platform.

- **Rio+20 follow up and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

While the relationship between the Rio+20 follow-up process (SDGs) and the post-MDG discussions are still unclear, there is increasing evidence that both processes will merge

at some stage. Benefiting from the good references to persons with disabilities in the Rio + 20 outcome document, in particular the recognition of persons with disabilities as critical stakeholders in development, attention will need to be devoted to keep the rights of persons with disabilities reflected in the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular through sustained engagement with the relevant open ended working group. Furthermore, efforts shall be made to establish strategic alliance with other stakeholders to ensure that the new stakeholders, as mentioned in the Rio+20 outcome document, are effectively included alongside the nine major groups usually involved in sustainable development processes. The March meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development, the last of this body, will be an important occasion for this.

In addition: the global, regional and country launches of The State of The World Children’s Report on Disability (May 2013) can be used to convey specific messages focused on 2-3 key messages around, for instance, education, employment and social protection; IDA and IDDC have jointly created a post-MDG and disability devoted listserve, which will be used to share the relevant information resulting from this programme.

3. Objectives and expected results

Table 1. Expected impact

Impact		
Create a solid foundation for the effective inclusion of the rights of persons with disabilities in the mainstream post-2015 international cooperation framework		
Impact indicators		
Indicator	Baseline	Means of verification
References the rights of persons with disabilities in the outcome document of the September 2013 MDG Summit	No reference in the Millennium Declaration and in the current MDGs	Actual text to be adopted in September 2013
Detailed references in the HLMDD outcome document to on disability rights and how persons with disabilities can be effectively included in the post-MDG framework.	n/a	Actual text to be adopted in September 2013

Table 2. Expected outcomes

Outcome 1		
Effective participation of national DPOs in national post-MDG consultations supported by disability-aware UNCTs and regional presence of participating UN entities.		
Outcome indicators		
Indicator	Baseline	Means of verification
References to persons with disabilities in the conclusions of national consultations consistent with key messages prepared by programme participants (in the seven countries with a joint mission as well as in other countries)	n/a	Final documents of national consultations
Presence of DPO representatives and other representatives of the disability community among the participants in national consultations (in the seven countries with a joint mission as well as in other countries)	n/a	List of participants (appropriately disaggregated by gender, organizational affiliation and other relevant dimensions)
Number of national consultations that are organized in a fully accessible way (venues, documents)	n/a	Information to be obtained from UNCTs and DPOs on the basis of a previously developed audit form
Outputs		
Formulation		Tentative timeline
1.1. In-country interventions through joint UN-civil society joint missions in a maximum of 7 countries		February-June 2013
1.2. On-going advice provided to national DPOs and UNCTs by UNPRPD Partners on a demand basis		February-April 2013

Outcome 2		
Adequate inclusion of the rights of persons with disabilities in final documents of global thematic consultations and in the meetings of the High Level of Eminent Persons		
Outcome indicators		
Indicator	Baseline	Means of verification
References to the rights of persons with disabilities in the concluding documents of global thematic consultations	n/a	Concluding documents
References to the rights of persons with disabilities in the report to be submitted by the HLP to the UN Secretary General	n/a	Actual report
Number of disability leaders who participated actively in thematic consultations and in meetings of the HLP	n/a	Appropriately disaggregated list of participants
Outputs		
Formulation	Tentative timeline	
1.1. Preparation/revision of submissions to the most relevant global thematic consultations and meetings of the HLP	February-March 2013	
1.2. Participation, where possible, of disability leaders and disability experts (if and when appropriate) in the final meetings of most relevant global consultations and the High Level Panel meeting in Bali	February-March 2013	

Outcome 3		
MDG Summit outcome document and High Level Meeting on Disability and Development outcome document contain concrete measures to aimed at removing barriers and facilitating the inclusion of the rights of persons with disabilities in the post-MDG framework		
Outcome indicators		
Indicator	Baseline	Means of verification
Section on post-MDG framework in the HLMDD outcome document	n/a	Actual HLMDD outcome document
Number of references to persons with disabilities in the MDG Summit outcome document	No reference in the Millennium Declaration	Actual MDG Summit outcome document
Number of contributions prepared by national DPOs and UNCTs to the consultation process on the HLMDD outcome document	n/a	Contributions made to the HLMDD negotiation process
Outputs		
Formulation		Tentative timeline
1.1. Supporting the effective DPO participation in multi-stakeholder consultations on the HLMDD outcome document, also through an online consultation process to be conducted through the World We Want platform.		February-May 2013
1.2. Preparation of a publication summarizing the outcome of consultations with DPOs conducted through joint UN-civil society missions as well as the World We Want online platform.		June 2013
1.3. Support to New York based negotiation process of the HLMDD outcome document		June-July 2013
1.4. Support to New York based negotiation process of the MDG Summit outcome document		June-July 2013
1.5. Participation in events related to the follow-up of the Rio + 20 conference and the SDGs.		February-September 2013
1.6. Organisation of one or more side events during connected to the HLMDD and MDG Summit		September 2013
1.7. Follow up to HLMDD		September-December 2013

4. Management arrangements

UNDP and UNICEF will be jointly responsible for the delivery of Outcomes 1 and 2. A precise division of labor between the two organizations (including responsibilities for the programming of related funds) will be agreed bilaterally once focus countries for joint missions are identified.

As part of their responsibility for the delivery of Outcome 1, UNDP and UNICEF will facilitate the preparation of a joint missions plans. It is anticipated however that participants in the joint missions will include representatives from across the UNPRPD membership (typically on representative of civil society and one representative of one of the UNPRPD Participating Organizations).

UNDESA, which already is the focal point for the HLMDD, will also be the focal point for Outcome 3 of this project except for the online consultations through the World We Want which will be supported by UNICEF. UNDESA will oversee the delivery of the outcome working in close consultation with the representatives of all other UNPRPD constituencies, including Donors and Civil Society representatives.

A project steering committee will be established including the Outcomes Focal Points, civil society partners (IDA and IDDC) and other interested Management Committee members. Members of the Project Steering Committee will elect a Chair, who will be in charge of preparing face to face meetings and other tasks entrusted to her/him.

The Project Steering Committee will hold monthly meetings in New York allowing for electronic participation of representatives that are not New York based. Each partner with specific responsibilities will provide a short report prior to each meeting.

A devoted list serve will be created to allow for fluid communication in between meetings, as many decisions, in particular during the first months of the programme, will need to be taken swiftly.

Table 3. Implementation arrangements

Outcome number	UNPRPD Focal Point	Implementing agencies	Other partners
1	UNDP-UNICEF	UNCTs, IDA-IDDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• National DPOs• National Governments
2	UNICEF-UNDP	UN entities leading the relevant global consultation, IDDC-IDA	
3	UNDESA with support from UNICEF	UN DESA, IDDC-IDA	UNCTs, National DPOs

5. National ownership, participation and partnership-building

As this is a global proposal, the consultation process has happened at the level of headquarters of the relevant UN entities, IDA and IDDC. The level of involvement of IDA and IDDC in the preparation of this proposal has been very intensive. In fact, the initial proposal leading to the development of this document was put forward by these organizations.

The involvement of IDA and IDDC in the implementation of this proposal will also be very intensive, including:

- Participation in the joint missions, including support in the selection of the DPO representatives attending the national workshops and the post-MDG consultations
- Participation in the webinars through its experts
- Choice of representatives from the South in the strategic global meetings
- Active presence in the production of submissions and other thematic papers, based on work already done before.
- Active involvement in the drafting process of the HLMDD outcome document.
- Active support in the choice of national DPOs to take part in the multi-stakeholder consultations planned for the HLMDD.
- Active monitoring in all the New York based processes: MDG Summit outcome document, HLMDD outcome document, SDG process.
- Active presence in any side event organized during the MDG Summit and HLMDD.

The programme will contribute in particular to increased partnerships among national DPOs and UNCTs. The webinars and the joint missions will play a key role in this, leading up to the national post-MDG consultations. In addition, the multi-stakeholder consultations on the HLMDD will bring together, in particular, Government representatives, UNCTs, DPOs, other CSOs and social partners.

6. Knowledge generation and potential for replication

The Steering Committee for the project comprised of UN agencies (UNDP, UNICEF and DESA) and civil society representatives will meet regularly to monitor progress against indicators and review the implementation of the programme. The Steering Committee will map out the entry points for disability inclusion in the upcoming consultative processes and continuously engage with facilitators and other UN entities tasked with leading the consultative processes underway for the post-2015 development framework.

The proposed programme will generate insights on effective ways to mainstream disability rights into the broader work of the UN system through building collaborative partnerships between UNCTs and local DPO networks promoting sharing of experiences, knowledge, good practices and lessons learnt. The project entails the preparation of documents by involving all stakeholders to better document and communicate how the realization of the rights of persons with disabilities, as defined in the CRPD, can contribute to sustainable development. These documents will reflect good practices and selected examples of what has proven to work at the local, regional and global level to inform national and thematic consultations on the post-2015 agenda.

7. Budget

Overall budget							
Category	Item	Unit cost	No. units	Total cost	Request from UNPRPD Fund	UNDRPRD POs cost-sharing	Other partners cost-sharing
Supplies, commodities, equipment and transport							
Personnel (staff, consultants, travel and training)	Travel for joint UN-civil society missions	5000	14	70000	70000		
	Travel of disability leaders to global post-2015 consultations	5000	5	25000	25000		
Training of counterparts	National workshops	6000	7	42000	42000		
Contracts	On-line consultations through the World We Want platform			30000	30000		
Other direct costs	Production of publication with outcomes of country and online consultations			10000	10000		
	HLMDD/MDG Summit side event(s)	40000	1	40000	40000		
Subtotal				217000	217000		
Indirect costs (7%)				15190	15190		
Total				232190	232190		