



## Statement of the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities at the virtual consultation on the Zero Draft of the Pact for the Future

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*This statement was delivered by Dorodi Sharma, Senior Advisor – Advocacy & Engagement, International Disability Alliance*

Thank you, Ambassador.

Your Excellencies, colleagues from civil society – I represent the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities and the International Disability Alliance which is a representative global alliance of organizations of persons with disabilities. We thank the co-facilitators for creating this opportunity for the Major Groups and other CSOs to provide feedback. We also submitted our written input which outlined our positions on the various chapters of the Pact for the Future in detail. And I echo our Major Group Coordination Mechanism co-chair to urge that these inputs be considered seriously recognizing the participatory process that was followed to compile them.

I do want to take this moment to recognize that there are 1.3 billion people with a disability around the world, 80% of whom are in countries of the Global South where they face some of the highest marginalizations and deprivations. Needless to say, therefore, that we were left discouraged to note that the Zero Draft did not include a single mention of this demographic that is one of the furthest left behind groups. Your Excellencies, unless their systemic exclusion is acknowledged explicitly, the inherent biases that our development and humanitarian system suffer from will not just exclude persons with disabilities but create even more barriers. This is true for other marginalized groups as well.

We therefore recommend that the **Pact for the Future must not only put human rights at the centre but do so with a particular focus on marginalized groups. In particular, the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities would strongly recommend retaining** in the Chapeau under para 20 of 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 which said: ***We commit to ensuring that persons with disabilities actively participate in and equally benefit from sustainable development efforts.***

**We further call for a commitment to collecting disability-specific disaggregated data** using recognized approaches to track the impact of development efforts accurately and **recognizing the disability-gap** in gender, youth, and education interventions.



We urge for **explicit references to specific and targeted funding for persons with disabilities** including in climate action and mitigation, and a commitment to a 'do no harm' principle by ensuring to not fund interventions that discriminate against persons with disabilities.

We call for recognition of accessibility **barriers to digital inclusion** and commitment to accelerating investment in accessibility, universal design, and access to assistive technology under social protection schemes.

We also call for **strengthening 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

To conclude Your Excellencies, we also call for the recognition of the critical role that Major Groups and representative organizations play in achieving the SDGs and in creating an inclusive future beyond 2030. This requires the opening up of spaces for civil society and making the processes including information accessible to persons with disabilities, and we look to your leadership for this.

Thank you for the opportunity.