**UNDP Board Session, Monday 30 January**

**UNDP Evaluation of disability-Inclusive Development (Item 3)**

**Response from civil society representative, Vladimir Cuk**

**We would like to welcome the evaluation of UNDP**, which is very **timely** at the beginning of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the celebration of 10 years of the CRPD.

We very much welcome the process of the evaluation, which we see as thorough, transparent, comprehensive and exemplary of the involvement of stakeholders, including organizations of people with disabilities. Such process and outcomes illustrate the commitments of UNPD to scale up its effort for inclusion of persons with disabilities.

We would agree that **UNDP is prominently placed to play the role** of advancing the rights of persons with disabilities. UNDP is supporting countries in a wide scope of sectors that are critical for persons with disabilities, especially around governance, political participation and has a invaluable and irreplaceable role to play to ensure that SDGs implementation are fully inclusive of persons with disabilities.

**UNPRPD** - We highly appreciate **UNDP’s instrumental work in establishing** the UN Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD) and recognize the importance of this vehicle. We are welcoming positive findings from the evaluation. However, UNDP needs to do more in mainstreaming disability.

We noted from the evaluation and we know from our members’ experience that in countries when UNDP has engaged in supporting government in the implementation of CRPD, it has made a significant difference and provided adequate support and technical assistance. We welcome recommendation of the evaluation to scale its support to national stakeholders in the implementation of the CRPD and provide leadership for inclusive SDGs implementation and monitoring.

**DATA** - It seems from the evaluation that more could be done in tracking and learning what UNDP does at the national level in terms of promoting the rights of persons with disabilities. We would like to see UNDP investing more in defining a disability tracker for all projects that it implements. We would also welcome UNDP’s efforts to support member states in their efforts to produce timely and reliable disaggregated data on persons with disabilities

**STRATEGIC PLAN** – Looking ahead, we would like to see the next UNDP strategic plan 2018-2021 to significantly increase its contribution on inclusion and rights of persons with disabilities. We highlight the importance of closely **consulting with** persons with disabilities and their representatives in the development of the strategic plan.

**DPO** - In the implementation of the programs by UN country teams, we would like to see more **collaboration with disabled people’s organizations**. This partnership should be established and strengthened at the national, regional and global levels. Here, we would like to welcome the fact that IDA has been invited to sit on the Civil Society Advisory Committee. This is a great initial step.

**SENIOR ADVISOR AND STAFFING -**

* We **welcome the recommended surveying of UN staff** and investment of the UN in becoming a more inclusive employer. We are pleased to learn of examples where persons with disabilities have been hired by UNDP. We would therefore like to see that UNDP becomes a welcoming organization for persons with disabilities, and leading by example.
* Primarily and above all else, we recommend that the mainstreaming of the rights of persons with disabilities inside the organization **starts with establishing a disability unit with a specific mandate link to the new strategic plan,** led by a senior advisor on the rights of persons with disabilities. This unit, which we propose to be led by a senior individual with a disability, should support all future UNDP internal and external programs and policies in mainstreaming the rights of persons with disabilities. There is a unique opportunity to have such unit supporting the inclusive design, implementation and monitoring of the 2018-2021 strategy. Today, I would like to address you as the UNDP board members and donor countries to prioritize establishing of this unit and to jointly fund raise for enough resources for its functioning.
* We would also like to see **UNDP country teams to have disability focal points.**

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