**Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities**

**Position Paper for 2017 Financing for Development Forum**

**I. Background**

There are one billion persons with disabilities worldwide who are disproportionately affected by poverty in its different dimensions.[[1]](#footnote-1)

**II. UN and other international commitments**

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda contains six explicit references to persons with disabilities and disability, one to “inclusive education”, one to “inclusive learning environment” and two to “accessible” technologies and infrastructures. What is more, unless the rights of persons with disabilities are addressed in the financing for development agenda, it will be impossible to fulfil a wide range of other international commitments. These include: the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD);[[2]](#footnote-2) the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;[[3]](#footnote-3) the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation;[[4]](#footnote-4) the Beijing Platform for Action;[[5]](#footnote-5) the Conclusions from the 61st Commission on the Status of Women;[[6]](#footnote-6) the Salamanca Statement and Framework for Action on Special Needs Education;[[7]](#footnote-7) International Labour Organisation Conventions 111 and 159 and Recommendation 202;[[8]](#footnote-8) the World Health Organisation Global Disability Action Plan 2014-2021;[[9]](#footnote-9) the World Summit on the Information Society Action Lines;[[10]](#footnote-10) and the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled.[[11]](#footnote-11)

**III. Recommendations and Key Asks**

**Policy environment**

This paper focuses on financing, but disability rights-compliant finance must be part of a wider system of disability rights-compliant policies. For more detailed recommendations on achieving such a policy environment, please refer to the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities’ Submission Paper to the High Level Political Forum.[[12]](#footnote-12)

**Quantity of Financing**

Ensuring that persons with disabilities and their families are not left behind requires dedicated resources, including resources for reasonable adjustments that enable access to employment and other opportunities; resources for fully inclusive public services; and resources for comprehensive social protection floors that respect, protect and fulfil the rights of persons with disabilities.[[13]](#footnote-13)

However, available data suggests that current allocations of domestic and international public resources are not sufficient to meet the international commitments above. For example, research by the International Disability Alliance indicates that budget allocation for persons with disabilities in some low and middle income countries can range from zero to 0.5% of GDP.[[14]](#footnote-14) The International Labour Organisation recently reported that, of 183 countries reviewed, less than half had a non-contributory periodic cash benefit scheme for persons with disabilities.[[15]](#footnote-15) And a recent analysis of some 2,500 World Bank projects found that [just 2%](http://aiddata.org/blog/tracking-investment-in-disability-inclusive-development) were inclusive of persons with disabilities.[[16]](#footnote-16) What is more, in some countries, austerity regimes have led to a **reduction** in domestic resource allocations for public services and social protection, and this has affected persons with disabilities and other marginalised groups disproportionately.[[17]](#footnote-17)

The Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities calls for:

1.1 A progressive **increase in dedicated domestic resource allocation and international development cooperation** **to support the full inclusion of persons with disabilities and their families** in sustainable development.

1.2 The Financing for Development follow-up process to advance new solutions that maximise resources available for all aspects sustainable development, including: the equal inclusion of all countries in decision making on **international tax cooperation**; the design of **pro-poor taxation systems**; the fulfilment of traditional donors’ commitments on **Official Development Assistance**; and the alignment of decisions on **austerity,** **trade and debt** with human rights obligations.[[18]](#footnote-18)

**Quality of Financing**

Development finance can only be considered high quality if it does not discriminate against persons with disabilities, or other marginalised groups. The risk of tension between human rights obligations and private sector commercial objectives needs particularly close attention.

We recommend:

2.1 Binding accountability mechanisms to ensure that **private investments** adhere to **human rights standards, including the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**.[[19]](#footnote-19) These human rights standards include the obligation to ensure that persons with disabilities have **opportunities to work**. Accountability mechanisms should be backed by effective **redress processes** that are fully inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities and other marginalised groups.

2.2 **Accessibility** to be a key criterion in the mobilisation of finance, including all public procurement procedures. We also call for safeguards to ensure that **intellectual property regimes** and **customs duties** do not restrict the right of persons with disabilities to benefit from technologies that would enhance accessibility.[[20]](#footnote-20)

**3. Data and Monitoring**

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda’s vision of ‘inclusive societies’ and ‘effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels’ requires:

3.1 **Transparent reporting** of domestic and international resource allocations for the realisation of disability rights, including through the introduction of a disability policy marker on the OECD DAC Creditor Reporting System. Key information should be made available in easy to read language to enhance accessibility.

3.2 The **full participation of persons with disabilities,** their families, and other marginalised groups as part of an accessible process to design, implement and monitor budget and fiscal policies.

3.3 **Further research**, including by the research functions of multilateral development banks and other international financial institutions, on the pathways by which current development finance modalities risk leaving persons with disabilities, their families, and other marginalised groups behind.

1. World Bank/World Health Organisation, 2011, World Report on Disability [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <http://www.un.org/disabilities/documents/convention/convoptprot-e.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. <https://www.oecd.org/dac/effectiveness/Busan%20partnership.pdf>; [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. <http://beijing20.unwomen.org/~/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/pfa_e_final_web.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. <http://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/61/csw61_agreed_conclusions_advance_unedited_version_24_march_2017.pdf?vs=3358>. See especially paragraphs t, w and dd. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. <http://www.unesco.org/education/pdf/SALAMA_E.PDF> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. <http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:12020:::NO>::: [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. <http://www.who.int/disabilities/actionplan/en/> [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. <http://www.itu.int/net/wsis/implementation/> [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. <http://www.wipo.int/treaties/en/ip/marrakesh/summary_marrakesh.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. <http://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/hlpf2017-submission-paper> [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. For more detail on the design and implementation of CRPD-compliant social protection floors, please see: <http://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/sites/default/files/documents/ida_position_paper_spf_3_november_2011_0.doc>; http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\_doc.asp?symbol=A/70/297 [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. International Disability Alliance, public resource mobilisation for implementation of the CRPD, working paper, quoted in Cote, Meeks and Tardi, *Leave No-One Behind in Financing for Development,* CIVICUS, April 2015 [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. International Labour Organisation, 2014 World Social Protection Report: <http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/documents/publication/wcms_245201.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. Jacob Sims et al, Tracking Investment in Disability Inclusive Development, AidData, 2015 [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Development/Pages/PromotingHRbasedfinancialregulationmacroeconomicpolicies.aspx> [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. Please refer to the Declaration from the Addis Ababa Civil Society Forum on Financing for Development (<https://csoforffd.files.wordpress.com/2015/07/addis-ababa-cso-ffd-forum-declaration-12-july-2015.pdf>) and the Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on Austerity Measures and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (<http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Development/RightsCrisis/E-2013-82_en.pdf>) for more detail on these issues. [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. For more detail on proposed accountability mechanisms, please see the Declaration from the Addis Ababa Civil Society Forum on Financing for Development (at the link above). Such accountability mechanisms should also apply to public-private partnerships, and we agree with the Declaration that these partnerships should be approached with particular caution. [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. Such technology includes, but is not limited to, the technologies covered by the Marrakech Treaty (at the link above); by the World Health Organisation’s Essential Medicine List and Priority Assistive Products List; and by International Telecommunications Union standards and guidance on accessibility (http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Digital-Inclusion/Persons-with-Disabilities/Pages/Persons-with-Disabilities.aspx); as well as basic sun protection technologies highlighted in the Report of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism (A/HRC/31/63). [↑](#footnote-ref-20)