Promoting the Rights of Persons with Disabilities through the Sustainable Development Goals

A RESOURCE PACKAGE

PREFACE AND INTRODUCTION

Policy Guidance for Inclusive Sustainable Development Goals

UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

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Preface

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development pledges commitments towards shared prosperity, the lasting protection of our planet and its resources, and building peaceful, just and inclusive societies based on respect for human rights. These commitments bring new opportunities for persons with disabilities and their recognition as key actors in the collective journey of transforming our world. However, without a rights-based approach, these efforts are doomed to failure; never before has it been so clear that we cannot achieve the full inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities without progressing the human rights agenda.

Advancing the rights of persons with disabilities has been a primary focus of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) for many years. Since the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, its principles and provisions have formed the basis of all our work to ensure the inclusion of the diverse population of persons with disabilities, including women and girls, older persons, migrants and indigenous peoples, as well as underrepresented groups, such as persons with intellectual disabilities and persons with psychosocial disabilities. OHCHR has been an active agent in the promotion of a disability-inclusive development agenda and foresaw in 2015 an implementation gap that needed to be addressed for persons with disabilities to no longer be left behind.

With a view to ensuring the mutual reinforcement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, OHCHR has developed *Promoting the Rights of Persons with Disabilities through the Sustainable Development Goals: a Resource Package* to ensure that all actions for the Goals are inclusive of persons with disabilities and guided by the Convention. The support of the European Union and all those that contributed to this work, in particular organizations of persons with disabilities, is greatly appreciated. While the Resource Package is targeted primarily at States that are responsible for the implementation of both the Goals and the Convention, it acknowledges that we all have a role to play in creating more inclusive and sustainable communities. Whether it be through investment, research, training, monitoring or sharing experiences, Resource Package can serve as an indispensable guide for all stakeholders.

OHCHR encourages the wide dissemination and use of the Resource Package for the benefit of the entirety of the human family; by strengthening our responses against all forms of exclusion, it contributes to making the journey to 2030 and beyond indeed a collective one. OHCHR stands ready to support States, organizations of persons with disabilities and the United Nations family to get the most out of these tools. Let's build disability-inclusive societies!

Overview

Promoting the Rights of Persons with Disabilities through the Sustainable Development Goals: a Resource Package provides guidance on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals with a view to advancing the development and rights of persons with disabilities in relation to policymaking, training, awareness-raising and monitoring.

The Resource Package comprises the following:

- Policy Guidance for Inclusive Sustainable Development Goals
- Overview of Thematic Issues and Policy Recommendations
- Indicators on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- Frequently asked questions on the indicators on the Convention
- Data sources guidance
- Training materials on disability-inclusive Sustainable Development Goals

The Policy Guidance for Inclusive Sustainable Development Goals begins with an introduction supporting the navigation of the Resource Package. The Foundations component should be read prior to the Goal-specific guidance and the Overview of Thematic Issues and Policy Recommendations. A set of human rights indicators for each article of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is offered to provide guidance on how to measure the implementation of the Convention. These indicators are also referred to in the Policy Guidance and the Overview as guidance for policy implementation. Each human rights indicator is accompanied by data sources guidance and examples thereof to inform the measure of an outcome. Lastly, the Resource Package includes training materials to build capacity in the areas covered by the Policy Guidance.

Policy Guidance for Inclusive Sustainable Development Goals

1. Introduction

In 2015, the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda), which puts forward 17 Sustainable Development Goals with 169 targets. The negotiations on the 2030 Agenda were carried out with the active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities and, as a result, the 2030 Agenda reflects the rights of persons with disabilities across different Sustainable Development Goals. This demonstrates a significant advancement compared to the previous Millennium Development Goals, which did not consider the situation of persons with disabilities and, hence, widened the gap between persons with disabilities and others, leaving them behind.

To improve upon the Millennium Development Goals, the Sustainable Development Goals call on the international community to commit to leave no one behind and to reach the furthest behind first, to address the situation of those the most excluded from development and to implement policies to combat the discrimination entrenched in existing structures and systems.

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which entered into force in 2008, provides a blueprint for actions to include and uphold the rights of persons with disabilities. This human rights treaty calls for a paradigm shift from previous understandings of disability to a human rights model of disability. This new generation human rights treaty not only enumerates the human rights of persons with disabilities but also serves as a development tool for their implementation into policies and practices. The Convention serves as a guide for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals by providing a human-rights perspective on the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the pursuit of leaving no one behind.

2. Purpose

This guidance is aimed at supporting policymakers in the development of laws, policies and programmes following the Sustainable Development Goals and under the guidance of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The purpose of the guidance is to:

- Provide policymakers with guidance regarding the development of national policies, following the commitments adopted by Governments with regard to the Goals, in a way that is respectful of the rights of persons with disabilities;
- Inform government stakeholders, national statistics offices, national human rights institutions, United Nations field presences and civil society, particularly organizations of persons with disabilities, on the findings made at the international level through human rights monitoring systems, for them to identify opportunities for advancing the rights of persons with disabilities in their country and contribute to their monitoring.

The guidance does not seek to:

1. Give an exhaustive description of all rights;
2. Give detailed instruction on the implementation of the Convention.

The guidance provides a list of additional resources to further explore the recommendations issued by the United Nations system.

3. Development of the Policy Guidance

The development of the guidance was informed by consultations held with Governments, national human rights institutions, national statistics offices, civil society organizations, organizations of persons with disabilities, international cooperation agencies, United Nations agencies and technical experts, as well as other stakeholders.

4. Structure of the Policy Guidance

The guidance component is divided into four parts: introduction (the present document); Foundations for inclusive Sustainable Development Goals; Goal-specific guidance; and the Overview of Thematic Issues and Policy Recommendations.

4.1 Introduction

The introduction presents the purpose and structure of the guidance and provides information on how to use them and on how they link with other tools in the *Promoting the Rights of Persons with Disabilities through the Sustainable Development Goals: a Resource Package* (human rights indicators, data sources guidance, videos and training materials).

4.2 Foundations for inclusive Sustainable Development Goals: key concepts and structural requirements

Part I introduces the key concepts of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and addresses cross-cutting components of a disability-inclusive implementation of the Goals.

Part II focuses on the structural requirements of Governments to create an enabling legal, policy and programming environment, which builds the foundation for a more inclusive society.



The content specifically addresses the Goals that relate to key aspects of governmental institutional policy and accountability frameworks, covering:

- Governance
- Participation
- Legislation and policy
- Accountability and monitoring
- Capacity-building
- International cooperation

It includes reference to:

- Goal 10: reduced inequalities
- Goal 16: peace, justice and strong institutions
- Goal 17: partnerships for the goals

4.3 Goal-specific guidance



These guidance documents focus on the following Sustainable Development Goals:

- Goal 1: no poverty
- Goal 3: good health and well-being
- Goal 4: quality education
- Goal 5: gender equality
- Goal 8: decent work and economic growth
- Goal 11: sustainable cities and communities

The guidance includes an initial "In brief" section designed to provide a quick overview of the topic in relation to persons with disabilities and to give policymakers a snapshot of what needs to be done with respect to that specific Goal. The "In brief" section includes the following content:

- What is the situation?
- What needs to be done?
- Dos and don'ts

This is followed by an "In depth" section that addresses in more detail the specific issues and key actions called for by the Sustainable Development Goals, connecting these actions to the complementary human rights indicators on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, data sources guidance, videos and training materials on disability-inclusive sustainable development. The "In depth" section covers the following:

- Introduction to the Goal
- Connection to other tools
- Why is this Goal important for persons with disabilities?
- Actions applicable across all targets
- Other key actions by target
- Additional resources

4.4 Overview of Thematic Issues and Policy Recommendations

The Overview of Thematic Issues and Policy Recommendations documents provide information and recommended actions for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in relation to the following issues:

- Clean water and sanitation
- Climate change and disaster risk reduction
- Food and nutrition
- Research and innovation
- Rural areas
- Tourism

The Overview of Thematic Issues and Policy Recommendations covers a range of Sustainable Development Goals and targets, identified in each document. They are structured in a way similar to the "In brief" sections referred to above and include the following content:

- What is the situation?
- What needs to be done?
- Dos and don'ts
- Additional resources

5. How to use the Policy Guidance

5.1 Importance of the Foundations Guidance

The guidance documents have been designed to be used as standalone documents and as a set of cohesive guidance. It is strongly recommended that the Foundations Guidance is read first. It provides an explanation of the key concepts and terminology that are referenced and built upon in the Goal-specific guidance and Overview of Thematic Issues and Policy Recommendations and should accompany each. If the Goal-specific guidance and Overview are read in isolation, cross-cutting requirements may be missed.

5.2 Navigating the Policy Guidance

Each document (with the exception of the Foundations Guidance) follows a similar structure for ease of navigation and use. In addition, key areas of content are marked by common headings and icons. Icons are used to quickly indicate to the reader when the content includes:

- Recommendations
- Good practice examples
- Key concepts
- Further information

5.3 Annex: key concepts

Each document of the Policy Guidance and Overview of Thematic Issues and Policy Recommendations has an annex that includes short descriptions of key concepts to aid with comprehension. When these concepts are used in the documents, hyperlinks are provided to the description in the key concepts annex. These key concepts are explained in more detail in the Foundations Guidance. The key concepts annex provides a brief reminder of the content in the Foundations Guidance.

5.4 Using the Policy Guidance alongside complementary resources

The guidance is complemented by other resources developed by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights: the above-mentioned human rights indicators on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, data sources guidance, training materials on disability-inclusive Sustainable Development Goals and a series of videos on implementing the Goals and the Convention (the Resource Package videos). These resources reinforce each other in their objective to provide concrete guidance on the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities and on the tracking of progress towards that objective. The human rights indicators on the Convention and the data sources guidance can also be used independently to monitor the implementation of the Convention and of the Goals. More information on these complementary resources is provided below.

6. Complementary resources

6.1 Human rights indicators on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Human rights indicators enhance human rights implementation and measurement by:

- Highlighting the practical content of norms
- Measuring progress
- Bringing transparency and accountability
- Strengthening the follow-up on recommendations
- Enabling national human rights institutions and civil society organizations to exercise more effective oversight

The human rights indicators on the Convention are key to facilitating the understanding and implementation of the provisions of the Convention. They serve to provide guidance on the measures that need to be taken to implement the Convention and to facilitate the assessment of the progress towards implementation.

Legislators, policymakers and other decision makers across all levels of government can benefit from these indicators, including through the information given on what kind of steps are needed to transform the legal, policy and budgetary framework and to measure progress in doing so. In addition, the indicators serve as a tool for any organization or body (such as national human rights institutions, civil society (including organizations of persons with disabilities), international cooperation agencies, United Nations agencies and donors) to assess the implementation of the Convention and to hold Governments accountable.

The human rights indicators on the Convention were developed based on the Convention and the jurisprudence of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and other human rights standards. Following the methodology developed by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on human rights indicators, the indicators on the Convention can be applied and contextualized at the national level for all rights.

The human rights indicators on the Convention incorporate the Sustainable Development Goal indicators, showing the link between the two instruments and demonstrating how efforts and actions to uphold the rights of persons with disabilities mutually reinforce both. For more information, consult the frequently asked questions that accompany the indicators on the Convention.

6.2 Data sources guidance

The absence of data relating to persons with disabilities has been a long-standing barrier to shaping laws and policies that improve the development and exercise of the rights of persons with disabilities and their access to those rights on an equal basis with the rest of society. Identifying data sources and their gaps is key to ensuring that government action is informed to better reach those who are left behind, including persons with disabilities.

The data sources guidance provides information on how different sources of data can be used to respond to, and provide a measure for, the outcome indicators of the human rights indicators on the Convention. Outcome indicators are listed for each article of the Convention, accompanied by examples of data sources for the construction of each indicator. Examples of countries already producing relevant data are given or, when no country was found to be reporting on the indicator, the guidance seeks to provide examples of where modifications to existing data collection could be applied to produce such data.

The goal of the data source guidance is to highlight existing data sources and to identify areas where further efforts are needed in order to build on existing data collection so as to carry out the reporting on those indicators as efficiently as possible.

For some indicators, this is straightforward and requires few, if any, modifications to data collection. Other indicators are more challenging. For more information, see the introduction to the data sources guidance.

6.3 Training materials on disability-inclusive Sustainable Development Goals

The training materials provide guidance on organizing both face-to-face training and participatory webinars on the implementation of disability-inclusive Goals. Mirroring the Goal-specific guidance, the training materials include a common introduction and the following modules:

- Foundations for inclusive Sustainable Development Goals
- Goal 1: no poverty
- Goal 3: good health and well-being
- Goal 4: quality education
- Goal 5: gender equality
- Goal 8: decent work and economic growth
- Goal 11: sustainable cities and communities

Each training module is composed of:

- A trainer's guide, complete with trainer's notes and methodology for the preparation of face-to-face training or participatory webinars
- Handouts and materials for activities
- A set of presentation slides for both face-to-face training and participatory webinars

For more information, consult the introduction to the training materials.

6.4 Videos

The Resource Package videos mirror the guidance and can be used for training and awareness-raising activities. The following videos are available with multiple accessibility features, including captioning, International Sign interpretation and audio description:

- Overview of the *Promoting the Rights of Persons with Disabilities through the Sustainable Development Goals: a Resource Package*
- Foundations for inclusive Sustainable Development Goals
- Goal 1: no poverty
- Goal 3: good health and well-being
- Goal 4: quality education
- Goal 5: gender equality
- Goal 8: decent work and economic growth
- Goal 11: sustainable cities and communities



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