# **A Call to Action to move from commitment to action NOW!**

# ***Together towards a disability inclusive future from the SDG Summit and beyond***

The SDG Summit marks the mid-point of the agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. It is not just an opportunity to assess the progress made on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) but also a time for an honest assessment of the failure to realize the promise of the SDGs for some of the most marginalized and excluded people in the world, in particular persons with disabilities, who comprise 16% of the global population.

Persons with disabilities are more likely to live in poverty, face multiple and intersecting discrimination in education, employment, health – all of the key areas directly impacting on the material conditions of their lives. Persons with disabilities are a diverse group, with many intersecting identities, but are united by the experience of exclusion, discrimination and systemic marginalization, and the need to transform society to ensure inclusive equality for all.

While acknowledging that the [Political Declaration](https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/LTD/N23/271/52/PDF/N2327152.pdf?OpenElement) adopted at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) and endorsed by the General Assembly in September 2023 includes strong references to persons with disabilities, we are also aware that global commitments have so far failed to deliver for persons with disabilities and other excluded groups.

Recognizing that the promises of the SDGs cannot be truly fulfilled without ensuring that they are also realized for persons with disabilities, we call on all Members States and other stakeholders to:

1. Translate the ***specific commitment to inclusion*** of persons with disabilities as included in the Political Declaration - "*ensuring that persons with disabilities actively participate in and equally benefit from sustainable development efforts*" - into well-resourced policies and initiatives that create real opportunities for persons with disabilities.
2. Ensure ***full community inclusion*** and independent living of persons with disabilities of all age groups and across the life course, including by adopting a human-rights-based approach in the following areas, amongst others: humanitarian assistance; assistive technologies; transportation; housing; accessible infrastructure and services in inclusive cities; comprehensive social protection which covers disability-related costs.
3. Ensure ***greater investment in disability inclusive development*** including strengthened mobilization of resources towards the rights of persons with disabilities and Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs); enhanced Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitments on disability inclusion, including through the Global Disability Summit; and the Secretary-General led SDG stimulus, reflecting the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy.
4. Commit to collecting ***disability-specific disaggregated data*** using recognized approaches such as the Washington Group Question Sets to track the impact of development efforts accurately. Recognize OPD-led citizen-generated data as a complement to official statistics to better understand gaps, barriers, and progress for all persons with disabilities.
5. ***Ensure gender equality, adopting an intersectional and human rights-based approach*** recognizing the unique challenges faced by women and girls with disabilities and actively including them in development efforts.
6. Actively ***bridge*** ***the ‘disability gap’ in education*** by making inclusive and equitable quality education a reality for all, including persons with disabilities in line with the [Call to Action](https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/sites/default/files/tes_inclusive_education_call_to_action1509v2.pdf) launched at the Transforming Education Summit.
7. Ensure that ***persons with disabilities are included*** at the international, regional and national levels in adaptation and mitigation efforts to ***address climate change as well as in disaster preparedness*** and response plans to build true resilience.
8. ***Meaningfully engage civil society***, particularly Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs), reflecting the principle of "nothing about us without us" in ***sustainable and impactful partnerships***, including co-production of policy and programs
9. Promote a human rights-based approach to ***Universal Health Coverage***, ensuring non-discrimination, progressive universalism, and inclusive health financing and governance with the full participation of organizations of persons with disabilities at all levels.
10. Bridging ***digital divides faced by persons with disabilities*** to access information, services, and opportunities, and ensure that everyone that needs it has access to affordable and quality assistive technology.
11. Recognize and enhancethe crucial role played by Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) in ***promoting peace and justice for all.***

## **Some ways in which these commitments can be met:**

* Adopt a twin track approach to disability inclusion combining specific interventions targeting persons with disabilities, along with mainstreaming disability inclusion in overall outcomes and outputs.
* Ensure that budget processes are inclusive and participatory. Allocate adequate resources both for mainstreaming disability inclusion in overall outcomes and outputs along with disability specific budgets. Any and all stimulus packages adopted for the realization of the SDGs, for post-pandemic rebuilding and efforts to address new and emerging global challenges including climate change must include an adequate disability component.
* Measure and track the amount of development and humanitarian assistance that is disability inclusive, including through the adoption of the OECD DAC disability marker.
* Consider revising all funding programs that do not have a disability component or are not compliant with the standards set by the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, recognizing that non-inclusive interventions can not only reinforce existing barriers but create new ones.
* Recognize the critical role played by Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) and invest in strengthening their capacities to participate meaningfully in development and humanitarian planning, policy, and decision-making, including creating an enabling environment by ensuring accessibility of information and spaces.
* Ensure the inclusion of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in data design, collection, management, and use. Data must reflect the reality of persons with disabilities and be harmonized to create effective evidence-based policies and programs.
* Ensure that all efforts to achieve ‘Our Common Agenda’ including the Summit of the Future include a focus on disability inclusion and prioritize the participation of persons with disabilities, including women, girls, older persons, youth and indigenous peoples with disabilities among others. This must include ensuring accessibility requirements that are critical to participation of persons with disabilities.

## **Additional resources:**

[UN Disability Inclusion Strategy](https://www.un.org/en/content/disabilitystrategy/)

[UN Flagship report on Disability and the Sustainable Development Goals](https://social.un.org/publications/UN-Flagship-Report-Disability-Final.pdf) (2018)

[UNGA resolution Inclusive development for and with persons with disabilities](https://www.undocs.org/A/RES/77/189) (2023)

[SR Report on disability inclusive international cooperation](https://undocs.org/A/75/186) (2020)

[SR Report on Transforming services for persons with disabilities](https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/thematic-reports/ahrc5232-transformation-services-persons-disabilities) (2023)

[CRPD concluding observations on Article 32 (international cooperation)](https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/sites/default/files/article_32_crpd.pdf)

[Washington Group on Disability Statistics Question Sets](https://www.washingtongroup-disability.com/question-sets/)

[OECD DAC disability marker](https://one.oecd.org/document/DCD/DAC/STAT%282020%2948/en/pdf)

[Global Disability Summit Commitments](https://www.globaldisabilitysummit.org/commitments)