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

A RESOURCE PACKAGE

CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Overview of Thematic Issues and Policy Recommendations

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HUMAN RIGHTS
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Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts



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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.

1. What is the situation?

Climate change has been described as the defining issue of our time, posing the greatest threat to human rights. Sudden-onset natural disasters and slow-onset events have an impact on the effective enjoyment of human rights. Persons with disabilities may experience those impacts differently and more severely than others due to systemic discrimination and neglect in decision-making on policies, planning and coordination relating to climate mitigation and adaptation and disaster preparedness, response and recovery. As a result, persons with disabilities are among those most at risk from climate change-related hazards and disasters. They are often among those most adversely affected in an emergency, sustaining disproportionately higher rates of morbidity and mortality, and they are among those the least able to access emergency support.

While persons with disabilities are overrepresented in low- and middle-income countries, they are commonly overlooked in climate mitigation and adaptation measures; they are not counted in research, programming, resource allocation and data collection, and they do not participate in decision-making relating to international cooperation aimed at strengthening resilience and sustainability. Exclusion from participation also exacerbates the inequalities undermining the resilience and adaptive capacity of persons with disabilities. Moreover, exposure to risks is heightened for those populations with disabilities who experience intersecting forms of discrimination based on gender, age, ethnic origin or migration status, among others.

The charts presented in figures I, II and III, below, from the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction illustrate the lack of participation of persons with disabilities in key decision-making and community preparedness measures.

FIGURE I

Community disaster management processes: participation by persons with disabilities



Source: United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, *Living with Disability and Disasters: UNISDR 2013 Survey on Living with Disabilities and Disasters – Key Findings* (2014).

FIGURE II

Awareness of disaster management plans in own city/ town/ community by persons with disabilities

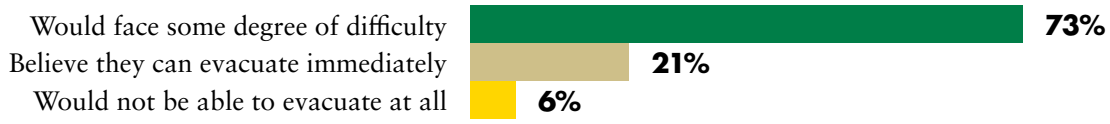


Source: United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, *Living with Disability and Disasters: UNISDR 2013 Survey on Living with Disabilities and Disasters – Key Findings* (2014).

Furthermore, evacuation rates are generally lower for households with members with disabilities, and less than half of emergency and disaster relief sites are accessible for persons with disabilities. As a result, death rates during disasters are generally higher among persons with disabilities. For example, the death rate among persons with disabilities was twice the death rate of the rest of the population during the earthquake and tsunami in Japan in 2011.

FIGURE III

Perception of ability to evacuate, in the event of a disaster, of persons with disabilities



Source: United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, *Living with Disability and Disasters: UNISDR 2013 Survey on Living with Disabilities and Disasters – Key Findings* (2014).

Physical, communication, attitudinal and institutional barriers impede the recovery of persons with disabilities in the aftermath of disasters. Destroyed infrastructure and services, including schools, hospitals, roads and transportation, may be restored in an inaccessible manner. A lack of focus on the accessibility of humanitarian assistance, limited opportunities for economic development and livelihood and skills training, and a loss of supports and assistive devices all contribute to marginalizing persons with disabilities further and to making them less resilient to the impacts of disasters and climate change.

The availability of education and information on climate change and disaster risk reduction varies across the world. For some, climate change remains subjected to scepticism and misconceptions. There is a lack of accessible information and training for children and adults with disabilities concerning climate action generally, and relating to plans and protocols applicable to them in the event of climate-related hazards and emergencies in particular.

Slow-onset events will have an impact on agricultural production, and an increase in temperature can affect ocean acidity and fisheries. Indigenous persons with disabilities, fisherfolk with disabilities and others dependent on small-scale agricultural production or fisheries risk losing their livelihoods. Impacts are amplified for persons with disabilities, who are already marginalized in the field of work.

Low- and middle-income countries are most at risk and disproportionately affected by climate change. These countries are more exposed to slow-onset events because their economies rely more on climate-sensitive sectors. Furthermore, low- and middle-income countries have less capital to invest in adaptation and recovery measures, and their generally warmer climates render them more exposed to extreme weather events.

2. What needs to be done?

States have human rights obligations to prevent foreseeable human rights harms caused by climate change, to ensure all persons have the means necessary to adapt to its impacts and to guarantee effective remedies for those whose human rights are affected. They must also ensure the participation of all people, including persons with disabilities, in decision-making processes relating to climate change, disasters and poverty. Disability-inclusive climate and disaster mitigation policies therefore call for a twin-track approach and cross-sector engagement. General action, such as reducing carbon emissions and transitioning to green economies, requires a disability perspective to avoid leaving this population behind. Disability-specific action can bridge gaps in general measures that do not meet the needs of persons with disabilities, in their specific and intersecting diversity.

The achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals requires interventions to improve resilience among communities, including against long-term harms, by strengthening the adaptive capacity of systems and individuals. Strengthening the adaptive capacities of persons with disabilities requires State action to implement poverty reduction strategies and economic development and infrastructure measures inclusive of persons with disabilities, and to adopt measures that specifically target them to meet this goal. When recovering from disaster and mitigating and adapting to climate change, the principle of building back better should guide the work, improving the existing conditions for persons with disabilities without creating new barriers.

Main areas of intervention

- **Ensure planning and participation relating to climate action and resilience to disasters**
- **Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity against climate-related hazards and disasters**
- **Carry out awareness-raising campaigns and education programmes on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning**
- **Engage in international cooperation to increase capacities to address climate change and build resilience**

Ensure planning and participation relating to climate action and resilience to disasters



Target 13.2: Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning



Target 11.5: By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations

Target 11.b: By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels



Target 16.7: Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels

To achieve these targets, the following actions should be taken:

1. Ensure disability inclusion across all policies and strategies relating to climate action (mitigation and adaptation) and disaster risk reduction by making sure that all actions and efforts to mitigate climate-related hazards and disasters are inclusive of persons with disabilities, in all their diversity (mainstreaming), with targeted strategies (disability-specific) to:
    a. Identify the barriers that persons with disabilities, including women and girls with disabilities, face;
    b. Assess their requirements, including but not limited to, accessibility;
    c. Map the availability of resources to meet requirements;
    d. Carry out impact assessments for improved planning and policymaking relating to preparedness and emergency response, reconstruction and the just transition to a low-carbon economy that is inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities;
2. Ensure the inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities in all decision-making relating to climate action and resilience to disasters by making sure that persons with disabilities and their representative organizations participate in all climate change-related decision-making, including:
    a. Consultations;
    b. Design, monitoring and evaluation of programmes and policies;
    c. Awareness-raising and education;
    d. Research and data collection;
    e. Resource mobilization.

> Related indicators on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: 11.1–11.7 and 11.19–11.21



Measures to include persons with disabilities can contribute to climate action

- Improving the accessibility of mass transportation systems reduces the use of adapted vehicles or accessible taxis, thus reducing the carbon footprint.
- Telecommuting and accessible remote interactions can facilitate the employment of persons with disabilities while promoting a greener economy.
- Rising sea levels threaten persons housed in low-lying or coastal areas, particularly those living in affordable housing, which is commonly older, of lower quality and less maintained than other housing. Low-income persons, including persons with disabilities, are likely to be living in such housing, and efforts to mitigate the slow-onset rise of sea levels must be inclusive of them (e.g. renovations and improvements to buildings must not create new barriers, and investments in new affordable housing and related infrastructure must be accessible).

Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity against climate-related hazards and disasters



Target 13.1: Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries



Target 1.5: By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters



Target 9.4: By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities



Target 16.b: Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development

To achieve these targets, the following actions should be taken:

1. Ensure inclusive social protection by establishing social protection systems inclusive of persons with disabilities that are compatible with their right to work and employment and that:
   a. Support building household resilience;
   b. Are flexible and adaptable to emergencies and humanitarian situations;
   c. Are coordinated with humanitarian interventions to provide more effective, efficient and sustainable responses to persons with disabilities;
   d. Promote a just transition to greener economies, encompassing sustainable consumption and production patterns and guarding against the loss of incomes, livelihoods and supports linked to slow-onset events and sudden disasters;
2. Support livelihoods and a just transition to a low-carbon economy by:
   a. Removing physical, communication, legal and attitudinal barriers for persons with disabilities so they are able to gain access to workplaces, business and financial services, technology, land and labour mobility;
   b. Ensuring accessible and inclusive vocational and job training to ensure that persons with disabilities (particularly women and girls with disabilities) benefit from skills development in new and emerging low-carbon sectors;
3. Invest in sustainable infrastructure and services and remove barriers for persons with disabilities by:
   a. Identifying and increasing accessible infrastructure and the numbers of accessible services at all phases of emergencies, namely, prevention, preparedness, response and recovery;

b. Strengthening the capacities of persons with disabilities to respond to climate change by ensuring the accessibility of information and communications on climate change and its impacts, and their access to public services, including health services, shelter, education, survivor assistance and justice;

c. Reforming laws, policies and practices that deny or limit access, on an equal basis with others, of persons with disabilities (particularly women with disabilities) to own land, engage in financial transactions, sign contracts, benefit from social protection programmes and so forth.

Related indicators on the Convention: 11.16, 11.26 and 28.3–28.9

Carry out awareness-raising campaigns and education programmes on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning



Target 13.3: Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning



Target 12.8: By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature



Target 16.10: Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements

To achieve these targets, the following actions should be taken:

1. Ensure information and awareness-raising campaigns are accessible and inclusive by:
   a. Ensuring that awareness-raising campaigns and information on climate action, disaster risk reduction and emergency management are available and disseminated in accessible formats and languages;
   b. Ensuring that awareness-raising campaigns and information on climate action and disasters give visibility to the specific risks faced by persons with disabilities;
2. Improve training and education on climate change by integrating accessible learning about climate change and disasters into curricula for students and teachers within the national education system and non-formal learning spaces;
3. Create capacity-building programmes for climate and humanitarian actors and for persons with disabilities and their representative organizations by:
   a. Ensuring the systematic training of urban planners, emergency responders, humanitarian actors and development partners on how to meet the requirements of persons with disabilities in all phases of emergencies;

b. Carrying out training to empower persons with disabilities, in all their diversity, to engage in climate action and disaster preparedness. Specifically include women and girls, older persons, children, youth, indigenous persons, migrants, persons living in rural areas and their representative organizations.

Related indicators on the Convention: 11.6, 11.9, 11.19, 8.6, 9.18 and 32.12

Engage in international cooperation to increase capacities to address climate change and build resilience



Target 13.a: Implement the commitment undertaken by developed-country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to a goal of mobilizing jointly $100 billion annually by 2020 from all sources to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation and fully operationalize the Green Climate Fund through its capitalization as soon as possible

Target 13.b: Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities



Target 3.d: Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks



Target 11.c: Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials



Target 9.a: Facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure development in developing countries through enhanced financial, technological and technical support to African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States

To achieve these targets, the following actions should be taken:

1. Provide technical and financial assistance that prioritizes disability inclusion by ensuring that the inclusion of persons with disabilities in international cooperation projects and programming is prioritized, including in the activities relating to research, capacity-building, technology transfer and so forth;
2. Ensure the participation of persons with disabilities by reaching out to, and meaningfully including, persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in all related decision-making, including:
   a. Consultations;
   b. Design, monitoring and evaluation of programmes and policies;
   c. Research;

d. Awareness-raising;

e. Data collection;

f. Resource mobilization;

3. Increase funding devoted to persons with disabilities within international cooperation on climate change and disaster risk reduction by:

   a. Systematizing data collection and disaggregation by disability in the context of international cooperation relating to climate change and disaster risk reduction, including within impact assessments;

   b. Introducing a policy marker to track disability inclusion across all international cooperation projects, including those relating to climate action and disaster risk reduction (such as the disability marker of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee).

Related indicators on the Convention: 32.3, 32.7, 32.14, 32.15 and 11.20

3. Dos and don'ts

Implementing disability-inclusive climate action and disaster risk reduction

Governance and inter-institutional coordination	
Do	**Don't**
Adopt a cross-sector approach in policymaking to ensure the coordination of disability-inclusive climate action and disaster risk reduction with social protection, housing, employment, health and other sector policies and programming relating to the prevention of harmful effects and the strengthening of resilience and adaptation. Appoint and involve disability focal points at national and local government levels. At the national Government level, this could include ministries of social development, health, finance, water and sanitation, and infrastructure, organizations of persons with disabilities and other actors relevant to emergency response.	Proceed with an isolated or siloed approach by restricting actions relating to climate action and disaster risk reduction to specific technical departments or sectors. Design climate action and disaster risk reduction efforts towards greener and sustainable economies and infrastructure to run counter to the rights, inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities. Exclude organizations of persons with disabilities, disability-focused organizations and other civil society actors from engaging in policymaking.

At the local government level, this could include provincial disaster management offices, social protection agencies, humanitarian actors, civil society, organizations of persons with disabilities, disability-focused non-governmental organizations and private actors.	
Establish councils/committees/emergency management structures for strengthened coordination and cooperation on disaster risk reduction and climate action, with membership inclusive of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations.	Engage in coordination efforts without persons with disabilities, who have the first-hand experience and expertise to inform preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation of climate-related hazards and disasters.
Practice and implementation	
Do	**Don't**
Adopt emergency plans inclusive of persons with disabilities throughout the emergency cycle that address: • Accessible warning systems and evacuation protocols • Inclusive and accessible shelter, including emergency and temporary shelter • Inclusive and accessible access to water, sanitation and hygiene, health and rehabilitation services, education, livelihood generation, distribution of food and non-food items, cash transfers and other social protection measures, and family reunification • Specific measures to prevent and protect against violence • Support for live assistance and assistive devices and technologies	Overlook persons with disabilities across any phase of the emergency cycle, or underestimate the fact that they are often disproportionately affected and at high risk in emergency situations.
Ensure that, in building back better, prevention, adaptation and recovery measures are designed to create more resilient communities and infrastructure that are inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities and that prioritize investment in inclusive, accessible and community-based services at the local level, such as education, health care and rehabilitation.	Reproduce or create new barriers for persons with disabilities in developing and designing services and infrastructure, in mitigation, in recovery or in rebuilding.

Mitigation efforts relating to agriculture, energy, clean technologies, urban planning, transportation and land-based carbon sequestration, and other mitigation measures should be designed also to include and benefit persons with disabilities in terms of enhancing access to health, livelihoods, and the mobility and participation of persons with disabilities.	
Identify and analyse the rights, requirements and capacities of persons with disabilities in all their diversity: women, children, older persons, indigenous persons, migrants and refugees, and persons with diverse forms of impairments and experiences of oppression (such as blind persons, deaf persons, deafblind persons, and persons with psychosocial and intellectual impairments), among others.	Assume that persons with disabilities, including women and girls, are a homogeneous group with the same requirements. Assume that persons with disabilities do not have capacities, and that resources, training and other resilience-building initiatives will not benefit them as much as others.
Information, communication and awareness-raising	
Do	**Don't**
Adopt accessible awareness-raising measures (campaigns, training, information-sharing, educational curricula in formal and non-formal settings, etc.) on climate action and disaster risk reduction that are inclusive of persons with disabilities. Include information and awareness-raising to eliminate negative stereotypes and discrimination.	Assume that information on climate change and disaster risk reduction reaches across all groups equally. Assume that awareness-raising campaigns cannot reproduce negative stereotypes and prejudices against persons with disabilities, such as portraying them as helpless.
Disseminate information in accessible formats and languages and reach out to persons with disabilities about resources and services in emergency situations, including access to shelter, food and non-food items, social protection, assistive devices, health, family tracing, violence prevention and livelihood support.	Limit the provision of information to written text without presenting information in multiple communication formats, such as audio, visual (with audio description) and plain language, thereby preventing information on services and resources from reaching persons with disabilities with different impairments.

Training	
Do	**Don't**
Carry out training on the barriers persons with disabilities face and on effective measures for their inclusion for policymakers, emergency responders, civil defence personnel, personnel of coordination mechanisms and other relevant actors. Design and implement the training with the participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations.	Assume that policymakers, emergency responders and other humanitarian actors are aware of the requirements and rights of persons with disabilities across all phases of emergencies and of how to ensure their access to services on an equal basis with others.
Carry out training for persons with disabilities, in all their diversity, to raise awareness and enhance their resilience and capacity to cope with, and recover from, situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies.	Leave persons with disabilities without the information, knowledge and skills necessary to prepare for an emergency or to engage in emergency response and recovery.
Provide capacity-building to transmit skills and empower organizations of persons with disabilities to engage in policy and strategy development relating to climate action and disaster risk reduction.	Assume that organizations of persons with disabilities have the resources and experience necessary to engage with the relevant policy and strategy development actors or that they will always have a "seat at the table".
Participation	
Do	**Don't**
Ensure the meaningful participation of persons with disabilities in the planning, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of plans and strategies about mitigation, adaptation and recovery in the context of climate-related hazards, disaster risk reduction, the environment and a just transition to a low-carbon economy.	Develop or implement these plans without involving persons with disabilities, as they can better identify existing risk factors and barriers, and thereby increase the effectiveness of the measures taken.
Promote and ensure that dialogues on climate change mitigation and adaptation, loss and damage, a just transition to a green economy and disaster risk reduction, involving public authorities, the private sector/businesses and other stakeholders, include persons with disabilities and their representative organizations.	Consider or tolerate the ableist view that persons with disabilities are passive recipients of climate action and disaster risk reduction measures, who have nothing to contribute to sustainable development and the transition to a low-carbon economy.

	Underestimate the views and expertise of persons with disabilities or their contributions for better-informed decision-making and more effective actions to leave no one behind.
Ensure the participation of persons with disabilities, including women and girls with disabilities, and their representative organizations in the planning, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of plans and strategies for recovery, including building back better from disasters.	Develop or implement these plans without involving persons with disabilities, including women and girls with disabilities, as they can better identify the barriers they face and provide input for a more inclusive society.

Data collection and disaggregation

Do	Don't
Institutionalize the collection and use of sex, age and disability disaggregated data, across all sectors, to better inform planning and monitoring concerning the adverse effects of climate change and disasters (e.g. relating to mortality and health impacts).	Assume existing data collection is sufficient to capture, assess and improve the situation of persons with disabilities in the context of climate change and disasters. Limit data collection and disaggregation by disability to disability-specific surveys.

Assessment and planning

Do	Don't
Make disability inclusion a priority in the programme/project design on climate action and disaster risk reduction carried out by international cooperation and humanitarian and development actors.	Assume that international cooperation and humanitarian and development actors are aware of the rights, requirements and experiences of persons with disabilities.
Ensure equal opportunities for persons with disabilities to have access to emerging or upgraded green jobs by providing stimulus packages targeting them for skills development and training for low-carbon sectors (such as jobs in the renewable energy sector, conservation agriculture and green urban design), with particular attention paid to women and youth with disabilities.	Engage in the transition to a low-carbon economy without including employment strategies and incentives in emerging economies to benefit persons with disabilities, in all their diversity.

Ensure budgets are specifically allocated for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in all climate action and disaster risk reduction programmes.	Assume that budgets should be allocated for persons with disabilities exclusively through disability-specific programmes.
Concerning global climate governance and disaster risk reduction processes (such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030), ensure the accessibility of all communications and proceedings. Increase efforts to promote the participation of persons with disabilities in the preparation of nationally determined contributions and delegations.	Limit the participation of persons with disabilities in climate action and disaster risk reduction to national level processes.

Additional resources

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Annex: Key concepts

This annex contains key foundational concepts referred to throughout the Policy Guidance for Inclusive Sustainable Development Goals. It is designed as a quick reference and refresher for readers as they use the Policy Guidance. An elaboration of these concepts is provided in the Foundations Guidance, which should be read prior to, or together with, the other guidance for a deeper understanding of the required foundations for inclusion.

Ableism considers certain typical characteristics of body and mind as essential for living a life of value. Ableist perspectives view impairments as undesired, which leads to unconscious bias, prejudice, discrimination and exclusion. Ableism is usually behind negative perceptions and stereotypes about persons with disabilities. See also part I, section 1.3 of the Foundations Guidance.

Accessibility is the quality that allows persons with disabilities to have access to and enjoy physical environments, transportation, facilities, services, information and communications, including new technologies and systems. When planning for accessibility, the principles of universal design should be used. See also part I, section 2.2 of the Foundations Guidance.

Assistive technology, devices and mobility aids are external products (devices, equipment, instruments and software), specially produced or generally available, that maintain or improve an individual's functioning and independence, participation or overall well-being. Examples of assistive devices and technologies include wheelchairs, prostheses, hearing aids, visual aids and specialized computer software and hardware that improve mobility, hearing, vision or the capacity to communicate. See also part I, section 2.3 of the Foundations Guidance.

Awareness-raising actions are those that are aimed at informing about rights and changing negative attitudes towards persons with disabilities. They include training, campaigns and mass-media communications. Awareness-raising activities should target persons with disabilities and others and should involve persons with disabilities in their design and delivery. See also part I, section 2.5 of the Foundations Guidance.

Barriers: Disability results from the interaction between persons with impairments and the barriers in the environment around them. Barriers can be broadly categorized into the following:

- **Environmental barriers,** which are imposed by the context. To clarify the categories and subcategories, this should be:
  a. **Physical barriers,** such as the presence of steps, preventing access for someone using a wheelchair or others with mobility difficulties.
  b. **Communication barriers,** such as the barriers to participation for a sign language user in a meeting if sign language interpreters are not provided, or the barrier to gaining access to information experienced by blind persons with written text if accessible formats are not provided.

c. **Policy barriers,** such as education systems that prevent the enrolment of children with disabilities in their local school.

- **Attitudinal barriers,** such as the belief that persons with disabilities cannot learn or work. Attitudinal barriers can lead to apathy or inertia towards addressing other barriers.

In order for persons with disabilities to fully participate and to have opportunities for development, the barriers that limit their participation should be systematically addressed. Persons with disabilities themselves are experts in identifying barriers and the solutions to overcome them. See also part I, section 1.1 of the Foundations Guidance.

Disability discrimination is described in article 2 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as any distinction, exclusion or restriction on the basis of disability which has the purpose or effect of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise, on an equal basis with others, of all human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field. It includes all forms of discrimination, including denial of reasonable accommodation. See also part I, section 2.1 of the Foundations Guidance.

Disability mainstreaming is the process of ensuring that the rights of persons with disabilities are embedded in all policy, assessing policy implications for persons with disabilities and ensuring their meaningful participation. It is the way of making the concerns and experiences of persons with disabilities an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres so that persons with disabilities have equal benefits, and inequality is not perpetuated. The ultimate goal is to achieve equality of outcomes and foster an inclusive culture. Disability mainstreaming should be combined with disability-specific actions (see the twin-track approach, described below). See also part II, section 1.2.1 of the Foundations Guidance.

Disability-related extra costs refers to the higher expenditure of persons with disabilities and their households when compared to that of the rest of the population. Extra costs commonly stem from specific goods and services (such as mobility aids, personal assistance and accessible housing) and/or a lack of access to general goods and services (e.g. having more expensive health insurance and using taxis where public transport is not accessible). Disability-related extra costs affect different policies. For more information, view the videos "Understanding disability extra costs" and "Addressing disability extra costs" of the Centre for Inclusive Policy.

International cooperation is the interaction of persons or groups of persons representing various countries and diverse international and regional organizations striving towards the common goal of realizing the rights of persons with disabilities and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Persons with disabilities, the organizations that represent them and policymakers collaborate through their ministries of international affairs to receive technical and financial support from international organizations and development banks. Financial support designated for international cooperation should not be used for measures contrary to the Convention and should be planned to be substituted with national funds to ensure policy continuation. Technical cooperation among countries with similar realities is important to identify effective solutions. See also part II, section 6 of the Foundations Guidance.

Intersectional discrimination refers to situations where discrimination is occurring on the basis of multiple and intersecting factors, including sex, gender identity, ethnicity, age, caste, class, faith, sexual orientation, sex characteristics or any other characteristic. Persons with disabilities also have a gender identity, may come from an indigenous group, be young, old, a refugee or living in poverty. See also part II, section 3.3 of the Foundations Guidance.

Legal capacity is the right to make legally valid decisions autonomously. Some countries restrict the right of adults with disabilities to manage their own financial affairs, including owning property, choosing where to live and work, and managing their relationships, health and well-being. Restricting or denying this right is against the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and has negative effects across all policies. See also part II, section 3.5 of the Foundations Guidance.

Organizations of persons with disabilities are led, directed and governed by persons with disabilities. They are established at the local, national, regional or international level to promote and/or defend the rights of persons with disabilities. The clear majority of the membership of such organizations should be recruited among persons with disabilities themselves. See also part I, section 2.4 of the Foundations Guidance.

Participation of persons with disabilities refers to the action of allowing and enabling persons with disabilities to take part directly, or through organizations of persons with disabilities, in decision-making processes, including the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies. To do so, persons with disabilities should be closely consulted and actively involved in all decision-making processes by being invited to give their opinions and to take part in implementation processes.

Participation is an obligation to be met under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities for all aspects of policy. "Nothing about us, without us" is the motto that promotes this obligation, and it means that no policy should be developed or implemented without persons with disabilities. See also part I, section 2.4 and part II, section 2 of the Foundations Guidance.

Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, psychosocial, intellectual or sensory impairments that, in interaction with various barriers, may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others. Hence, persons with disabilities are persons with impairments who experience barriers that restrict their participation. See also part I, section 1.2 of the Foundations Guidance.

Reasonable accommodation refers to modifications or adjustments made for a person with disability who requires them in a particular case, to facilitate participation on an equal basis with others. Reasonable accommodation must be provided on demand – that is, entities responsible for providing it cannot deny it by saying that they are progressively implementing measures. If arbitrarily denied, this constitutes discrimination.

Some examples include adjustments to the school hours of a student, extended breaks to rest, the acquisition of computer software to read screens or a foldable ramp to overcome steps, or the provision of a sign language interpreter in a work meeting. See also part I, section 2.1 and part II, section 3.2 of the Foundations Guidance.

Support for persons with disabilities encompasses a wide range of formal and informal interventions, including live assistance and intermediaries, mobility aids and assistive devices and technologies. It also includes personal assistance, support in decision-making, communication support (such as sign language interpreters and alternative and augmentative communication), mobility support (such as assistive technology or service animals), living arrangement services for securing housing and household help, and community services. Persons with disabilities may require support to perform daily life activities and/or to use general services (such as health, education and justice) on an equal basis with others. See also part I, section 2.3 of the Foundations Guidance.

Supported decision-making is a type of support given to persons with disabilities in relation to legal decisions. This mechanism guarantees that (a) persons with disabilities exercise their legal capacity (see above) and can make their own decisions in every aspect of life, and (b) their decisions are not replaced by the decisions of guardians or others. Supported decision-making is voluntary and can include informal and formal support arrangements. For example, a person with disability may choose a trusted person to support them in making certain types of legal decisions. They may also resort to peer support or self-advocacy networks. Some persons with disabilities may have access to support to help in the communication of their will and preferences. See also part II, section 3.5 of the Foundations Guidance.

A **twin-track approach** is a policy development strategy that:

1. Systematically mainstreams the interests and rights of persons with disabilities in policy design and implementation, across all sectors and areas of life;
2. Adopts targeted policy and programming measures aimed specifically at persons with disabilities.

The balance between mainstreaming strategies and targeted support strategies should be tailored to address the needs of specific communities. See also part II, section 1.2.1 of the Foundations Guidance.

Universal design is the design and composition of products, environments, programmes and services that make them accessible, understood and used to the greatest extent possible by all people, regardless of their age, size, ability or disability, and without the need for adaptation or specialized design. The principles of universal design facilitate accessibility, including for persons with disabilities. See also part I, section 2.2 of the Foundations Guidance.

The **Washington Group Short Set on Functioning** is a set of six questions on functioning, designed to be used within national censuses and surveys, to provide comparable data cross-nationally for populations living in a variety of cultures with varying economic resources. While not exhaustive, the basic actions represented in this set of six questions are those that are most often found to limit an individual and result in participation restrictions. The information that results from the use of these questions will (a) represent the majority of, but not all, persons with limitation in basic actions, (b) represent the most commonly occurring limitations in basic actions, and (c) be able to capture persons with similar difficulties across countries. See also part II, section 1.5 of the Foundations Guidance.



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