**High-level Political Forum 2018**

**Submission Paper by the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities**

**Instructions**

* Please read instructions first.
* Below you will find **an outline** for the official submission to HLPF 2018 on behalf of the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities. The current document contains suggestions for title, chapters, and elements to be drafted at a later stage. Please keep in mind this document will be approximately six pages.
* The submission will address the challenges encountered by persons with disabilities globally, provide recommendations in line with the CRPD and highlight good practices pertaining to the implementation of Goals under review.
* The current outline only addresses four of goals under review for the 2018 HLPF:
  + Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
  + Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
  + Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
  + Goal 17.Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development
* We have not included Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns and Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.
* If you disagree with the structure, the goals that will be included or not, we invite you to provide general comments. Otherwise we kindly ask you to make your comments in the document below under each title and chapter.
* We ask you to be concise and brief in your comments.
* If you disagree with a suggestion, please provide a rationale for why.
* If you have relevant material, research, and/or articles, please feel free to share with us (hlpf2018@ida-secretariat.org).

**DRAFT SUBMISSION**

**Sustainable and Resilient Societies and the Inclusion and Leadership of Persons with Disabilities**

**(Please provide any comments on the title and elements below)**

**Introduction**

* Fifteen percent of the world’s population comprises persons with disabilities, 80 percent of whom lives in poverty. Thirty-six percent of the global population lacks access to sanitation and 884 millionpeople lack access to clean drinking water, which more often affects the poorest communities. Thus, approximately 177 million persons with disabilities are likely affected and without access to clean water and sanitation. In addition, more than half of all persons with disabilities now live in towns and cities, that are rarely accessible, this number is estimated to grow to between 750,000 and 1 billion by 2030.
* The realization of the 2030 Agenda, to achieve sustainable and resilient societies for persons with disabilities, must be undertaken by the full and complete implementation of the UNCRPD. This can be achieved by:
  + The allocation of funding and universal design, which are critical to facilitate the participation of persons with disabilities in leadership and to contribute to the resilience of their societies. This is highlighted by the fact that it is generally feasible to meet accessibility requirements at 1 percent of the total cost, and that retrofitting for accessibility is more expensive – by up to 20 percent of the original cost – compared to integrating accessibility and universal design principles into new buildings.
  + The collection and disaggregation of data by disability to inform national policymakers about policy gaps and challenges for persons with disabilities.

**Chapter 1**

**Goals 6 and 7**

**Access to Water and Sanitation and Sustainable Energy for Persons with Disabilities**

**(Please comment on the title and elements below. We invite you to share examples.)**

* According to United Nation Human Rights Council Resolution A/HRC/RES/16/2 on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation, there is a link between the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation and the right to an adequate standard of living. This is inextricably related to the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, as well as the right to life and human dignity.
* However, infrastructure design around clean water and sanitation globally is often developed without ensuring the rights of persons with disabilities. This happens despite the awareness of what is needed from low- to high-income countries and from urban and rural areas for all types of disabilities. Consequently, improvements of WASH facilities such as new latrines with steps, or water pumps with higher handles, may in fact make new WASG facilities less accessible for persons with disabilities.
* Persons with disabilities can encounter barriers including: the physical distance to latrines or defecation areas, rough paths to and from latrines, narrow entrances and lack of space inside latrines, steps to latrines, slippery floors, and difficulty squatting with no hand rails.
* To provide clean water and sanitation from a human rights viewpoint five normative criteria must be upheld: (i) availability, (ii) quality/safety, (iii) acceptability, (iv) accessibility and (v) affordability together with five cross-cutting criteria (non-discrimination, participation, accountability, impact and sustainability).
* Persons with disabilities also have a heightened risk of fuel poverty, whereby having to cut down energy consumption, or to go without completely, to save money.
* Recommendation: Ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and efficient energy services for persons with disabilities, including the use of alternative energy facilities where warranted by the local situation, limiting in particular the frequency of power cuts; in line with CRPD Article 28.

**Recommendations**

* **CRPD Articles 28 and 9**

**Chapter 2**

**Goal 11**

**Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable for persons with disabilities**

**(Please comment on the title and elements below. We invite you to share examples.)**

* The UNCRPD promotes the concept of universal design (Article 2) that with accessibility for persons with disabilities a more inclusive environment is created for all, including for children, older people, and other groups who are often over looked or excluded. Although, this does not exclude the right to individual adaptation, assistive devices, and reasonable accommodation.
* States are responsible to undertake and promote research and development of universally designed goods, services, equipment and facilities. These should require the minimum possible adaption and the least cost to meet the rights of a person with disabilities to promote their availability and use, and to promote universal design in the development of standards and guidelines.
* Numerous built environments are inaccessible for persons with disabilities. This limits access to education, employment, and health services, which leads to the vicious circle of social exclusion of persons with disabilities, poverty and poor standards of living.
* The failure of communities to build inclusive systems, results with most persons with intellectual disabilities resorting to their families for lifelong support and care, which greatly impacts independent living.
* Accessibility is established in the UNCRPD as a cross-cutting issue that enables persons with disabilities to live independently and participate fully in all aspects of life. The Convention has a standalone article (Article 9) and a number of other provisions, including article 19 (living independently and being included in the community), article 20 (personal mobility) and article 21 (freedom of expression and access to information). All which offer states parties guidance on measures to guarantee accessibility.

Recommendations:

* UNCRPD Articles: 9, 11, 19, 28, and 30
* Actively promote appropriate measures in cities and human settlements that facilitate access and full participation of persons with disabilities, on an equal basis with others, to the physical and digital environment in cities, in particular to public spaces, public transport, housing, education and health facilities, to public information and communication: including information and communications technologies and systems, and to other facilities and services open or provided to the public, both in urban and rural areas.

**Chapter 3**

**Goal 17 means of implementation**

**The importance of funding for CRPD-compliant SDG implementation and data**

**(Please comment on the title and elements below. We invite you to share examples.)**

* Full implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the UNCRPD requires a progressive increase in dedicated domestic resource allocation and international development cooperation to support the full inclusion of persons with disabilities in sustainable and resilient societies. Yet, in many countries austerity measures have been imposed, which reduce government expenditures on human rights, development and social welfare when and where they are most needed, and persons with disabilities are often among the very hardest hit. A rights-based response to economic crises could be lifting persons with disabilities and their families out of poverty, and would contribute to the achievement of inclusive growth and sustainable development.
* States must collect and disaggregate data in line with the 2030 Agenda and the UNCRPD by using the Short Set of Questions developed by the Washington Group. In addition, States must ensure that their national policies for persons with disabilities are informed by evidence-based data that realize the political commitments of the 2030 Agenda and legally-binding obligations outlined in the UNCRPD. To create effective and meaningful policies that guarantee the rights of persons with disabilities, it is critical to disaggregate the SDG indicators by disability.