United Nations Expert Group Meeting on

Disability and Development: Operationalizing the Post-2015 Development Agenda for

Persons with Disabilities

UN House, Beirut, Lebanon (11-13 May 2015)

REPORT

Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
Division for Social Policy and Development
United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
in collaboration with
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Executive summary

The United Nations Expert Group Meeting on "Disability and Development: Operationalizing the Post-2015 Development Agenda for Persons with Disabilities" was organized by the Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (SCRPD) of the Division for Social Policy and Development (DPSD) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) in collaboration with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA) from 11 to 13 May 2015 at the UN House in Beirut, Lebanon. The Meeting resulted in a set of recommendations to support disability-inclusive implementation of the emerging post-2015 development agenda. These recommendations will contribute to advancing the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the operationalization of the post-2015 framework and provide concrete options on ways to promote the mainstreaming of disability in development. The Meeting also discussed objectives and entry points to promote disability-inclusive implementation of the post-2015 development agenda in the Arab region.

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I.   Introduction

As discussions for the post-2015 development agenda are being finalized, the global community is preparing for the implementation of this ambitious framework. The emerging framework offers significant opportunities for disability-inclusive development and advancing the rights and interests of persons with disabilities across the world. In the design of strategies and mechanisms for its implementation, it is essential that the international community draw on lessons from past experiences in the mainstreaming of disability and review existing mechanisms to identify and respond to persistent gaps and barriers to disability-inclusive development.

The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), has been promoting the rights of persons with disabilities and disability-inclusive development over decades by advancing a global normative framework on disability as a cross-cutting issue on the global agenda. This has included the organization of meetings and forums on disability and development, including in the context of the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and issuance of publications and reports on the subject.

On 23 September 2013, the General Assembly convened a High-Level Meeting on Disability and Development (HLMDD) at the level of Heads of State and Government under the theme: "The Way Forward: a disability inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond". At this meeting, Member States adopted an outcome document, stressing the importance of giving due consideration to all persons with disabilities in the emerging post-2015 development agenda. The need to translate these international commitments into concrete actions and results for persons with disabilities was also emphasised by Members States in the Meeting.

In the follow up to this Meeting and in view of the emerging post-2015 development framework and necessity to advance concrete efforts toward inclusive development, the Expert Group Meeting was convened by UNDESA, in collaboration with UNESCWA, to further strengthen disability-inclusive development implementation at global, regional and national levels. The Meeting brought together experts from around the world with expertise in disability and development to formulate forward-looking practical recommendations. The Meeting was designed to take stock of recent progress in mainstreaming disability; to review lessons learned and experiences in the implementation of disability-inclusive policies and programmes; and to explore options for and strategies to operationalize the post-2015 development agenda. The Meeting also discussed specific opportunities and challenges in the Arab Region for advancing the inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities in development.

The outcomes of the Meeting will contribute towards the continued implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and follow up to the HLMDD, including a panel discussion that will review the status of and progress made towards the realization of international development goals for persons with disabilities, to be convened during the 70th Session of the General Assembly.

II.   Overview: Status of disability in development: Towards implementation of a disability-inclusive post-2015 development agenda

Persons with disabilities were not specifically included in the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), or in their targets or indicators. This resulted in invisibility of persons with disabilities in the implementation of the MDGs and relevant development efforts to address global poverty. As the 2015 deadline for the MDGs draws nearer, the international community is preparing a future global framework to guide development.

In the processes leading up to the development of the emerging post-2015 framework, and through reflections on the progress made in achieving the MDGs, the international community has strongly voiced concern over growing inequality and exclusion of persons with disabilities. This growing concern reflects the ongoing normative shift to a rights-based approach to disability, most clearly exemplified by the adoption by the General Assembly of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol by Resolution 61/106 in December 2006.

Countries have increasingly and repeatedly stressed that it is impossible to genuinely achieve internationally agreed development goals without incorporating the rights, well-being, contributions and perspectives of persons with disabilities in development efforts at all levels. Consequently and as mentioned above, it was agreed by the General Assembly to hold a High-level Meeting on Disability and Development to review progress in achieving the MDGs for persons with disabilities and to advance the rights and perspectives of persons with disabilities in future international development frameworks.

The HLMDD confirmed increased international commitment to advancing disability-inclusive development through concrete action and changes on the ground, and to mainstream disability in the global agenda towards a post-2015 development framework. The Meeting particularly stressed the importance of mainstreaming disability in all aspects of society and development and the progressive removal of all barriers that persons with disabilities may face as a key pillar of its vision and strategy. It further underlined the need to ensure that persons with disabilities and their representative organizations are actively engaged in all processes of development as both agents and beneficiaries of change.

International commitments to strengthen the mainstreaming of disability in development have been further reflected in processes leading to the formulation of the post-2015 development framework. The Rio+20 outcome document, 'The Future We Want', includes various specific references to disability, highlighting, inter alia, that sustainable development requires the meaningful involvement and active participation of persons with disabilities. The need for development policies that support inclusive housing and social services, as well as a safe and healthy living environment for all, particularly persons with disabilities,and ensuring equal access to education for persons with disabilities and enhancing the welfare of persons with disabilities is also noted in this document.

Recommendations for the inclusion of disability as a cross-cutting issue and the importance of including a disability-perspective in the post-2015 agenda are also highlighted in recent reports of the Secretary-General. The report of the Secretary-General, "Keeping the promise: realizing the Millennium Development Goals for persons with disabilities towards

2015 and beyond" further highlighted a number of challenges faced by Member States in advancing the rights and status of persons with disabilities under the MDG development framework. It also offered recommendations to advance disability-inclusive development in line with international normative frameworks, including the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Recent inclusion of disability in the ongoing work towards the post-2015 development agenda is very promising. A number of draft goals include targets that specifically identify persons with disabilities as targeted beneficiaries of development, and efforts to address inequalities and inclusion are present throughout working drafts. While the SDGs have not yet been adopted and the indicators are still under development, there are strong indications of international commitment to ensure the shortcomings in the implementation of disability-inclusive programmes under the MDGs will not be repeated.

References to disability in recent drafts of the SDGs are promising; however, significant efforts will be needed to ensure that this framework translates to practical actions. It has been recognized by the international community that a gap between policy and practice continues to exist despite strong political commitment to disability-inclusive development. Disability and persons with disabilities remain invisible in society and development efforts in many instances. This situation reflects a broad range of barriers to the implementation of international commitments, including barriers to systematic integration and mainstreaming of disability in policies and programs, capacity gaps, and the dearth of adequate data on disability. As the global framework is finalized, the international community has before it a critical opportunity to ensure it puts in place the necessary structures and mechanisms to ensure disability-inclusive implementation.

In this regard, significant demands on the United Nations and Member States are anticipated in terms of taking forward lessons learned from experiences in the implementation of the MDGs. Effective disability-inclusive development relies on a strong understanding of persistent barriers, and the implementation of targeted interventions that respond to identified barriers and consistently mainstreaming disability across programme areas. A review of existing mechanisms is therefore called for, to reinforce and promote national and local policies and practices, including coordination, knowledge-sharing and capacity building.

III.   Outcome of the Meeting: principles, recommendations and key findings

The Meeting provided a critical opportunity to assess the situation of persons with disabilities in terms of strategies and methodologies to implement international development frameworks. Its core aims involved: taking stock of past and ongoing disability-inclusive development efforts and creating stronger linkages between ongoing work among the different partners within and outside the United Nations system; developing a list of recommendations and a 'road map', to support Member States in making post-2015 goals, targets and indicators disability inclusive; discussing strategic issues related to ongoing discussions on the post-2015 development framework; and establishing a collaborative working group with DESA, other UN agencies and the post-2015 group in order to foster strategic thinking.

The Meeting organized its substantive discussions under three thematic areas over three days. The three themes included: Learning from past experiences in the implementation of the MDGs and other IADGs; Improving disability-inclusive development- translating the emerging post-2015 development framework into national action; and Regional experiences and perspectives, with a focus on the Arab region. The discussions from each of the thematic areas contributed to the formulation of the overall conclusions and recommendations that were adopted by the Meeting. The overall conclusions and recommendations towards operationalization of the post-2015 development agenda for persons with disabilities are presented below. Specific recommendations for Member States and the United Nations in the short, medium and longer term are presented in this Report under Section V, 'Summary of Proceedings'.

Overall principles, conclusions and recommendations

Mainstreaming disability in the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda

- The SDGs will not be achieved unless persons with disabilities are included in all aspects and stages of the implementation of all goals and targets.
- Specific measures should be taken for mainstreaming disability at global, regional and national levels to achieve short-term, medium-term and long term results.
- Advocacy as well as monitoring and accountability of the UNCRPD and post-2015 framework should be pursued through an inclusive model involving a disability caucus (for example, as exercised in the process leading to the Sendai Framework). Such a caucus would involve DPOs and families, as well as the United Nations, NGOs, academia and governmental agencies.
- All stakeholders should prioritise capacity building around advocacy for the implementation of the SDGs for persons with disabilities, monitoring and evaluation, and accountability (the UNPRPD, for example, needs to strengthen mechanisms to advance this at the country level.)
- The disability community should work more closely with other sectors (Gender, LGBT, and other marginalized groups) on ways to optimize effective management of approaches to inclusion.
- It is imperative that persons with disabilities are understood as dynamic and diverse contributors to society with various needs, paying special attention to persons with disabilities in crises and disaster situations as well as groups who are particularly marginalised including women, children, older persons, migrants and persons with mental or intellectual disabilities.
- Investment into regional collectives to influence the nature of the international cooperative agreements and the dissemination of information and advocacy about inclusive development needs to be strengthened.

Partnerships

- Existing and future partnerships should be pursued with the private sector, including multinationals, particularly in low-medium income countries, to systematize reasonable accommodation of persons with disabilities.

- The inclusion of persons with disabilities should be encouraged as a core element of growth and development among business leaders, rather than viewing disability-inclusive approaches as an 'add-on'. As such the economic and social gains from inclusion should be further researched and promoted.
- Engagement of the emerging technology leaders (Google, IBM, Apple) who are now focused on developing new accessible publishing standards for higher education should be sought – not just in middle income countries, but also lower middle income countries.
- Partnerships between development sector implementers and disability inclusivity specialists, including through strengthened coordination and complete exchange of information needs to be strengthened.
- Investment in research needs to be strengthened at every level to improve understanding, awareness and centrality of disability issues.
- Good practice experiences of partnerships with different stakeholders need to be collected and disseminated for further learning.

Monitoring and evaluation, data and statistics

The following recommendations should be read in conjunction with the outcomes of the United Nations Expert Group Meeting on "Disability Data and Statistics, Monitoring and Evaluation: The Way Forward, a Disability Inclusive Development Agenda towards 2015 and Beyond", held in Paris in 2014.

Reiterating the overarching recommendations of the 2014 Meeting, the Group specifically emphasized: (1) The importance of including the Washington Group short question set (six questions) in censuses and ongoing periodic surveys conducted or financed by national statistical offices, government ministries and United Nations agencies and encourage its inclusion in data collections sponsored by NGO funding agencies. In this regard, the context and scope of their application needs to be well-understood by implementers. (2) The need to continue to improve the comparability of data across countries by adopting a common framework and ensuring that different types of data collection. This includes the Washington Group short question set used in censuses and survey modules as well as continuing development of the extended question set. Additionally, to achieve this goal, new methodologies being developed such as the Model Disability Survey and the MICS should be considered to complement the integration of the Washington Group short and extended question sets in survey instruments.

- Shortcomings in the availability of consistent and reliable data have been an ongoing challenge in the area of disability and development. In this respect, it is essential that the international community fulfil capacity building needs of countries and statistical offices.
- The consistent lack of monitoring and evaluation tools that would enable managers, government officials and others to translate inclusion of disability issues from broad statements into concrete actions need to be addressed urgently.
- Such monitoring and evaluation tools are required for initiation at the planning stage to provide viable baselines against which real progress can be measured.
- Given that the post-2015 development agenda is a monitoring framework, it is essential that data on disability is improved to monitor and compare progress and the situation of persons with disabilities in the context of each of the relevant goals.

- Where possible, data should be collected at the individual level rather than household of community level to monitor implementation of the post-2015 development framework. Unless individuals are directly providing information to data collectors, it may not be possible to appropriately monitor those who are most marginalised and consistently being left behind.
- The effectiveness and utility of disability data and statistics relies on the existence of a political linkage: data itself does not drive political agendas. Therefore development of the explanatory framework and use of data to inform decision-making and programming is equally important.

IV.   Summary of the proceedings

Opening of the Meeting

The Meeting was opened by Mr. Frederico Neto, Director of the Social Development Division (SDD), ESCWA, who emphasized the necessity to reflect on one of the most central questions of the global disability agenda today: How to ensure the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for persons with disabilities. Mr. Neto also outlined ESCWA's recent work in the field of disability, and its aims to expand research and technical cooperation activities in the area of disability-inclusive development.

Ms. Daniela Bas, Director of the Social Policy and Development Division, DESA, provided opening remarks via video message. In her message, she emphasized the importance of translating the goals of this agenda into tangible actions. She suggested that the meeting review and strengthen the existing mechanisms and partnerships towards the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

Ms. Akiko Ito, Chief of the Secretariat for the CRPD, DESA, highlighted the unique opportunity that the Meeting presented, by bringing together a diverse group of experts from across the globe.

A. Learning from past experiences in the implementation of the MDGs and other IADGs

The first thematic discussion involved (a) a plenary session which reviewed the current status of disability in development, with particular emphasis on experiences in implementing disability-inclusive development under the MDGs, (b) a general exchange of views, and (c) three focus groups discussions. During the plenary session, the Group reviewed and discussed lessons learned from past experiences. This involved a stock take of good practices and existing work as well as identification of persistent barriers to effective disability-mainstreaming. Presentations were provided by Ms. Nora Groce (Director, Leonard Cheshire Disability and Inclusive Development Centre, University College London), Ms. Maya Thomas (Editor-in-Chief, Disability, CBR and Inclusive Development Journal, Independent Consultant, Disability and Development), Mr. Arne Henning Eide (Chief Scientist, SINTEF Technology and Society; Professor, Sør-Trøndelag University College, Guest Professor, Stellenbosch University), Ms. Rangita De Silva De Alwis (Associate Dean of International Programs, Pennsylvania Law School), Mr. Shigeo Tatuski

(Professor, Department of Sociology, Doshisha University) and Mr. Hiroshi Kawamura (Board of DAISY Consortium and also Vice President, Assistive Technology Development Organization).

Ms. Nora Groce provided an overview of existing international development frameworks and noted the overriding importance of being able to translate goals that relate to persons with disabilities into viable targets and indicators to push the whole system towards such goals and to ensure accountability. In this regard, both top-down and bottom-up mechanisms for accountability are paramount. Ms. Akiko Ito briefed experts on the outcome of the High-level Meeting on Disability and Development.

Ms. Maya Thomas's presentation centered on community-based disability-inclusive development, and provided examples of experiences and lessons learned in implementing global health goals for persons with disabilities. She emphasized the need for multi-sector collaboration mechanisms throughout counties and for specific budgets to be allocated at the national level for capacity-building, which should be implemented in collaboration with organizations of persons with disabilities.

Mr. Arne Henning Eide presented on the links between poverty, disability and development. He emphasized the urgency of building a robust evidence base on disability and poverty and for better analysis on the disability-poverty relationship. Examples of research involving high levels of participation of organizations of persons with disabilities were provided to illustrate ways to strengthen impact and outcomes from research on ultimate beneficiaries. Some findings from his research in Southern Africa highlighted the association of lower standards of living and persons with disabilities.

Ms. Rangita De Silva De Alwis gave a presentation on cross-sectionalities in implementing international development goals for persons with disabilities, with a particular emphasis on advancing women and girls with disabilities in development. She highlighted the necessity to empower women with disabilities to inform the global development agenda and stressed the importance of active participation of women in all decision-making processes. Through strengthened networking among women with disabilities, transnational networks and alliances can be consolidated. She concluded her presentation by providing examples of good practices in the inclusion of women with disabilities in national legal frameworks, citing examples from Egypt, Canada, Armenia and Sweden.

A presentation on the experiences of persons with disabilities in situations of disasters was given by Mr. Shigeo Tatsuki. He provided information from research on the 2011 earthquake in Japan and highlighted some of the participation barriers facing persons with disabilities during and after disasters. Mr Hiroshi Kawamura described a case study on disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction in Urakawa, Japan and mentioned the outcome of the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, which included a working session on 'Proactive Participation of Persons with Disabilities in Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction for All'. Persons with disabilities are well-integrated in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

Breakout groups session I

<u>Group 1: Lessons learned from MDG and IADG implementation and processes at the global and national levels</u>

The Group considered existing processes for advancing disability and development at the international level within MDG mechanisms and reflected on experiences in translating the MDGs and other Internationally Agreed Development Goals (IADGs) to national and operational frameworks for persons with disabilities. Based on this discussion the Group developed a set of overarching recommendations for future implementation of the post-2015 agenda for persons with disabilities.

Experts noted that it is impossible to effectively monitor the impact of development programs without the active participation of persons with disabilities. It was emphasized that participation should be meaningful and not just consist of consultation. Participatory monitoring should be a goal in and of itself for national and local governments. Providing technical assistance does not mean doing the work, but providing resources and knowledge to local groups to actively conduct monitoring activities. Experts also reflected on the progress made by DPOs in terms of representing voices of persons with disabilities, but acknowledged that such organizations are not always fully representative of all persons with disabilities. The lack of 'Major Group' status for disability in the United Nations consultative processes was also identified as a challenge that needs to be addressed moving forward.

Instructional practices including leadership models should be identified. An example of experiences in Ecuador was provided illustrating the need for strong leadership within political systems. It was noted that needs assessments and priorities through engagement with organizations of persons with disabilities and individual persons with disabilities should be made. Intermittent consultations with organizations of persons with disabilities are not sufficient. The importance of planning for allocation of resources, changing legal frameworks, monitoring mechanisms, and addressing the perceptions and misperceptions on inclusion and the social model on disability was also noted.

Experts recommended the United Nations disseminate information on good practices, such as the Ecuadorian model. It was noted that there is a distinct lack of a 'disability lens' (as compared to gender) in how stakeholders approach empowerment issues for persons with disabilities. A clear disability lens that is local, national and international should be built into implementation of the SDGs. This goes beyond statements about the need to include disability or how disability has many similarities to gender inclusion. What is urgently required is systematic ways of measuring inclusion of disability. It was recommended that a formal, easy to use methodology for a disability lens be developed to assess disability mainstreaming in the implementation of development efforts.

Experts highlighted that often the 'wrong' data is being collected on persons with disabilities. DPOs must be brought in at the beginning of any planning process to meaningfully inform efforts. It was also noted with concern that there has generally been a lack of shift in paradigm in terms of recognition of disability as a rights issue. Assumptions that it is a medical, rehabilitation or a charity issue often impact on how data is collected and used. The lack of a rights-based approach to disability and development is also somewhat reflected in MDG

evaluations that tend to measure availability of services, rather than the rights base of the programmes and services.

It was also noted that in some instances, outdated language is still being used in discourses around disability. The Group urged the United Nations to review current terminology used in all official languages of the United Nations and ensure all languages are updated to reflect progress made in terminology used.

Experts recommended that funding for DPOs should be increased. The time and input of DPOs are often undervalued. It was suggested that the United Nations could help establish guidelines on this.

Commonly 'not enough data' is cited by policy-makers as a problem and excuse for non-inclusive programming. It was noted, however, that many countries have some data systems and participatory monitoring mechanisms in place already. With increasing use of the Washington Group short set of questions which is providing in-country data, there is a growing ability for cross-country and regional analysis. These sets of data need to be compiled and mapped systematically. Such systematic mapping will allow better identification of information that is already available and where the gaps persist. While these resources differ from one country to the next, it was suggested that the United Nations compile a list of sources for governments to begin to look for such material (e.g. in censuses, department of education or social protection initiatives, local universities etc.).

Experts observed that there is a consistent lack of monitoring and evaluation tools that are useful for translating inclusion of disability issues from broad statements into concrete actions. A monitoring mechanism for determining the success of development programs and policies needs to be implemented at the grassroots level to understand how beneficiaries themselves interpret such success. It was suggested that development and dissemination by the United Nations of easy to use tools on inclusion and on monitoring and evaluation to ensure inclusion is taking place, would be an important contribution. Such inclusion guidelines and materials should be available not just in English, but in a range of languages to ensure use on every level.

Learning from the MDG experience, experts recognized that while collection of some types of data must be consistent across countries for SDG reporting purposes, there will also be instances where local issues and local data collection may be warranted to measure whether SDGs are achieved. This is important to establish that countries have different standards of poverty dependent on economic and social circumstances.

It was agreed that the costs of exclusion need to be better explored and understood and used as a component of advocacy efforts in the future.

Group 2: Successful strategies and good practices

The members of this break out group shared and discussed past successes and good practices in mainstreaming disability in development efforts. Experts noted a number of good practices including an increase in the production of reports and analysis on the situation of persons with disabilities by NGOs complementing government reports. Experts identified, however, that there is a need for higher quality qualitative and quantitative data on the situation of persons

with disabilities to understand the level of their involvement and participation in all aspects of development. In this sense, participatory approaches to research, involving the active participation of DPOs was identified as successful in leading to greater ownership and impact following research. The group further noted the positive effect of affirmative action policies that have been implemented with clear and enforceable penalties or incentives.

Experts concluded that various approaches to promote disability-inclusion should be pursued simultaneously. In the area of data and statistics, it was noted that the Washington Group questions should be used to ensure reliable and internationally comparable data is collected. It was also emphasized that multi-stakeholder involvement is necessary in the collection of data and that organisations of persons with disabilities should be meaningfully engaged. In this regard, it was recommended that significant support be provided to the end-users of data, to ensure that government officials and organisations of persons with disabilities can work both in data collection and its interpretation and input to decision-making processes and programme development. Over the longer term, it was recommended that key performance indicators be developed to measure progress in bridging development gaps for persons with disabilities.

A number of examples of the articulation of disability in the context of poverty reduction strategy papers as a priority for social inclusivity were cited, including the Philippines, Bangladesh and Kenya. It was suggested by experts that such inclusion could strengthen disability in overall policy planning structures.

With regards to assistive technology, experts recommended that further exploration and promotion of the use of small-scale market-based solutions was necessary to improve supply. A key challenge identified was the lack of collaboration between the private sector, NGOs and governments in making assistive technology more accessible.

Group 3: Existing mechanisms, institutions and resources

Experts in this group focused on discussing a few select experiences working with United Nations mechanisms, institutions and resources to draw out specific and general recommendations for improved implementation of disability-inclusive development.

Experts discussed the success of the United Nations Partnership to Promote the Rights of Persons with Disability (UNPRPD) in encouraging the mainstreaming of the rights of people with disabilities at country level and among United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs). This success can largely be attributed to the existence of the UNCRPD, as well as to support from donors and the suitability of the existing United Nations structures at the country level to implement a fund of this nature. It was noted with concern that the lack of funding available for the UNPRPD to upscale its work was a significant barrier to advancing disability-inclusive development at the country level across the globe. Other challenges identified include the lack of national government support in some countries; low levels of technical skills and experience on disability at the country level among some UNCTs, limiting the ability of agencies to apply to the fund in many countries; in some instances, a lack of focus from within UNPRPD on building partnerships across Government, civil society and the United Nations in support of UNPRPD objectives; and most significantly the lack of adequate staffing within the UNPRPD to fulfill ambitious objectives. It was recommended that the UNPRPD develop a larger secretariat to support the development of partnerships and projects at the country level and to enhance the

visibility of the UNPRPD. Member States should also be encouraged to offer financing to the UNPRPD to support their objectives.

Particular successes at UNICEF were considered to be the establishment of a newly formed Disability Team, the inclusion of disability targets in their global strategic plan, the use of situational analyses of the status of children to inform their work, the collection of data across country teams on disability, and strong connections between the Disability Team and monitoring and evaluation specialists for measuring disability. Experts noted that UNICEF is taking a lead in standard setting for disability mainstreaming. They were successful due to senior level leadership on disability within UNICEF and the development of a dedicated disability team with significant depth of knowledge on disability inclusion. It was recommended that the programme could be further strengthened through the development of disability targets for all UNICEF programmes and capacity building of staff should continue.

Experts noted that for the first time persons with disabilities were recognised as the third major stakeholder group after women and children in the global disaster risk reduction (DRR) framework developed in Sendai in March 2015. Experts attributed this success to the work of a very well organized civil society and United Nations disability caucus, which was formed to advocate for the inclusion of people with disability in DRR policies and programmes. In addition the caucus also produced tools to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework. It was felt from members of the group that this caucus was a model that should be replicated for future advocacy and effectively demonstrated how caucuses can in turn produce tools and guidance to support implementation. Regional preparations in the processes leading to the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai were strategic and well organized and should be used as a model for future global frameworks. Experts recognized, however, that a number of challenges remain. An example discussed was how to include persons with disabilities in mainstream DRR programmes rather than treating them as an add-on group. In terms of DRR it was felt that the capacity development of persons with disabilities themselves was critical to ensure they can protect themselves and others in the case of an emergency – the challenge is managing to build this capacity prior to an emergency so persons with disabilities and communities are prepared. This relates back to the discussion around the need for persons with disabilities to be included as a major group as identified by the United Nations. It was recommended that persons with disabilities should be included in all DRR planning and processes to ensure programmes support their needs and build their capacity.

The World Intellectual Properties Organization (WIPO) was given as an example of a United Nations agency that had been effective at supporting intellectual property rights for persons with disabilities. It was generally agreed that they had been successful by introducing the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works by Visually Impaired Persons and Persons with Print Disabilities. Its success was considered to be largely driven by the active involvement of disability groups such as the Daisy Consortium, the World Blind Union and others who advocated for the treaty. However, it was acknowledged that to date, only a few countries have ratified the Treaty, currently eight countries, so a major challenge remains in terms of its uptake and implementation.

The World Bank's process of establishing new Safeguards was discussed in terms of monitoring the implementation of projects for persons with disabilities within the Bank. It was recommended by experts that the World Bank create Safeguards that are meaningful and

concrete to promote the rights of all groups in society, including persons with disabilities. The World Bank should produce a minimum standardized approach for disability inclusion based on the UNCRPD that all countries requesting loans should comply with. It was noted that the World Bank also should mainstream disability across the Bank and utilize the experience of disability experts within the Bank and outside to build the capacity of staff on disability inclusion.

B. Improving disability-inclusive development: translating the emerging post-2015 development framework into national action

This session built on discussions and outcomes from the first thematic session, (Learning from past experiences in the implementation of the MDGs and other IADGs), and was revisited on the final day of the Meeting following the thematic session on Regional Experiences and Perspectives. The recommendations produced from this thematic session thus incorporate and consolidate inputs from all three thematic sessions and form the overall final set of recommendations adopted by the Meeting. The following summaries provide details of some of the key discussions that led to the formulation of the overall principles, conclusions and recommendations.

This session on improving disability-inclusive development in the context of the post-2015 development agenda opened with a presentation from Ms. Maria Martinho from UNDESA on emerging opportunities and challenges presented by the emerging post-2015 development framework. Ms. Martinho described some of the key processes of the post-2015 development agenda including the post-2015 processes leading to the anticipated adoption of the SDGs by the General Assembly in September 2015; the Financing for Development (FfD) process; and the processes and opportunities to inform the development of global indicators for the SDGs. She also outlined future processes, following the adoption of the agenda, including reviews for the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF); processes for defining and monitoring of SDG indicators; and future UN system alignment with the post-2015 development agenda.

Experts noted that opportunities to integrate disability into future HLPF reviews should be pursued. It was also noted that inclusive monitoring of the SDG indicators was essential and that appropriate indicators for assessing progress towards global targets need to be defined. Data disaggregation by disability and accessibility indicators is one way to ensure persons with disabilities are not left behind, however, it was noted with concern that disability-specific indicators should also be included. Obtaining comparable country data for these indicators is also a challenge that needs to be addressed urgently by all countries. Ms. Martinho also emphasised the importance of inclusion of disability in the data-revolution and big data discussions and streamlining disability in each of the discussed processes and ongoing programmes. Mr. Vladimir Cuk (IDA) informed participants of a joint submission by DPOs to the third session of the HLPF, which stressed mutual accountability, strengthening monitoring inter-linkages between the SDGs and CRPD, and the need for a thematic session on persons with disabilities in the work of the HLPF. It was agreed that monitoring of the CRPD and SDGs should be linked and mutually reinforcing.

Mr. Amir Dossal's presentation focussed on opportunities for leveraging partnerships to impact on the post-2015 development agenda. The focus of the presentation was on

opportunities for increased involvement of the private sector and civil society in implementation of the CRPD. It was recommended that a partnership unit be established under the CRPD/UN to engage systematically with the private sector and to strengthen sharing of good practices and resources.

Ms. Nora Groce presented on measuring the implementation of the post-2015 framework for persons with disabilities and the data, statistics and tools that could be used within and across countries. She acknowledged the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey Methodology (MICS) developed by UNICEF which are used to collect more in-depth and nuanced information on children and emphasized the need for more viable tools, such as the Washington Group short and extended sets of questions on disability, in order to build a more reliable body of data. She also emphasised the utility of data as efficient political tools, but that their power lies in being shared and used by policymakers. She also noted the need for on-going refinement of existing methodologies and development of new methodologies to continue to increase the collection and analysis of disability related data, and the importance of linkages between various evolving methodologies to ensure that they build upon and inform each other, rather than compete for further confuse SDG data collection efforts.

Ms. Anastasia Telesetsky gave a presentation on the integration of disability, environmental sustainability and economic policies. She stressed that disability is a global experience and posed a number of questions on how disability rights become part of the future integrated policies.

Experts discussed the necessity of finalizing a comprehensive framework for indicators on disability before the GA in September in order to ensure that disability issues are included in the SDGs. They also underlined the importance of campaigning to raise awareness on these issues to move the disability agenda forward.

It was recognised that the window of opportunity for influencing the content of the SDGs is most likely closed now. The possibility and importance of influencing the global indicators presently under development by the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) was noted. In terms of implementation of the post-2015 framework, it was noted that implementation would take place at three different levels: the global, the regional, and the national. Activities at each level need to include awareness-raising and monitoring, and would require partnerships and communication. Experts also noted the importance of ensuring the Convention is not discarded or forgotten with the emergence of the SDGs. It is essential that these two global frameworks are integrated and complementary. Unless all persons with disabilities are served under the post-2015 framework, the emerging agenda would not be a truly transformative one.

Breakout groups session II

Group 1: Mainstreaming requirements

Breakout Group 1 considered the issue of mainstreaming and the necessary preconditions and requirements to ensure disability is mainstreamed in development policies and programmes at all levels. The group discussed immediate priorities for the United Nations and governments

and explored the types of targeted interventions that are required to strengthen disability-inclusive development.

Under this thematic session, experts underlined the necessity of establishing a global disability caucus at the highest possible level. Discussions centred around the urgency of strengthening advocacy and raising awareness on disability, even among persons with disabilities themselves who are often not aware of their rightsSuch programmes would require a disability caucus at the national level to advance disability inclusiveness at every stage of education, and to encourage researchers to undertake studies on disability to develop future strategies for awareness and empowerment.

Learning from past experiences, and varying levels of success among national disability councils/institutions, the establishment of a coordination body to ensure effective and systematic dialogue between line ministries and stakeholders was considered essential for disability mainstreaming across programs and policies. It was also emphasized that effective mainstreaming relies on collaborative partnerships between disability experts and sectorial/program experts so as to ensure disability issues are not siloed or treated as an 'add on'.

It was also suggested that alliances between the public and private sector should be promoted more systematically in order to define clear guidelines and norms (e.g. anti-discriminatory laws in every sector) to tackle disability issues and to encourage the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the private sector

Short-term recommendations to the United Nations system

1. Ensure disability is addressed in reviews (Member State and United Nations) for the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), including by involving persons with disabilities in defining the content and producing the HLPF reviews.
2. Propose a decision to the CEB to review programmes and priorities for the mainstreaming of disability in line with the post-2015 agenda across the United Nations system.
3. Involve persons with disabilities as a major group or equally recognized as other groups in all UN system programmes, including the UN Global Compact, and processes, particularly those related to the implementation of SDG's.
4. Develop a strategy to operationalize the concept of 'Nothing About Us Without Us'. The United Nations system should promote activities to empower the disability rights movements to develop further, including through provision of support for grassroots organisations to ensure their sustainability, and strengthen their reach to become truly representative of persons with disabilities.
5. Develop a technical guidance action plan for disability-inclusion in the implementation of the SDGs, with guidelines for putting it into operation for Member States. Support Member States to translate data into policy development and improve mainstreaming.
6. Develop mechanisms to ensure inclusion and access of marginalised persons with disabilities, such as persons with disabilities in conflict or disaster situations, persons with mental or intellectual disabilities, women, children, older persons, or migrant persons with disabilities, in policies, programmes, guidelines and other tools.

7. Disability units/focal points need to work alongside sector and programme specialists in relevant areas to effectively mainstream disability across and within the United Nations system, rather than treating persons with disabilities as a secondary group or by adopting silo approaches.
8. The UN should encourage further ratification and implementation of the the UNCRPD and all disability treaties including the Sendai Framework and Marrakesh Treaty.
9. Technical guidance from the United Nations to Member States to translate rights (and the CRPD) into practice, taking into account culture and context, needs to be strengthened. In this regard, capacity building needs to be aimed at addressing attitudes and raising the level of awareness and knowledge of decision-makers at all levels.
10. Collect and update a depository of good practice examples of countries' efforts to mainstream disability and disseminate in accessible formats.
11. The United Nations should lead by example, including by ensuring all global UN conferences are accessible, and by employing persons with disabilities at all levels of the UN system and considering the adoption of a quota for the employment of persons with disabilities.
12. Make websites and publications more accessible worldwide without marginalizing needs of persons with mental or intellectual disabilities.

Medium-term recommendations for the United Nations

1. Involve organisations of persons with disabilities in the High-Level Political Forum. Include a thematic session on persons with disabilities at the Forum.
2. Establish a separate and distinct United Nations agency for disability.
3. Establish regional platforms of technical expertise to support countries in implementing the recommendations outlined here (learn from the Incheon experience in East Asia).
4. Promote technical expertise and technical work on disability and inclusion by supporting the establishment of academic chairs or other such posts (similar to the UN Water chair).

Short-term recommendations to States

1. Enhanced inter-ministerial coordination is required to ensure that disability and inclusion are truly mainstreamed across all relevant line ministries.
2. Establish implementation mechanisms for post-2015 that align with existing mechanisms for the implementation of the UNCRPD.
3. Disability-inclusion groups or caucuses should be developed at the national level to support all stages of the implementation of the UNCRPD and SDGs and to ensure all SDGs are implemented for persons with disabilities in line with the principles of the UNCRPD.
4. National public policy must move beyond the provision of response mechanisms to the immediate needs of persons with disabilities to proactively promoting their inclusion and rights by removing discriminatory barriers within policy systems and infrastructure.
5. Review legislation to ensure the existence of anti-discrimination laws. Mainstreaming disability throughout national and local legislation and clearly outline mechanisms for the enforcement of rights in line with the CRPD.
6. SDG budgets should clearly account for all-inclusive considerations, including optimal accessibility for the participation of persons with disabilities in planning and implementation.

7. States should ratify and then implement the disability framework under the CRPD, and all disability treaties including the Sendai Framework, and the Marrakesh Treaty.
8. Increase funding for implementation and monitoring of the UNPRPD and enable further staffing of the fund to strengthen capacity building and technical assistance from the UN at the country level.
9. Engage national media to address barriers, including cultural barriers, to the participation of persons with disabilities and to promote inclusion and awareness-raising.
10. Promote the role of academic institutions in applied research relevant to promoting the disability rights agenda.
11. Institutionalize clear mechanisms for early identification and intervention for children with disabilities and promote policies and programmes for inclusive education and skills training from the early years.
12. Develop databases for persons with disabilities (eg administrative registries, Washington Group methodologies and modules for censuses and other surveys).

Medium-term recommendations for States

1. Enforce social impact safeguards and reporting on safeguards as a condition for international assistance funding and financing through private foundations
2. Strengthen engagement with the private sector as a partner in mainstreaming and promoting inclusion through public-private partnerships and the creation of incentives for the private sector to promote inclusion.
3. Establish disability-inclusive trends for market-based solutions, social businesses, and greening of the economy
4. Mainstream disability and inclusion principles in education curricula, including higher education programs to promote a cross-cutting, naturally developing disability rights discourse. This may involve mainstreaming disability inclusion considerations in professional institutions, skills training and syndicates.

Group 2: Partnerships for disability mainstreaming

Experts in this Group focused discussion around issues such as: the role of multi-stakeholder partnerships in furthering inclusion, and how it can be prompted to play such a role; the need for coordination and information-sharing between policy-makers and implementers; the potential of partnerships with the ICT sector as a means to bring about accessible education; and the need for partnerships between the disability caucus and other groups. The promotion of alliances between the public and private sector to define norms and frameworks for addressing participation and inclusion issues was emphasized. Multi-stakeholder partnerships involving the private sector were also highlighted as essential in sectors where accessibility represents a significant challenge, such as transportation, urban planning etc.

The potential of working with the private sector to make use of new technologies to collect data (web, mobile phone), was discussed and the importance of ensuring disability-disaggregation of such data within data revolution was underlined. The use of social media was also mentioned to facilitate the dissemination of information beyond the traditional dissemination channels.

It was stressed that in order to achieve the goals of CRPD within the framework of the post-2015 development agenda, it is crucial that Governments and the United Nations actively and systematically engage the private sector. For example, the production of goods and services by businesses and industries should increasing reflect accessibility and universal design norms. The creation of a permanent forum of organizations of persons with disabilities and members of the private sector (particularly technology enterprises) was suggested as one way forward to promote accessibility.

The idea of Decent Work and employment of persons with disabilities was also discussed and identified as an important area that needs to be better promoted. Here, capacity building was identified as urgent to strengthen understanding of accessibility, reasonable accommodation and the skills and value of individuals with disabilities to workplaces. Additionally, entrepreneurship and skills development for self-employment of persons with disabilities needs to be further encouraged. These objectives cannot be achieved without active participation of the private sector.

Short-term recommendations for the United Nations

1. Engage with the Global Compact to advocate for the inclusion of CRPD principles and persons with disabilities in its work and integrity measures
2. The United Nations system needs to engage in consistent and systematic dialogue with implementers at the national level, the Committee to the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the High-Level Political Forum and the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to pursue common objectives
3. Promote inclusive policies and practices currently in place at agency headquarters in regional and country level implementations.
4. Create forums for the promotion of south-south learning and cooperation.

Medium-term recommendations for the United Nations

1. Create forums to bring together the private sector and governments to discuss disability inclusive development.
2. Model good practices on disability among technology industry leaders at private sector forums.
3. Strengthen capacity of organizations of persons with disabilities to achieve well implemented initiatives. This requires investments in higher education for persons with disabilities to become technical experts in areas where such capacity is lacking.

Longer term recommendations for the United Nations

1. Promote employment of highly-educated specialists and technical expert persons with disabilities among industry leaders.
2. 'Friends of disability' countries should work together to bring a unified voice and establish communication channels and coordination between this group and disability stakeholder groups to promote opportunities for influence and partnerships with other groups (such as the Global Compact) in the implementation of SDGs.

Short-term recommendations for States

1. Identify and engage partners outside existing known actors to advance research and development that promotes inclusion (e.g. business and education sectors).
2. Seize all opportunities offered for South-South cooperation in the area of disability and development.
3. Consult and involve persons with disabilities/organizations of persons with disabilities at the local level as well as national level in an integrated and systematic way.
4. Promote cooperation among disability advocates to ensure appropriate views on inclusion of persons with disabilities are promoted in respective dialogues with donors and funders.

Medium-term recommendations for States

1. Build long-term relationships between organisations of persons with disabilities, Government and research institutions at the national and regional levels for the development and application of research to the benefit of persons with disabilities. Greater ownership and impact following research can be achieved through strong partnerships and participatory approaches to research, involving organizations of persons with disabilities.

Group 3: Measuring, monitoring and reporting on disability-inclusive development

Experts in this Group noted the relevance and importance of the outcomes of the United Nations Expert Group Meeting that took place in Paris in 2014 on "Disability Data and Statistics, Monitoring and Evaluation: The Way Forward, a Disability Inclusive Development Agenda towards 2015 and Beyond", to the current discussion and Meeting. It was agreed by Experts that the recommendations and conclusions reached during the present Meeting should be read in complement to those outcomes of the 2014 Meeting.

The need for integrating intersectionality considerations in data collection, which require more than just the disaggregation of data was stressed. Further guidance and clarification is needed with regards to monitoring of the realization of the SDGs for persons with disabilities, including through mapping available data. Discussions revolved around responsibility and tools for data collection, including expanding government surveys, conducting training and capacity-building for national statistical offices, engaging civil society organizations, and integrating disability into mainstream data collection instruments. Experts also stressed the need to promote social- and rights-based models of disability through awareness-raising.

Short-term recommendations to the United Nations, States and civil society

1. Monitoring and evaluation tools are required for initiation at the planning stage.
2. When discussing disability and addressing disability data and statistics, the human rights or social model should be used as the guiding framework.
3. Improve quality of data and make them useful for implementation, including by establishing ways to reflect intersectionalities of disability, gender, age and other factors including disaster and crises.

4. While collection of some types of data must be consistent across countries for SDG reporting purposes, there will also be instances where local issues and local data collection may be warranted to measure the extent to which an SDG is achieved. This distinction is important to establish given countries have different standards for measuring poverty.
5. Include persons with disabilities in all stages of data collection, analysis and dissemination. Pursue models of monitoring that are participatory and sustainable. Participation, knowledge mobilization and control are central to any monitoring and evaluation that is to be recognized.
6. Curate and share good practices and lessons learned on disability data collection.
7. Include disability in the data-revolution/big data discussions and processes.
8. All anticipated efforts and changes must be budgeted and allocated sufficient resources by all stakeholders – Governments, United Nations agencies and civil society.
9. In addition to indicators that respond to barriers or monitor minimum requirements for persons with disabilities, indicators related to prosperity of persons with disabilities such as indicators on entrepreneurship, emotional & psychosocial well-being, inclusive-tourism, cultural activities etc. should be created.

Short-term recommendations to the United Nations

1. Coordinate the development of a set of viable indicators for monitoring of the SDGs for persons with disabilities in support of ongoing work of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators. Define appropriate indicators for assessing progress towards SDG targets relevant for persons with disabilities and ensure data disaggregation by disability and define indicators of accessibility as relevant for SDG.
2. Establish mechanisms, such as a UN inter-agency coordination group on disability data and statistics, to ensure the disability perspective is included throughout SDG monitoring and ensure the Convention is strongly reflected in the "Sustainable Development Declaration" as one of key overarching frameworks necessary for sustainable development.
3. Develop a mechanism to link SDG monitoring and CRPD country reporting systems, including through parallel reporting.
4. Develop and disseminate easy-to-understand guidelines on disability data collection for different stakeholders (Permanent Missions, United Nations agencies, Governments, DPOs/CSOs, etc.) that link CRPD and SDG reporting obligations. Development and dissemination of such tools and existing data by the United Nations and their encouragement of other bodies, also possibly through the creation of a website or clearing house, to help develop user-friendly tools on monitoring and evaluation to ensure inclusion of persons with disabilities is taking place, is an essential contribution. Such guidelines, materials and information should be available in a range of languages to ensure their use at every level.
5. Ensure data collection and monitoring captures situations of marginalized groups of persons with disabilities, including situations such as crises and disasters, as well as groups of persons with disabilities who are particularly marginalized, such as persons with mental or intellectual disabilities, women, children, older persons and migrants.
6. Ensure second and third committees of the United Nations General Assembly discuss ways to ensure the SDGs and the CRPD can provide synergies and mutual benefits, and how new

data collection systems can be used most efficiently without increasing the reporting load on national stakeholders through duplication.

7. Map existing data such as MDG monitoring, WB (including safeguards), WHO, DFID, IDA, Census, etc., and strategize to utilize existing mechanisms, and add disability questions when needed.
8. Strengthen awareness of stakeholders within the UN system, including the Statistic Commission, Country Teams and Resident Coordinators, of the importance of disability data in SDG framework.
9. Support Government capacity building on database development, accountable data collection, coordination amongst different line ministries, mapping of existing data collection mechanisms, involving DPOs/CSOs in data collection, and elaborate benefits of such efforts.
10. Continue to develop and refine methodologies for the collection and analysis of disability data in order to ensure that persons with disabilities are included in all SDG monitoring and evaluation efforts.

Medium-term recommendations to the United Nations

1. Establish regular collection and international compilation of comparable country data for SDG indicators relevant for persons with disabilities. These should include both quantitative and qualitative data.
2. Together with national governments, develop ongoing capacity building mechanisms for DPOs/CSOs and academia in the area of disability data and statistics collection and use.
3. Identify leadership models (good practices) and promote what 'works and what doesn't at the national level' from within the highest levels of the United Nations system.
4. Issue periodic "Disability and Development" reports around progress towards realization of the SDGs for persons with disabilities, (learning from "Landmine Monitoring Report), and ensure the main "SDG Report" makes reference to the "Disability and Development" report so that broader development stakeholders are aware of it.

Longer-term recommendations to the United Nations

1. Explore further and strengthen understanding of the costs of exclusion – and disseminate this information as an important component for why disability must be included.

Short-term recommendations to States

1. Strengthen awareness-raising and capacity building on the social model and human-rights based approach to disability before data collection processes begin and address persistent attitudinal and cultural barriers.
2. Stress the urgency of international assistance for capacity building for the construction of high-quality, timely, reliable and, especially, disaggregated data on disabilities, as it appears in the proposed Sustainable Development Goal 17.
3. Request the UN Statistical Commission to develop definitions of environment accessibility for persons with disabilities for the follow-up and review of the post-2015 development agenda.
4. Map existing data collection systems and strategize utilization of active systems. Fill gaps and shortcomings in information through the creation of additional mechanisms and

develop a coordinated system for effective use of various existing databases (ensure comparability and omit duplicated data collection).

5. Establish a mechanism, such as an overarching national SDGs monitoring council, to coordinate all national stakeholders working on development and human rights, including those on disability, to avoid duplication and gaps.
6. Provide an analysis of legislation, regulations, policies, programmes and services that specifically include persons with disabilities and organisations of persons with disabilities when carrying out monitoring and evaluation of the SDGs. Develop a template for monitoring progress which includes both SDGs and CRPD goals.
7. Establish a mechanism to support persons with disabilities to monitor SDG progress at the community level and to meaningfully contribute to reports together with national governments
8. Ensure mechanisms to involve voices of persons with disabilities who are not necessarily represented by organizations of persons with disabilities are developed.

Medium-term recommendations for States

1. Establish a formal, easy to use methodology to apply a 'disability lens' (IASC Gender Score, for example) for assessing implementation and for their outcomes, which is applied consistently to all mainstream development efforts as is now the case for gender.
2. Coordinate awareness-raising through dissemination of disability data and stories though mainstream media.

C. Regional experiences and perspectives

This session involved the sharing of a series of comparative experiences at the regional and country level in implementing disability-inclusive development. Discussions and recommendations from this session centred on the Arab region and fed into the overall conclusions and recommendations for the future operationalization of the post-2015 development agenda for persons with disabilities.

Ms. Alexandra Heinsjo-Jackson provided a presentation on disability-inclusive development and the implementation of the Convention in the Arab region. Doing so, she accounted for progress in the establishment of legal and policy frameworks in Arab countries, including national councils and laws, as well as the high ratification rate of the CRPD in the region. The findings of a recent ESCWA study were also shared. Some significant signs of exclusion of persons with disabilities from development in the Arab region, including lower rates of educational attainment and higher unemployment rates in comparison to persons without disabilities were discussed. Moreover, gender gaps in these statistics also indicated multiple discrimination and disadvantages for women and girls with disabilities. It was recommended that capacity strengthening is needed in the following areas: national councils on disability; partnerships with persons with disabilities and their representative organizations; and mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation. . Moreover, it was emphasised that fragmentation in the institutional framework for the provision of social protection and social services is an important issue to be addressed in the region.

Mr. Hussein Abu Farash briefed the meeting on institutional coordination and implementation of disability-inclusive development in Jordan. He stressed the value of establishing a Higher Council for the Affairs of Persons with Disabilities (HCD) as a coordination body working closely with, for example, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Social Development and organisations of persons with disabilities. He pointed out the importance of promoting inclusive education and described current measures to that end in Jordan. A number of persistent challenges identified include lack of data, a lack of consensus on the definition of disability, resource constraints and gaps in reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities. He suggested that future focus should be on awareness-raising, promotion of the social model, developing national databases for disability; eliminating duplication of work, and enhancing research and the knowledge base.

Ms. Maha Damaj emphasized the importance of keeping in mind the particular context of the Arab Region and its heterogeneity in terms of human development. She also highlighted some of prevailing features of the region: centralised political systems, weak civil society, limited participatory policy-making, limited resources for social policy, the impact of armed conflict and violence. It was recommended that the focus shift more to the rights of persons with disabilities rather than provision of services. In terms of the rights of persons with disabilities, she suggested that opportunities are provided by current legal frameworks. Key barriers include weak enforcement and mainstreaming, insufficient consideration in times of conflict, and cultural determinants. It was noted that despite a growth in organisations of persons with disabilities over the last decade, representation remains weak in many instances, including for young persons with disabilities. The existence of councils on disability is widespread in the region, however, their institutional capacity, mandate and impact vary widely.

Mr. Kenji Kuno briefed the experts on the Incheon Strategy to "Make the Right Real" for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific. A number of policy actions were discussed and the impact of Disability Equality Training (DET) developed by JICA in terms of strengthening capacity and raising awareness at various levels was shared. It was recommended that future disability inclusive development efforts should focus on implementing the capability approach; promoting understanding of disability from the social and human rights models; and enhancing national coordination.

Ms. Carrie Netting provided an overview of some of the strengths of the Australian aid program and the role of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) in mainstreaming disability in its bilateral programmes. She discussed the importance of bipartisan political support for disability mainstreaming within the Australian political context, and DFAT's ability to catalyse other donors to focus on disability inclusion. It was noted, however, that funding for disability-related activities remains limited, and that disability has often been treated as a standalone issue – meaning the multi-dimensional aspects of exclusion tend to be neglected and disability specialists are sometimes poorly equipped to properly mainstream disability in all development sectors. She emphasised the need for disability advisers working together with other development sector specialists.

Mr. Gustavo Giler Alarcon discussed the new focus placed on social policy by the Government of Ecuador. Such progress, Mr. Alarcon related, encompassed provision of services to persons with disabilities, including in remote areas. He reminded the Meeting of the necessity

for national public policy on disability to go beyond the provision of response mechanisms to the immediate needs of persons with disabilities. A number of good practices in the areas of accessible housing, collecting and harmonizing data, inclusive employment, developing intersectoral networks of territorial coordination as well as private/public partnerships were described. He also described the effect of the CRPD on the national legal framework and the importance of cooperation with other actors in the Latin American region and with international organizations in promoting disability-inclusive development.

Mr. Samuel Kabue briefed experts on the experience of Kenya in mainstreaming disability in development practices. Kenya has adopted a mainstreaming strategy and its implementation is spearheaded by the National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD), which facilitates disability inclusion in programmes both in the public and private sectors. He discussed the relevance of the national legal framework on which this process is supported and Kenya's Vision 2030 development strategy which includes disability as a flagship programme. A number of challenges were also identified, including the lack of clear indicators for measuring progress, weak follow-up by trainers at the local levels following capacity building on disability, and weak systems to monitor the effects of mainstreaming both at local and national level.

Breakout groups session III

Group 1: Regional processes and partnerships

Experts discussed the impact of ongoing armed conflicts on the increasing the number of persons with disabilities in the Arab region, including compromises to access to basic services. The relationship between conflict and disability is an issue that urgently needs to be addressed in the region. Experts agreed that disability-sensitive responses must be directly incorporated into humanitarian aid delivery in the region and that there is a need for institutions and stronger mechanisms within the region to focus on addressing disability rights in the context of post-conflict development efforts.

Experts noted that it is essential that government policies and institutions across a variety of agencies (including agencies that do not directly involve human rights or social issues) make a commitment to a twin-track approach to disability. This includes not only mainstreaming concepts of physical access into the operation of agencies but also ensuring that programs managed by an agency mainstream disability concerns in order to assist individuals with disabilities who face challenges in meeting their own needs. The importance of working with and involving civil society in such efforts was also emphasised.

Group 2: Scalable good practices, tools and strategies

Experts discussed different opportunities and entry points for promoting disability-inclusive development from the perspective of the Arab region. Taking lessons from the Incheon Strategy as a good practice model could be explored in the context of the Arab region. Experts also explored the role of regional organizations in facilitating cross-national cooperation, including the League of Arab States and ESCWA. The importance of high-level political buy-in at the national level and the need for donors to ensure adequate funding for disability inclusion was

also stressed. Experts also discussed various avenues for enhancing regional cooperation, and called for holding regional partnership forums and building a network of national councils, where regional organizations, such as ESCWA, could play an important role.

It was noted that the Arab region is well placed to lead work in the area of disability, conflict and displacement. There are opportunities to build on existing humanitarian work and regional agendas to promote a 'stable civil society' or to roll out social protection models (the example of the Mercy Corps was provided). The need for organisations of persons with disabilities to be supported both financially and in terms of capacity building was emphasized to ensure sustainability, particularly during times of conflict and in post-conflict situations that require investment over the longer-term.

Annex I

Organization of the meeting

Day 1 – Monday, 11 May

08:30 – 09:30	Registration
09:30 – 09:45	Welcome and opening remarks by DESA and ESCWA
09:45 – 10:00	Introduction of participants
10:00 – 10:15	Overview of meeting, its objectives and adoption of agenda

Session I. Objective: To review good practices and draw lessons learned from experiences in the implementation of disability-inclusive development

10:15 – 11:30	**Session I.** Experiences in implementing the MDGs and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities

Presentations (5-7 minutes each) followed by discussion

1. Overview of existing international development frameworks – Ms. Nora Groce (MDGs and IADGs), Ms. Akiko Ito (HLMDD & follow up)
2. Community-based disability-inclusive development, experiences and lessons learned in implementing global health goals for persons with disabilities – Ms. Maya Thomas
3. Poverty, disability and development: experiences in implementing MDG Goal 1 for persons with disabilities – Mr. Arne Henning Eide
4. Addressing cross-sectionalities in implementing international development goals for persons with disabilities: case study of experiences in advancing women and girls with disabilities in development – Ms. Rangita Desilva-Dealwis
5. Good practices and lessons learned from successes in disability-mainstreaming in disaster risk reduction frameworks and actions – Mr. Shigeo Tatuski, Mr. Hiroshi Kawamura

11:30 – 11:45	Coffee break

11:45 – 13:00	**Breakout session I** – Taking stock, lessons learned from past experiences.

> **Group 1.** *Lessons learned from MDG and IADG implementation and processes at the global and national levels (What are the key lessons learned from translating the MDGs and other existing IASGs for persons with disabilities to national frameworks? What were the persistent challenges and barriers?)*
> Moderator: Ms. Nora Groce
>
> **Group 2.** *Identification of successful strategies and good practices (What are the key good practices and scalable approaches from past experiences in the formulation and implementation of disability-inclusive development policies and practices? How can these be applied across national and regional contexts?)*
> Moderator: Mr. Kenjo Kuno
>
> **Group 3.** *Existing mechanisms, institutions and resources (What existing mechanisms and processes already exist to promote disability-mainstreaming? How have they been successful? Why were they successful?)*
> Moderator: Ms. Carrie Netting
>
> Issues to be examined at the global level; regional level; and national level, involving the United Nations system; Member States; donors; and other actors.

13:00 – 14:00	LUNCH
14:00 – 15:00	Continuation of group discussions
15:00 – 16:00	Presentation of breakout session and general discussion
16:00 – 16:15	Coffee break

Session II. Objective: To develop a set of recommendations and action points for the operationalization of a disability-inclusive post-2015 development agenda

16:15 – 17:30	**Session II.** Improving disability-inclusive development; translating the emerging post-2015 development framework into national action

> *Presentations* (5-7 minutes each) and discussion
>
> 1. New opportunities and challenges presented by the emerging post-2015 development framework and ongoing

processes and entry points – Ms. Maria Martinho

2. Innovative partnerships for addressing disability in the post-2015 development agenda – Mr. Amir Dossal

3. Measuring implementation of the post-2015 framework for persons with disabilities; data, statistics and monitoring and evaluation – Ms. Nora Groce

4. Integrating the economic, social and environmental dimensions of development for persons with disabilities under the post-2015 framework – Ms. Anastasia Telesetsky

Day 2 - Tuesday, 12 May

Session II continued

09:30 – 13:00   **Breakout session II** – Future mechanisms, processes and requirements for implementation of a post-2015 development agenda for persons with disabilities

> *Group 1. Mainstreaming requirements (What are the necessary processes and stakeholders to ensure disability is mainstreamed in development? What are the immediate priorities? What targeted interventions are required?)*
> Moderator: Mr. Gustavo Giler Alarcón
>
> *Group 2. Partnerships for disability mainstreaming (What existing and future partnerships could be fostered/developed to promote disability mainstreaming and targeted actions? What is the role of different stakeholders in promoting this? How can partnerships between various players be better fostered to produce tangible results for persons with disabilities in development?)*
> Moderator: Mr. Matthew Rodieck
>
> *Group 3. Measuring, monitoring and reporting on disability-inclusive development*
> Moderator: Ms. Marcia Rioux

13:00 – 14:00   LUNCH

Session III. Objective: To identify entry points and challenges for mainstreaming disability in the operationalization of a post-2015 development agenda: Arab Region

14:00 – 15:00   **Session III**. Regional experiences and perspectives

Presentations (5-7 minutes each) and discussion

1. Regional trends in disability-inclusive development and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities – presentation on key findings of recent study – ESCWA
2. Institutional coordination and implementation of disability-inclusive development - experiences from Jordan – Mr. Hussein Abu Farash
3. Opportunities and challenges for disability-inclusive implementation of the post-2015 development agenda in the Arab region – Ms. Maha Damaj
4. Mainstreaming and advancing a disability-perspective in development in Asia – Mr. Kenji Kuno
5. Mainstreaming disability in bilateral aid programs, the experience of DFAT – Ms. Carrie Netting
6. Lessons from disability-inclusive programming in Ecuador and South America – Mr. Gustavo Giler Alarcón
7. Disability and development, experiences from Africa – Mr. Samuel Kabue

15:00 – 16:30   **Breakout session III** - Translating global development goals into regional and national programs and actions in the Arab Region

1. *Regional processes and partnerships (What are the existing partnerships and processes in the Arab Region to mainstream disability? What are the normative and operational linkages between the post-2015 development agenda and existing programmes in the Arab as well as in other regions? What are the current gaps in mechanisms, institutions and partnerships? How can these be addressed?)*
Moderator: Mr. Nawaf Kabbara

2. *What are scalable good practices, tools and strategies from around the world to improve disability mainstreaming in the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda? How can these be utilized in the Arab region?*
Moderator: Ms. Sylvana Lakkis

Through reference to the draft post-2015 development agenda, the

session will identify:

1. Opportunities, challenges and processes for operationalization of the post-2015 development agenda for persons with disabilities in the Arab Region
2. A set of entry points to scale-up existing good practices, tools, mechanisms and processes to improve implementation of disability-inclusive development programmes at the regional level.

Day 3 – Wednesday 13th May	
09:30 – 10:30	Presentation of recommendations from breakout sessions II and III and discussion
10:30 – 10:45	Coffee break
10:45 – 13:00	Consolidation of conclusions and adoption of recommendations from Session II
13:00 – 14:00	LUNCH
14:00 – 15:00	Next steps

Annex II

List of participants

1.	Dr. Hussein M. Abu Farash, Higher Council for Affairs of Persons with Disabilities, Jordan

2.	Mr. Gustavo Giler Alarcon, Vice-Presidency of the Republic of Ecuador

3.	Dr. Maha Damaj, American University of Beirut

4.	Ms. Rangita de Silva de Alwis, Pennsylvania Law School

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