

NAIROBI DECLARATION

INCLUSIVE POST 2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN AFRICA

Preamble

WE, persons with disabilities from 14 countries in Africa and representatives of national, sub-regional and Pan-African disabled persons' organizations (DPOs), gathered in Nairobi, Kenya, the 6-7-8 of March 2014, in the conference "Inclusive post-2015 development agenda and UN CRPD in Africa,"

- a. Recalling that persons with disabilities should enjoy and exercise on an equal basis all human rights recognized in international and regional human rights instruments¹,
- b. Recalling that persons with disabilities should have a conducive environment to fully contribute to the development of their countries' economies, societies and communities,
- c. Recalling, as we have been denouncing all across Africa for so long and that the 2011 world report on disability's evidences confirmed, that persons with disabilities experience deep inequalities in the access to education, health care, work opportunities, and face widespread barriers to mobility, communication and information leading to marginalization and poverty, and are at greater risks of violence,
- d. Recalling the aggravated discrimination and inequalities experienced by women and girls with disabilities, and mothers of children with disabilities
- e. Recognizing the importance of families in the provision of support and assistance for their family members with disabilities, especially those with high support needs,
- f. Deeply concerned that the Millennium Development Goals will not be realized by 2015 for the millions of African persons with disabilities due to the lack of inclusion and accessibility of related MDGs programmes and policies' design, implementation and monitoring,
- g. Deeply disappointed by all the inaccessible schools and health centers built and all the non-inclusive education, livelihood, water and sanitation, and health programs funded and implemented across Africa in the last decade that have been, every time, wasted opportunities to advance inclusion of persons with disabilities,
- h. Recalling that Africa is the continent most affected by conflicts and the second most affected by natural disasters² and that persons with disabilities are at greater risks of facing violence and gaps in protection in those situations,
- i. Recalling that some marginalized groups of persons with disabilities such as persons with albinism, persons with psychosocial disabilities, person with intellectual disabilities, and **persons with epilepsy**, face life threatening violence and deprivation of liberty due to persistent beliefs and harmful cultural practices
- j. Encouraged by the growing awareness and political willingness following the adoption of the UN CRPD, as a human rights and development instrument, signed by 45 African countries and ratified by 35³,
- k. Recalling the commitment of African states towards the implementation of the African Union Continental Disability Strategy and ongoing process towards an African protocol on the rights of persons with disabilities,
- l. Recalling that all UN Members States, including African countries, at the High Level Meeting on Disability and Development of September 2013⁴ stressed the importance of *"ensuring accessibility for and inclusion of persons*

¹ List of all relevant human rights instruments (to be added)

² UN office for disasters reduction and preparedness

³ As of 6th of March 2014. www.un-enable.org

⁴ Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities: the way forward, a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond

with disabilities in all aspects of development and of giving due consideration to all persons with disabilities in the emerging post-2015 United Nations development agenda,”

- m. Encouraged by the growing attention to inclusion of persons with disabilities in the process leading to the post-2015 development agenda, from the Rio+20 outcome document to the High Level Meeting on Disability and Development outcome document, and noting that the High level panel report and Open Working Group co-chair focus areas paper is also a positive step towards inclusion of persons with disabilities,

Call on African countries to take all necessary steps including mobilising adequate financial and human resources to:

1. *Ratify and implement the Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities*
2. *Ensure that all development policies and programmes, will be inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities in their diversity, including in situation of emergency and humanitarian crisis by removing barriers and ensuring access to the needed support services, such as qualified sign language interpreters , appropriate format, braille, personal assistance, and assistive devices, among others,*
3. *Ensure that persons with disabilities, including youth and older persons, as well as children and their families will be closely consulted and actively involved through their representative organisations in the design, implementation and monitoring of all programmes and policies that could impact their lives,*
4. *Contribute to the capacity development of the representative organisations of persons with disabilities to contribute to the empowerment of persons with disabilities and put them in a position to support States in making development inclusive,*
5. *Ensure that particular attention is paid to meaningfully include women, children, youth, indigenous peoples, older persons, persons with high support needs, refugees and internally displaced persons with disabilities, who can be subject to violence and multiple or aggravated forms of discrimination;*
6. *Ensure that significant efforts will be made to strengthen research, including participatory research, and data collection with regards to rights persons with disabilities that will allow adequate definition of programs and policies as well as adequate monitoring of the current and futures policies and programs.*

And to that effect call for the post-2015 development agenda targets and indicators to explicitly include persons with disabilities, specifically with regards to:

Poverty eradication

7. People with disabilities are over represented among the poorest. Mainstream social protection mechanisms are too often failing to be inclusive and accessible for persons with disabilities and very few mechanisms have been developed to enable persons with disabilities to access the services they need.
8. *We want the post 2015 development agenda to eradicate poverty by promoting economic empowerment and social protection programs and policies that are inclusive of persons with disabilities as well as social protection schemes allowing persons with disabilities to cover the extra cost associated with their disability and to access support services, including for families of children with disabilities,*

Education

9. The exclusion of persons with disabilities from education is one of the biggest issues faced by persons with disabilities as it denies them the opportunity to develop their full potential on equal basis with others. While MDG have allowed great progress in access to education in general, it is estimated that 90% of children with disabilities still don't have access to education
10. *We want the post 2015 development agenda to ensure that persons with disabilities access quality inclusive education as well as life-long learning with particular attention to accessibility, availability of interpreters and*

teachers qualified in sign language, assistive technology, braille, alternative and augmentative material and human assistance. We also want programmes to raise awareness and to provide support to parents of children with disabilities,

Health

11. Persons with disabilities are facing huge barriers in access to health care, including rehabilitation, survival intervention, early childhood development, nutrition, water and sanitation, public health programs related to communicable and non communicable diseases, due to lack of accessibility both in terms of infrastructure, information, and communication as well as adequacy of services, including support services, and are most likely to face catastrophic health expenditures
12. *We want the post 2015 development agenda to ensure accessibility and adequacy of health care, access to assistive devices, as well as inclusion of persons with disabilities in the emerging health insurance mechanisms,*

Gender equality and women's empowerment

13. Girls and Women with disabilities are facing multiple discriminations in many areas of family and community life and are more exposed to violence.
14. *We want the post 2015 development agenda to ensure that girls and women with disabilities are explicitly, adequately included and actively involved in all programs and policies aiming at gender equality and girls and women's empowerment,*

Employment and decent work for all

15. People with disabilities in their vast majorities are excluded from work and employment due to, discrimination and prejudice, lack of accessibility, access to education, vocational training and financial services
16. *We want the post 2015 development agenda to ensure that adequate legal frameworks will be adopted to protect persons with disabilities from discrimination and to promote equal access to decent work and employment, including adequate vocational training and that persons with disabilities will be fully included in all economic empowerment programmes and policies,*

Infrastructure, sustainable cities and human settlements, water and sanitation

17. African countries have very poor accessibility whether in terms of dwellings, services, water and sanitation facilities, transports, in cities, rural areas or refugees' settlements.
18. *We want the post 2015 development agenda to ensure that all infrastructures and services, water and sanitation programmes and facilities, transport, information and communication technology programmes, in urban and rural settings as well as refugee settlements, will be accessible for all persons with disabilities in their diversity,*

Governance and political participation

19. People with disabilities face multiple barriers in Africa with regards to access to justice, voting, standing for election, being involved in policies and programs decision making processes
20. *We want the post 2015 development agenda to ensure that legal frameworks and policies are in place to prevent discrimination, including denial of legal capacity, and support access to justice as well as political participation of all persons with disabilities at all decision-making levels,*

Peaceful and non-violent societies, capable institutions

21. Children and adult with disabilities and their families are more likely to be victims of violence within the community and are disproportionately affected by conflict situation.
22. *We want the post 2015 development agenda to ensure that steps are taken to eliminate violence, abuse, exploitation and torture against persons with disabilities, with particular attention to women and children with disabilities*

Global partnerships for inclusive development

23. Not enough have been made to coordinate between African countries, un system, bi lateral and multi-lateral donors, non-state actors to ensure that development is inclusive, that assistive devices and other needed services are available and affordable for all persons with disabilities in the region
24. *We want the post 2015 development agenda to promote global partnerships between states and non-states actors, Disable Persons Organisations as well as international organisations to make development inclusive and to ensure access to needed assistive devices and support services.*

Nairobi the 8th March 2014