**Advocacy Brief**

**Disaggregation by Disability**

Sixth meeting of the IAEG-SDGs

Recommendation by: International Disability Alliance and International Disability and Development Consortium

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| **We are calling on the IAEG-SDGs disaggregation work stream urgently to recommend the Short Set of Questions developed by the Washington Group to be the methodology for disaggregating SDG indicators by disability.**  |

Since the UN General Assembly agreed on the global indicator framework (A/RES/71/313) in June 2017, it is more urgent than ever that the IAEG-SDGs recommends a methodology on the disaggregation of data by disability. Otherwise there will be detrimental consequences to the implementation process of the SDGs, which will subsequently leave persons with disabilities uncounted and behind.

During the past year, at various UN events at least 105 Member States called for disaggregation of data by disability and recommended the Short Set of Questions developed by the Washington Group to be the methodology used for disaggregating SDG indicators.

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| **Rationale and Facts from 2017** |

**In 2017 June,** at the UN Headquarters **during the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**, 25 Member States delivered a joint statement to call for “the Washington Group Short Set of Questions to be used as the tool to disaggregate data by disability.” In addition, Member States also said “We urge the United Nations Statistical Division to utilize the Washington Group Short Set of Questions and expeditiously recommend this tool to National Statistical Offices and the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on the Sustainable Development Goals Indicators.”

**In 2017 May,** the **Report of the Inter-agency Task Force on Financing for Development 2017**, Financing for Development: Progress and Prospects was released and stated “While much is being done to improve data availability and adequacy, gaps persist in the level and type of disaggregation captured by existing data. The Addis Agenda calls for disaggregation of data by sex, age, geography, income, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability and other characteristics relevant in national circumstances. However, there remains a significant lack of financial resource allocation for conducting household-level surveys with adequate levels of disaggregation.”Additionally, it was stated that “There is much work going on to improve the disaggregation of data, but challenges remain…there is a notable lack of disaggregated statistics on persons with disabilities. In response, in 2015 the United Nations Statistics Division and the Washington Group on Disability Statistics started a project aimed at developing international guidelines for the measurement of disability and enhancing the capacity of national statistical systems to collect and generate relevant, quality statistics on persons with disabilities based on those guidelines.” (p. 118).

**In 2017 March,** at the fifth meeting of the IAEG-SDGs in Ottawa, Canada a joint statement by the UK Department for International Development, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, International Disability Alliance, International Disability and Development Consortium, International Labour Organization, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, United Nations Development Programme, UNICEF and UN Women was delivered calling “for taking immediate action and clearly recommend national statistical offices to move forward with the disaggregation of data by disability.” Additionally, sharing the “unanimous position…we recommend the use of the short set of questions developed by the Washington Group.”

**In 2017 March,** at the 48th session of the UN Statistical Commission, 24 Member States and groups expressed support for disability statistics of which many explicitly referenced the Washington Group Short Set of Questions. In addition, John Pullinger from the United Kingdom, said that ‘…it is absolutely vital that we have a very simple framework for enabling people with disabilities to be counted so that none of them are left behind. And here, I think there is only “one show in town” and that is the short set of questions developed by the Washington Group that enables social survey operators to get simple classificatory data on disability that would enable their voice to be heard.’ Also at the session, Germany stated that “The IAEG-SDGs is asked to make use of international statistical expert groups on their specific fields of work, such as the UN Committee of Experts on the Environmental Economic Accounting or the Washington Group on Disability Statistics for this process.”

**Why?**

**In 2017 May**, the UN Secretary-General issued the Sustainable Development Goals Report 2017 that states ‘The lack of sound disaggregated data for …. persons with disabilities… exacerbates vulnerabilities by masking the extent of deprivation and disparities. What’s more, a lack of rigorous evidence and comprehensive data has long compromised the ability of governments and the international community to accurately document the discrimination faced by various groups. As a result, planning and budgeting for necessary services along with effective policymaking have suffered. …persons with disabilities and older persons, for example, have largely fallen off the statistical “map”.’

**Facts**

# I. *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Article 31 Statistics and data collection*

1. States Parties undertake to collect appropriate information, including

statistical and research data, to enable them to formulate and implement

policies to give effect to the present Convention. The process of collecting and

maintaining this information shall:

(a) Comply with legally established safeguards, including legislation

on data protection, to ensure confidentiality and respect for the privacy of

persons with disabilities;

(b) Comply with internationally accepted norms to protect human

rights and fundamental freedoms and ethical principles in the collection and

use of statistics.

2. The information collected in accordance with this article shall be

disaggregated, as appropriate, and used to help assess the implementation of

States Parties’ obligations under the present Convention and to identify and

address the barriers faced by persons with disabilities in exercising their rights.

3. States Parties shall assume responsibility for the dissemination of these

statistics and ensure their accessibility to persons with disabilities and others.

II. *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A /RES/70/1)*

Target 17.18 By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries,

including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to

increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data

disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability,

geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts

They (follow-up and review processes at all levels) will be rigorous and based on evidence, informed by country-led evaluations and data which is high-quality, accessible, timely, reliable and disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability and geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts [para 74 (g)].

# III. *Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 6 July 2017, Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES71/313)*

Sustainable Development Goal indicators should be disaggregated, where relevant, by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability and geographic location, or other characteristics, in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.

IIII. *Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data*

Objective 3.5:Strengthen and expand data on all groups of population to ensure that no is left behind

Key Actions:

• Improve the production of high-quality, accessible, timely, reliable and disaggregated data by all characteristics relevant in national contexts to ensure that no one is left behind.

• Promote the systematic mainstreaming of gender equality in all phases of planning, production and usage of data and statistics.

• Support the strengthening and further development of methodology and standards for disability statistics.

• Promote the expansion of data collection programmes to ensure the coverage of all age groups.

V. *Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system* (*A/C.2/71/L.63)*

Strengthening their (the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies, at the request of national Governments) support to national institutions in planning, management and evaluation capacities, as well as statistical capacities, to collect, analyse and increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts and address the gap in data collection and analysis, and in so doing utilizing these national capacities to the fullest extent possible in the context of United Nations operational activities for development [21 (c)].

VI. *Situation of women and girls with disabilities and the Status of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto, Report of the Secretary-General, July 2017 (A/72/227)*

Data disaggregated by disability and disability-specific indicators are indispensable in analysis, monitoring and evaluation of the situation of women and girls with disabilities in economic and social development, and are critical to evidence-based policy-making at regional, national and local levels (para 40).

VII. *Washington Group Regional Workshops*

Washington Group regional workshops on the measurement of disability have taken place in 54 countries. The purpose of the workshops is to build and strengthen local capacity for data collection. Training was provided to National Statistics Offices, other Government staff, DPOs, UN staff, and local researchers on concepts, models and measures of disability, survey design, data processing, data analysis, data dissemination and data use.

The workshops have taken place in:

* The Pacific (10 countries)
* Middle East (9 countries)
* Caribbean (8 countries)
* South and Central America (13 countries)
* Rome (14 countries) for any country that could not attend their regional meeting or needed to attend a meeting to prepare for fielding a survey.
* Total = 54 countries

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| As of October 2017, 105 Member States support the Short Set of Questions developed by the Washington Group on Disability Statistics.  |

Member States that support the Short Set of Questions developed by the Washington Group include:

Afghanistan, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Aruba, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Chad, China, China (Hong Kong SAR), Costa Rica, Croatia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Iceland, India, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kosovo, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Malawi, Malta, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Montserrat, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, Netherlands Antilles, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Samoa, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Maarten, St. Vincent and the Grenadine, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Tanzania, Taiwan, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago,Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Yemen, and Zambia.

The listed countries support the Short Set of Questions by: (1) explicit support during the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities at the UN Headquarters in June 2017, (2) explicit support at the 48th session of the UN Statistical Commission at the UN Headquarters in March 2017, or (3) are using the Short Set of Questions in censuses, surveys, disability modules or pre-tests.