

## IGF Dynamic Coalitions & the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

### ◆ DC on Accessibility and Disability

#### Population

There are 1.3 billion persons with disabilities globally. The 2016 Return on Disability group “Global Economics of Disability” report states that these control \$1.3 trillion of disposable income annually. Adding the 2.3 billion potential consumers who are friends and family members of Persons with disabilities increases this to \$8 trillion. According to the UN Development Programme, 80% of Persons with disabilities live in developing countries.

#### Sustainable Development Goals

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) mention Disability explicitly 11 times, namely SDG 4 Education, SDG 8 Employment, SDG 10 Reduce Inequality, SDG 11 Inclusive Cities, SDG 17 Means of Implementation, and in the SDG data collection and reporting. Some scholars and advocates support a broader vision of inclusion of Persons with disabilities in the SDGs, with a focus on vulnerable populations, and an even broader universal focus on development “for all”.

#### Universal Design

Recent scholarship describes universal design as “a process that enables and empowers a diverse population by improving human performance, health and wellness, and social participation”. The seven principles of Universal Design, when applied to international development, specify that the needs and preferences of Persons with disabilities must be meaningfully included by all stakeholders at all stages - planning, implementation, evaluation and continuous improvement – rather than treating them as separate requirements or add-ons. This facilitates everyone, including those with disabilities, to partake and benefit without any modification or additional help.

The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD) recognises the key role played by Universal Design in facilitating the full and equal inclusion of persons with disabilities in all aspects of society.

#### Inter-Related Frameworks

Many international frameworks for disability inclusive development are inter-related. These include the Agenda 2030, the fifteen disability specific elements for inclusive cities in the New Urban Agenda (NUA) emerging from Habitat III, WSIS+10, the disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction approaches contained in the Dhaka Declaration, and in the broader Sendai Framework. These are all grounded in the UN CRPD. These issues are captured in the forthcoming Flagship Report on Disability-inclusive Development commissioned by the UN General Assembly and scheduled to be released on 3 December, 2018, the International Day for Persons with Disabilities.

#### Conclusions

Every SDG is highly relevant for the socio-economic development and full inclusion of persons with disabilities in society. Universal Design is a process that can facilitate their implementation. The UN CRPD underpins a set of inter-related frameworks on disability inclusive development. The best way to ensure that the needs and preferences of Persons with disabilities are included is by early and frequent consultation in line with the motto “Nothing About Us Without Us”.