



Response by the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities to the Zero Draft of the Pact for the Future

Summary:

The world is facing multiple crises and is in critical need of transformative shifts in many areas. While negotiating an action-oriented Pact for the Future that addresses the needs of the times, it is necessary to acknowledge that business as usual has not worked. For many marginalized communities, such as persons with disabilities, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was the first time that a development framework explicitly recognized the multiple barriers and systemic exclusion they face and highlighted the need for focussed interventions to address those. Given the fact that the COVID-19 pandemic adversely impacted much of the progress made on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and that it clearly demonstrated that our development and humanitarian systems are inherently ill-equipped to respond equitably to all, it is imperative that the Pact of the Future includes a sharper focus on structural issues that continue to keep many communities at the margins of development.

The Pact for the Future must therefore put human rights at the centre with a particular focus on marginalized groups such as persons with disabilities, indigenous people, LGBTQI population, women and girls, youth, older persons, among others.

It is strongly recommended that the explicit references to marginalized groups in key development documents, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Political Declaration of the SDG Summit 2023, be continued in this draft as well.

With this in mind, the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities would recommend the following changes:

- Retain in the Pact of the Future the following language from paragraph 14 of the Political Declaration of the High-Level Forum on Sustainable Development adopted under the auspices of the General Assembly with the proposed new text as following:

Paragraph 20 (bis) We commit to ensuring that persons with disabilities actively participate in and equally benefit from sustainable development efforts.

We further recommend that:

- In paragraph 22: Add a **commitment to collecting disability-specific disaggregated data** using recognized approaches to track the impact of development efforts accurately.
- Add paragraph 23 (bis) with the proposed new text as following:



We commit to promoting a human rights-based approach to Universal Health Coverage, ensuring non-discrimination, progressive universalism, and inclusive health financing and governance. We commit to ensuring full community inclusion and independent living of persons with disabilities of all age groups and across the life course.

- In paragraphs 24, 58, 59, 103, 107 we propose: **Recognize the disability-gap** in gender, youth, and education interventions.
- In paragraphs 25, 35, 38, 42 we propose: Add **explicit references to specific and targeted funding for persons with disabilities** including in climate action and mitigation. Commit to a 'do no harm' principle by ensuring to not fund institutions and other segregated settings.
- In paragraphs 97, 98, 99 we propose: Recognize the **accessibility barriers to digital inclusion** and commit to accelerating investment in accessibility, universal design, and access to assistive technology under social protection schemes.
- In paragraphs 55 we propose: Commit to **strengthen implementation of UN Security Council resolution 2475** on the protection of persons with disabilities in conflict and develop a stand-alone agenda item covering 'Disability peace and security' at the UN Security Council
- Add paragraph 134 (bis):
We emphasize that more inclusive evidence or data generation and monitoring processes can enable the creation of solutions, policies and services that leave no one behind, including women and girls. We therefore welcome the collaborative efforts of the statistical, human rights and development communities to create a Collaborative on Citizen Data. We underline that participatory approaches to data can help increase public trust into official statistics, improve the quality and relevance of data, and strengthen the capacities of non-traditional data producers to generate better data and use it to create positive change in people's lives.

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Detailed inputs as below:

Chapeau

Paragraph 2:

We recommend adding emphasis on marginalized communities as follows:

We are also at a moment of opportunity, where advances in knowledge and technology, properly managed, *particularly keeping marginalized communities at the centre*, could deliver a better future for all.

Paragraph 5:

We recommend adding emphasis on marginalized communities as follows:

We commit to ensure the whole world – especially the most vulnerable *including children, young people, persons with disabilities, older persons, refugees, internally displaced persons, and migrants* – are ready for the vastly more complex challenges to come.

Paragraph 8:

We recommend adding emphasis on marginalized communities as follows:

We recognize the universality, indivisibility, interdependence and..., and fundamental freedoms of everyone, *including those from marginalized groups such as persons with disabilities*.

Paragraph 9:

We recommend also including women and girls with disabilities as follows:

Human rights can never be fully upheld unless they are also enjoyed by all women and girls, *including women and girls with disabilities*, ... without the full, equal, and meaningful participation of women at all levels.

Paragraph 14:

We recommend including accessibility and Universal Design, as follows:

We commit to ensuring that new technologies are shaped in ways that are human-centred and *accessible and based on Universal Design*, reflect universal human values ... Global Digital Compact annexed to this Pact.

Paragraph 18:

We recommend including emphasis on furthest behind groups as follows:

We encourage stakeholders to participate and engage in the implementation of the Pact for the Future, *particularly to reach the furthest behind first*.



1. Sustainable development and financing for development

Paragraph 20:

We recommend that the focus on persons with disabilities as included in the Political Declaration adopted by UNGA coinciding with the SDG Summit be retained, by adding a new standalone paragraph with the following proposed text:

Paragraph 20 (bis) We commit to ensuring that persons with disabilities actively participate in and equally benefit from sustainable development efforts.¹

Paragraph 22:

We recommend including strong reference to disability-specific disaggregated data as follows:

We affirm that Human rights principles must continue to inform the implementation of the Agenda. ***We commit to collecting disability-specific disaggregated data using recognized approaches to track the impact of development efforts accurately.***

Paragraph 23:

We recommend that focus on Universal Health, a commitment to community inclusion be added as a standalone paragraph with the following proposed text:

Paragraph 23 (bis):

We commit to promoting a human rights-based approach to Universal Health Coverage, ensuring non-discrimination, progressive universalism, and inclusive health financing and governance. We commit to ensuring full community inclusion and independent living of persons with disabilities of all age groups and across the life course.

Paragraph 24:

We recommend that the focus on disability-gap in education as included in the Political Declaration adopted by UNGA coinciding with the SDG Summit be retained:

We reaffirm our commitment to leave no one behind in pursuit of the 2030 Agenda; to respect, protect and fulfil all human rights without discrimination; to achieve universal and

¹It is important to recognize that the SDGs have not been equitably implemented for all, particularly for persons with disabilities. They are overrepresented among those facing extreme poverty and hunger, those out of school and out of labour market which have now been further compounded by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. We especially draw attention to paragraph 14 of A/RES/78/1 adopted by the UN General Assembly in September 2023 highlighting the critical need to include persons with disabilities.



quality *inclusive* education, *and recognizing the gender and disability-gap*, to take targeted and accelerated action to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, *including those with disabilities*, and remove all legal, social and economic barriers to achieve gender equality. We reaffirm that ... sustainable development. *We recognize the importance of investment in inclusive public education and commit to increasing and improving domestic and external financing for education, including in humanitarian emergencies and conflict situations.*

Paragraph 25:

We recommend including a focus on inclusion here as follows:

We welcome the call by the Secretary-General for a rescue plan for people and planet, ... securing a surge in financing for the Sustainable Development Goals and an enabling global environment for developing countries to invest in a sustainable future for their people and the betterment of our common humanity. *We commit to ensuring that the Just transition and the Green Economy address structural inequalities and barriers, and achieved in an inclusive, accessible affordable, and sustainable manner and particularly include groups more at risk of exclusion, including persons with disabilities.*

Paragraph 35:

We recommend including specific references to funding for persons with disabilities here as follows:

We welcome the operationalization of the funding arrangements, including the Fund, ... invite financial contributions with developed country Parties continuing to take the lead to provide financial resources for commencing the operationalization of the Fund. *We commit to ensuring that there is specific and targeted funding for persons with disabilities.*

Paragraph 38:

We recommend reiterating the principle of 'Do No Harm' in development financing particularly for persons with disabilities here as follows:

We are deeply concerned by the increase in the estimated Sustainable Development Goals financing gap and we recognize that a step-change is needed in the quantity and quality of development finance to meet the Goals. *Donors must follow the "do no harm" principle by ensuring that their investments do not fund institutions and other segregated settings, as defined in the UNCRPD Guidelines on Deinstitutionalisation, including in emergencies.*

Paragraph 42:



We recommend including a specific reference to dedicated funding for persons with disabilities in international development cooperation as follows:

We welcome the increase in official development assistance ... to meet the Goals. ***We commit to ensure specific and targeted funding for persons with disabilities in international development cooperation, including in climate action and climate mitigation efforts.***

2. International Peace and Security

Paragraph 51:

We recommend including a specific reference to crimes against humanity linked to disability as follows:

We reaffirm our commitment to significantly reducing all forms of violence, ***including disability-specific crimes against humanity***, and we commit to halving violent death rates in all societies by 2030.

Paragraph 55:

We recommend including strong reference to UN Security Council resolution 2475 as follows:

We also commit to investigate alleged violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law and ensure accountability of perpetrators. ***We must strengthen implementation of UN Security Council resolution 2475 on the protection of persons with disabilities in conflict and develop a stand-alone agenda item covering 'Disability peace and security' at the UN Security Council.***

Paragraph 58:

We recommend an emphasis on the role of women with disabilities in peacebuilding as follows:

We also recognize that without the full, equal and meaningful participation of women, ***including women with disabilities***, in decisions on peace and security, ... peace cannot be achieved and sustained.

Paragraph 59:

We recognize the need to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls, ***particularly those at high risk such as women and girls with disabilities***, and to accelerate action to achieve gender equality in all domains.



3. Science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation

Paragraph 91:

We recommend an emphasis on inclusive and accessible technology for persons with disabilities as follows:

We acknowledge the contribution of science, technology and innovation to sustainable development ... and giving policymakers powerful planning tools. ***We commit to ensuring planning, development, and implementation of innovative and technological practices, including Artificial Intelligence, are responsive to current and future human needs, including persons with disabilities.***

Paragraph 97:

We recommend an emphasis on inclusive and accessible technology for persons with disabilities as follows:

We resolve to take action to enhance the ability of developing countries to benefit from science, technology and innovation..., research and development. ***We recognize that accessibility barriers, along with connectivity, affordability, and resource challenges, contribute to digital exclusion, affecting persons with disabilities, older persons, and intersecting groups. This impacts their ability to access technologies, public services, and information, particularly during shocks and disasters.***

Paragraph 98:

We recommend an emphasis on investment in accessibility and Universal Design as follows:

We aim to increase funding for research and innovation related to the Sustainable Development Goals and build capacity in all regions to contribute to and benefit from this research. ***We aim to accelerate investment in increasing understanding of accessibility and Universal Design across all governance levels, academia, private sector, urban planners, designers, technology and service providers, and innovators.***

Paragraph 99:

We recommend an emphasis on access to assistive technology for persons with disabilities as follows:

We support calls for sharing technologies and skills to solve the basic health issues of water, sanitation and food security. ***We aim to integrate Assistive Technologies as essential components of Social Security and Social Protection Programs, including Labour Market initiatives.***



4. Youth and Future Generations

Paragraph 103:

We recommend including specific references to youth with disabilities as follows:

We recognize that young persons will live with the consequences of our actions and our inaction. We welcome the important contributions of young persons and children, *including young persons with disabilities*, as critical agents of change in promoting sustainable development, human rights and peace and security.

Paragraph 104:

We recommend including specific references to right of young persons with disabilities to access education and labour market as follows:

We recognize that generating decent work and quality employment for young persons is one of the biggest challenges ... ensure the immediate and long-term development of youth. *We must ensure that youth with disabilities have the right and freedom to access quality inclusive education on an equal basis with other learners; and commit to easing entry to the labour market by opening routes to paid internships and economic empowerment.*

Paragraph 105:

We recommend including specific references to youth with disabilities as follows:

We underline the importance of establishing in the national context robust social security systems as well as social protection floors *with a lifecycle approach* that respond to the needs and rights of young persons and children, including all girls and young women, *and young persons with disabilities.*

Paragraph 107:

We recommend including specific references to youth with disabilities as follows:

We underline the importance of the active, meaningful and inclusive participation of youth in decision-making, *including youth with disabilities.* ...We note with concern the challenges and barriers, ... participation of youth in political and public affairs, *particularly those with disabilities.*



5. Transforming global governance

Paragraph 131:

We recommend including specific references to persons with disabilities as follows:

We commit to improving the international response to complex global shocks of significant scale and severity, guided by the principles of equity, solidarity and partnership; ***recognizing that such events have a disproportionate impact on marginalized groups such as persons with disabilities further exacerbating their systemic exclusion.***

Paragraph 134 (bis):

We propose a standalone paragraph be added on collaborative and citizen data based on already recommended language under the Collaborative on Citizen Data with the following text:

We emphasize that more inclusive evidence or data generation and monitoring processes can enable the creation of solutions, policies and services that leave no one behind, including women and girls. We therefore welcome the collaborative efforts of the statistical, human rights and development communities to create a Collaborative Citizen Data. We underline that participatory approaches to data can help increase public trust into official statistics, improve the quality and relevance of data, and strengthen the capacities of non-traditional data producers to generate better data and use it to create positive change in people's lives.

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